MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

September 11, 2017

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District was called to order by President Brown at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Directors Hearing Room, 500 West Ridgecrest Boulevard, Ridgecrest, California.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ty Staheli.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: President Peter E. Brown
Vice-President Charles F. Cordell
Director Donald J. Cortichiato
Director Charles D. Griffin
Director Ronald R. Kicinski

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Jim Worth, Attorney;
Don Zdeba, General Manager;
Jason Lillion, Operations Manager;
Renee Morquecho, Chief Engineer;
Ty Staheli, Chief Financial Officer;
Rose Koch, Recording Secretary

AGENDA DECLARATION

Recording Secretary, Rose Koch, reported that the agenda for tonight’s Regular Board Meeting was posted on Friday, September 8, 2017.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

None.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: was made by Director Cortichiato and seconded by Director Griffin to approve the Minutes of the August 14, 2017 Regular Board Meeting and to approve payment of Accounts Payable totaling $395,798.12. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Brown, Cordell, Griffin, Kicinski. Nays: None.)
Resolution No. 17-08 was presented to accept dedication of water system improvements for 20-foot 8-inch PVC water main, 6-inch fire service, and 1-inch landscape service for the Ridgecrest Crisis Stabilization Center on Chelsea Street, APN: 033-070-16, in the amount of $18,700.00.

Motion: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Director Cortichiato, adopting Resolution No. 17-08: Accepting Dedication of Water System Improvements for 20-Foot 8-Inch PVC Water Main, 6-Inch Fire Service, and 1-Inch Landscape Service for the Ridgecrest Crisis Stabilization Center. The Motion was carried, by the following roll call vote:

President Brown: Yes
Vice-President Cordell: Yes
Director Cortichiato: Yes
Director Griffin: Yes
Director Kicinski: Yes

Renee Morquecho reported that staff has been working on a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the maintenance/repair/rehabilitation and emergency needs for wells and booster pumps. The purpose is to have a contractor available when needed for these services without going through the bidding process. Staff recommended having a contract with more than one contractor in the case of an emergency that one contractor is not available in a timely manner. This would be a one-year contract with option to renew for an additional two years.

The committee recommended the Board authorize staff to solicit proposals for Maintenance, Repair and Rehabilitation of Water Wells and Booster Pumps.

MOTION: was made by Director Cortichiato and seconded by Vice-President Cordell to authorize staff to solicit proposals for the maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation of water wells and booster pumps.

Director Griffin recommended that the contract include a damage clause that if the contractor damages equipment or like during the maintenance/repair/rehabilitation that they are responsible for repair.

Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Brown, Cordell, Cortichiato, Griffin, Kicinski. Nays: None.)

Ordinance No. 103 was presented to rescind Ordinance No. 100 and adopt emergency water conservation mandatory restrictions expanding the three-day watering period to year around.

Don Zdeba reported that the City of Ridgecrest is aware of the changes and would make their City Ordinance consistent with the District’s.
Motion: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Director Cortichiato, adopting Ordinance No. 103: Rescinding Ordinance No. 100 in its Entirety and Adopting Emergency Water Conservation Mandatory Restrictions.

Director Griffin reported that he has researched other water agencies within 100 miles of the District and found that only one agency has restrictions in place (Victorville). All other agencies may water 7-days a week. Director Griffin believes the conservation message has got out and nobody wants to waste water. Director Griffin feels that the District does not need to burden staff with policing customers. Director Griffin believes that by allowing customers to water their landscape seven days a week, they will use less water than if they are only allowed to water three days a week.

Director Griffin also noted that the State of California no longer has mandates on water agencies regarding watering restrictions.

All Directors agreed that the District should continue to educate the public on water conservation while encouraging the public to water their trees and shrubs with bubblers and drip irrigation as needed.

Public Judie Decker announced that the Eastern Kern Resource Conservation District (EKRCD) is planning a workshop focusing on how to water trees and the proper way to landscape and water that landscape.

