

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District was called to order by Vice President Kicinski at 4:32 p.m. in the Board of Directors Hearing Room, 500 West Ridgecrest Boulevard, Ridgecrest, California. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by George Croll, followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11. **PLEDGE**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Vice President Ronald R. Kicinski
Director Charles D. Griffin
Director Stan G. Rajtora
Director David C.H. Saint-Amand **ROLL CALL**

DIRECTORS ABSENT: President Mallory J. Boyd

STAFF PRESENT: George Croll, General Manager
Jim Worth, Attorney
Jason Lillion, Operations Manager
Renée Morquecho, Chief Engineer
Tyrell Staheli, Chief Financial Officer
Lauren Smith, Recording Secretary

AGENDA DECLARATION

Recording Secretary, Lauren Smith, reported that the agenda for today's Regular Board Meeting was posted on Friday, September 8, 2023. **AGENDA DECLARATION**

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Director Saint-Amand stated his opinions shared during this meeting are his own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of his employer, nor the Board. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION

None. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

With no further Board or Public comments, Vice President Kicinski recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 4:34 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 4:36 p.m. **CLOSED SESSION**

Closed Session was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 6:07 p.m.

No action was taken which would require disclosure under the Brown Act.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

The Board heard public comment from David Doremus with Western Water Project, Renee Westa-Lusk, and Travis Reed, Deputy City Manager of Ridgecrest, presenting a plaque to the District recognizing the staff's efforts and help during Storm Hillary.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**CONSENT
CALENDAR**

MOTION: was made by Director Saint-Amand and seconded by Director Rajtora approving the Minutes of the August 14, 2023, Regular Board Meeting, and Payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$1,848,647.73. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: Boyd.)

ADMINISTRATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**ADMIN/EXEC
WATERSMART
RENEWAL**

The Board reviewed the 5-year renewal with WaterSmart and the cost differences between the different year options. The 5-year renewal option guarantees the presented yearly costs over the 5-year contract.

MOTION: was made by Director Saint-Amand and seconded by Vice President Kicinski approving the renewal with WaterSmart for the 5-year contract. (Ayes: Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: Boyd.)

The Board reviewed the draft Funding Agreement with DWR. The funding of \$3M would go to the Northwest transmission mainline replacement. Staff is awaiting final wording to include in the agreement. The Committee recommends the Board approve Resolution No. 23-05.

**AB 102 BUDGET
ACT OF 2023**

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk and Judie Decker.

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Director Saint-Amand approving the Resolution No. 23:05: Agreement with the State of California Department of Water Resources to receive funds for the Northwest transmission mainline replacement project and authorizing the General Manager to execute the agreement on behalf of the IWVWD. Motion was carried, unanimously by the following roll call vote:

President Boyd:	Absent
Vice President Kicinski:	Aye
Director Griffin:	Aye
Director Rajtora:	Aye
Director Saint-Amand:	Aye

Director Griffin provided a brief overview of the two different projects the IWVGA is proposing. One project is an Environmental Infrastructure Project and the other is a Water Resources Project.

**IMPRTED WTR/
AVEK PIPELINE**

The Board expressed their stance on the funding path for the Imported Water/AVEK Pipeline, which is on the IWVGA's agenda for discussion and possible approval this week.

Jim Worth provided an explanation of funding for both projects.

The Board heard public comment from Judie Decker.

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)

IWVGA

Director Griffin discussed action items of the August 23, 2023, IWVGA meeting, including:

- Next IWVGA meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2023
- Multiple change orders for the Imported Water Pipeline were approved with a vote of 4-1
- Status report on funding recycled water - postponed to the September meeting

The Board discussed the possibility of staff working directly with the City of Ridgecrest to use the waste water for local events. Mr. Croll to follow up with City staff.

COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION

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Jim Worth reported that Judge Claster has been assigned for all purposes. Mr. Worth commented on the Case Management Conference held on September 1, 2023.