The Motion was carried, by the following roll call vote:

- President Brown: Yes
- Vice-President Cordell: Yes
- Director Cortichiato: Yes
- Director Griffin: No
- Director Kicinski: Yes

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Don Zdeba reported on the September 7th Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting:

- Adam Bingham representing Searles Valley Minerals volunteered to be Chairman. Eddy Teasdale (Kennedy Jenks) representing Meadowbrook Dairy volunteered as Vice-Chairman.
- Adam Bingham also volunteered one of his associates to be administrative support to do the notes. Lauren Duffy will be their backup.
- Steve Johnson, Water Resource Manager, was present at the meeting.
- Reviewed tasks assigned at the August 3rd meeting.
  1) Question whether you can submit multiple projects to the state for grant funding within the same application. In some cases, this is allowed.
  2) There was a request to provide the list of steps of a good groundwater sustainability plan that the TAC of the Indian Wells Valley Cooperative Groundwater Management Group (IWVCWG) had put together and reviewed and indicated status for each of those steps. This request has been completed.
3) There was a request that the priority projects that were selected at the August 3rd meeting be placed in the same format as the Action Register that the IWVCGWMG uses. Eddy Teasdale has completed this task.

Don Zdeba gave a brief overview of the comprehensive database that the Kingdom of Denmark put together for their wells. Jean Moran of Stetson Engineers gave an update on the database and committed to giving a presentation at the next TAC meeting.

Steven Reich is working on the groundwater model. Stetson has been in contact with the Navy and Desert Research Institute (DRI). They will be setting up a meeting in Las Vegas with DRI to discuss the Brown and Caldwell groundwater model that DRI had updated.

TAC discussed the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program (CASGEM). Currently the IWVCGWMG is designated by the state to collect and update monitoring information. There was discussion and consideration of Stetson taking over as the designated agency as well as collecting the data. After discussion, the TAC decided it would be best for the IWVCGWMG to continue collecting and reporting the data. Adam Bingham (Searles Valley Minerals) and Michelle Anderson (Kern County Water Agency) will continue to collect the data as an In-Kind service. Stetson agreed. Stetson Engineers will be applying for the IWVGA to become the responsible administrative agency replacing the IWVCGWMG.

Future agenda items.

Tentatively set dates for future meetings require approval by the Groundwater Authority. Since people have to travel for these meetings, they took into consideration of other meetings such as the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and the partnership meeting for the Brackish Water Study. Tentatively scheduled: October 12th, November 2nd, and December 6th. TAC will meet at 2:00 p.m. with the exception of the December 6th meeting at 1:00 p.m. The PAC will meet at 6:00 p.m.

Don Zdeba reported that the U.S.G.S. will be giving a presentation at the next IWVGA meeting on September 21st at 10:00 a.m.

President Brown questioned whether there was a need for continuation of the IWVCGWMG. Don Zdeba reported that they will be meeting again on November 16th and will be discussing the schedule going forward.

With respect to the TAC, Don Zdeba recommended that Tim Parker be the representative of the Indian Wells Valley water District. Renee Morquecho has agreed to step down. Tim Parker has agreed to fulfilling that role as representative. Knowing Mr. Parker's knowledge, experience, and time spent in the Indian Wells Valley, Don Zdeba feels he would bring a lot of value to the TAC. If the Board of Directors agrees, approval from the Groundwater Authority Board is necessary. The Board of Directors agreed by consensus that it would be beneficial to the District, but legal counsel recommended as a formality the decision should be made by a motion.

MOTION: was made by Director Cortichiato and seconded by Director Kicinski to officially request to the IWVGA that Tim Parker represents the Indian Wells Valley Water District on the Technical Advisory Committee. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Brown, Cordell, Cortichiato, Griffin, Kicinski. Nays: None.)
Director Kicinski inquired of the Ad-HOC Financial Committee meetings. President Brown (Chair of Ad-HOC Financial Committee) responded that the plan is to call a meeting. The District’s legal counsel, Jim Worth, has been asked to oversee that committee.

Director Kicinski also inquired of the cost for Stetson Engineers. President Brown responded that it is his understanding that they needed to put together a real project management chart with costs.