The next Case Management Conference is scheduled for November 3, 2023.

GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE

GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE SAFETY, PRODUCTION & NEW SERVICES

George Croll reported as of today, employees at the Water District have worked 250 days since the last recordable injury.

Metered production at the wells for the month of August was about 2.3M gallons.

Comparing the August conservation results to the 2013 baseline year, consumption is 33.5% lower.

Staff continues to work with Providence Strategic Consulting to promote WaterSmart on social media.

Mr. Croll will be setting up a monthly outreach event at a local coffee shop/diner on a non-flex Friday, where the public is invited to come and express their concerns or issues, ask questions, etc. This month the meeting will be held at Kristy's Family Restaurant on Friday, September 22nd at 9:00 a.m. He hopes a Board member could also join him.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The following updates were given on items assigned at the July 25, 2023, Special Board Workshop:

BOARD WORKSHOP UPDATES

• **Potential Strategic Planning Efforts**

The Committee plans to meet soon.

• **Variance for Evaporative Coolers**

Requirements and mandates are still being reviewed. Updates will be provided as appropriate.

• **Letter to the IWVGA regarding potential sites for monitoring wells in the El Paso area to be drafted by Tim Parker**

Once the letter is drafted it will be provided to the Board prior to distribution to the IWVGA.

BOOSTER STATIONS & TNKS

The motor control center ("MCC") for the Booster Station was delivered at the end of August. Electrical installation is currently happening. The connection piping was chlorinated last week, flushing was done

today, and bacteriological testing is scheduled for tomorrow.

At the College tank, the pipe modifications were completed for the old tank. The piping was disinfected, flushed, and sampled for bacteriological analysis. Staff received the results and staff will work with the contractor to get the tank back online.

Best Drilling & Pump finished their installation and startup the second week of August. Staff has since disinfected and flushed the week in preparation for bacteriological testing. WELL 33
UPDATE

The estimated year-to-date revenues as of August 31, 2023, are \$2,187,750 and expenses are \$2,065,725. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$122,025, which is better than budget by \$1,085,428. FINANCIAL
STATUS

Mr. Staheli reported on the following conservation items: CONSERVATION
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Waster Report - Thus far in 2023, there have been a total of 61 water waste reports received with 61 contacts made. There has been 23 formal Second Notices and seven penalties issued

The District is currently looking at the most economical and efficient possible method to replace the Inyokern transmission pipeline. Replacing the pipeline with HDPE is estimated at 25-30 weeks with a cost of \$4.65M, staff is still waiting for a cost estimate for the fusible PVC. Rough estimates to perform the pipeline replacement with 24" bell and spigot PVC would be an estimated 35-40 weeks at a cost of \$5.1M. INYOKERN RD
TRANSM. MAIN

The final draft Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) is being reviewed by staff and consultants. The Board was notified the Public Hearing to adopt the updated WSCP will be tentatively schedule to coincide with the December Board meeting. Staff will take the appropriate measures to notify the newspaper and other agencies of the Public Hearing. The draft WSCP will be distributed in accordance with state requirements. WSCP

For the month of August, Plant 2 treated 49,572,000 gallons. Staff continues to work on sifting the treatment media, construction of a shaker began today. ARSENIC
TREATMENT

Mr. Lillion reported for the month of August, 15 services were repaired and 35 were replaced. The NO-DES truck made two runs in August, filtering 30,030 gallons. Since inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 8,977,305 gallons. 34 valves were exercised. OPERATIONS

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

BOARD COMMENTS

Director Saint-Amand urged the public to follow emergency standards and have a stock of canned goods to last at least a month in case of an emergency.

Director Griffin thanked the Board for recognizing and remembering 9/11.

Vice President Kicinski thanked the City of Ridgecrest for the recognition plaque and thanked staff for assisting the City during the storm.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Smith
Recording Secretary

APPROVED: October 10, 2023