Don Zdeba reported as soon as there is an IWVGA draft agenda, he will provide it to the Board of Directors.

Director Griffin informed the Board that he would like to see the IWVCGWMG stay in place. There is a lot of importance to the group such as the stream monitoring. Director Griffin also expressed concern over IWVGA taking over well monitoring. Don Zdeba clarified the IWVGA would not be taking over well monitoring, but would be the responsible administrative agency.

**GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE**

Don Zdeba updated the safety record to 972 consecutive days without a recordable injury.

Metered water production at the wells for the month of August was 250,766,700 gallons (769.6 acre-feet). The number the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is using for comparison is metered water through the distribution system or consumption, and non-revenue water which is water lost to leaks, flushing activities, blow-offs, etc. For the month of August, the number is 223,583,000 gallons (686.2 acre-feet). The conservation results for August were reported to the SWRCB on September 6th. Consumption was down 23.2% compared to August 2013. The 20% conservation target established by the Board of Directors took effect last June 1st. Since that time, the cumulative result is 22.1%.

For the month of August, the District’s reported R-gpcd was 181. This is 8.2% lower than 2016 (198), 12.1% lower than 2015 (206), and 25.2% lower than 2014 (242). Note the local population has been updated to 33,476 per the 2015 Urban Water Management Plan and that influenced these numbers. The previous population number used was 31,120.

There were six new connections during the month of August resulting in capital facility fees of $35,476. There have been 13 new connections during this fiscal year. The new connections have contributed $69,279 in additional revenue.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH**

- Don Zdeba attended the Community Collaborative meeting at City Hall on September 5th. Mr. Zdeba provided the following update:
  - Ordinance No. 103 allowing three-day per week watering year around.
  - Application for Proposition 1 funding to support the Brackish Groundwater Feasibility Study was submitted at the September 1st deadline.
  - Dates for the upcoming Technical Advisory and Policy Advisory Committee meetings as well as the Groundwater Authority meeting.
A new General Manager’s column about groundwater management in Denmark was provided to the Daily Independent and News Review for publication last week.

Staff has elected to renew the LivingWise® Program for local middle schools for the current school year. The program is designed to instruct students on water and energy conservation and promotes tools to allow them to implement lasting savings within their own residences. Last year, the program reached 270 students at three schools. The report states families that installed the water saving devices achieved a combined estimated savings of 1,193,919 gallons per year, an average savings of 4,422 gallons per household. The report also indicated 100% of the parents viewed the program favorably.

Director Griffin suggested a water conservation banner at the Fall Desert Empire Fair.

Don Zdeba updated the Board of Directors on the July 13, 2017 Special Board Workshop Action Items:

- Cost of Service Study. Regarding the Request for Proposal (RFP), staff to include all options (tiers, one tier, Budget Based, fixed rates, etc.) and a Groundwater Sustainability Agencies funding contingency in the RFP.

Minutes: The RFP for the Cost of Service Study was released August 21st. Proposals were due today, September 11th, at noon. Two proposals have been received and staff will be reviewing them this week. This item is considered complete. The Board asked staff to query other vendors to find out why they did not make a proposal.

- Summer Watering Policy. This item will be placed on a subsequent GSA Committee meeting agenda to discuss rescinding Ordinance No. 100, draft a new ordinance, and bring back to the Board. Staff to work with the EKCRCD for public education. Contact the state to see if the District can use the remaining Cash for Grass grant funds for an alternate conservation plan. Work with the City of Ridgecrest regarding their Ordinance No. 09-05 Concerning Water Efficient Landscape Requirements.

Update: Administration/Executive Committee recommends rescinding Ordinance No. 100 and adopting a new ordinance expanding the three-day watering period throughout the year.

Minutes: Ordinance No. 103 was adopted by the Board of Directors this evening. This item is considered complete. Staff will provide a copy to the City of Ridgecrest. Staff will put together a postcard mailing reflecting the change as well as have magnets made with the new landscape watering times.

Ty Staheli reported that staff had received an Unanticipated Use Claim for 1035 W. Benson. The request was denied due to a previous claim for the same reason. At the request of the customer for the meter to be tested, the meter was removed and sent out for testing. Unofficial results showed the low and medium use at zero. High use was showing low use. The meter has been replaced with a new meter.

Director Cortichiato and Director Griffin voiced concern over the District’s policy and recommended putting this item on a subsequent Board Meeting Agenda or Workshop Agenda.
Legal Counsel advised that if the Board of Directors wish to take action on the request of 1035 W. Benson, the Board may put this item on the October Board Meeting agenda.

Well No. 34: Submittals for Phase II have been approved and WSIP equipment ordered. Due to 75-day lead time for the motor, completion of Well 34 upgrades will be sometime before the end of December.

Well No. 35: Hydro Resources West completed the constant rate test. The test began at 1600 gpm and then the well was pumped for 3000 gpm. During the test, the specific capacity was measured at 36 to 37 gpm/ft. This is well above the 24 gpm/ft. goal. Hydro Resources has begun pulling out the test pump, demobilizing, and preparing for the final video.

Renee Morquecho reported that OpTerra is waiting for Southern California Edison (SCE) to schedule pulling new service conductors and energizing the new main gear at Well No. 30. SCE has not provided a firm date for when this work will occur. It is tentatively scheduled for October 16th. The solar facilities at Well No. 34 cannot be energized until the electrical upgrades are finished at that site. The work is tentatively scheduled to be completed by Layne Christensen before the end of December. OpTerra has continued to work on some minor punch list item.

Ty Staheli reported that estimated year-to-date revenues as of August 31, 2017 are $2,544,615 and estimated expenses are $1,611,351, so revenues exceeded expenses by $933,263, which exceeds budget by $1,055,561.

Ty Staheli reported that all gateways are up and running. Staff is working on converting the Verizon account that powers the hospital gateway into the District’s name. A Neptune software update is scheduled for October.

Ty Staheli reported on the following conservation items:

- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Waster Report - There were 3 water waste reports during August 2017. There was no second formal warning and no third notices resulting in penalties.
  - Cash for Grass - One hundred and fifteen (115) yards have been completed resulting in removal of 135,555.5 square feet of turf ($135,555.50). There are 30 yards (34,801 square feet) in the process of being converted. There are 33 yards ($74,000) that are pre-approved and are awaiting notice for pre-inspection. There is approximately 14,000 sq. ft. for applications (2) pending. There is $123,644 Cash for Grass funds available from the revised $382,000 budget. Approximately 23.3 acre-feet of water per year will be saved from yards that have been converted.
- XERIC© Ambassador Consultations: Zero consultations were completed for the month of August.
- Post cards and magnets will be mailed and made per Ordinance No. 103.
Jason Lillion reported that Arsenic Treatment Plant 1 treated ARSENIC 30,450,962 gallons and Plant 2 treated 27,845,700 gallons. The FACILITIES variable speed stainless steel pump has been set. Unfortunately, it is too efficient. Well No. 11 cannot keep up with the water being produced. Staff is working on adjusting the bowls.

For the month of August, five services were repaired and 43 were replaced. The NO-DES truck had 32 runs filtering 377,130 gallons. For the year, the NO-DES truck filtered a total of 1.3 million gallons. Twenty six valves were turned.

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Kicinski reported on SB683, which is basically a water tax. There have been recent advertisements about its purpose to assure clean water. People may not realize that this is going to be a tax on water.

Director Kicinski recommended review of the Unanticipated Use Policy be discussed at a future Board workshop.

Directors Cordell and Griffin recommend 1035 W. Benson be placed on the October Regular Board Meeting.

Director Cortichiato agreed with Directors Cordell and Griffin to look at the request of 1035 W. Benson and to relook at the Unanticipated Use Policy at a future Board workshop.

President Brown stated that the District receives very few Unanticipated Use Claims and does not feel one claim should change policy. There can be an exception to the policy and will be discussed at a future meeting.

With no further Board or Public comments, President Brown recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 7:56 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 8:06 p.m.

The meeting was recalled to Open Session at 8:46 p.m.

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

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Koch
Recording Secretary

APPROVED: October 10, 2017