

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

July 8, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District was called to order by President Cortichiato at 6:00 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 Judie Decker. **PLEDGE**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** President Donald J. Cortichiato  
Vice-President Charles F. Cordell  
Director Ronald R. Kicinski  
Director Stan G. Rajtora  
Director David C.H. Saint-Amand **ROLL CALL**

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** None.

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

**AGENDA DECLARATION**

**AGENDA  
DECLARATION**

Recording Secretary, Rose Koch, reported that the agenda for tonight's Regular Board Meeting was posted on Friday, July 5, 2019.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

**CONFLICT OF  
INTEREST**

None.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

**PUBLIC  
COMMENTS**

The Board of Directors recognized employees who worked numerous hours as first responders after the major 6.4M and 7.1M earthquakes on July 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>: Johnathan Chapin, Kaleb Griffin, Sam Molina, John Pearl, Kurt Kramer, John Thatcher, John Svika, Arturo Magallanes, Rob Cunningham, Scott Lewis, Gabe Smith, Jonathan Estrada, and Jason Lillion.

Judie Decker, 625 Ward, Ridgecrest, commented on how grateful and proud she was of the Indian Wells Valley Water District, and to say goodbye to Rose Koch who will be retiring on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**CONSENT  
CALENDAR**

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Director Rajtora approving the Minutes of the June 10, 2019 Regular Board Meeting and to approve payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$665,093.35. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Cordell, Cortichiato, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None.)

**PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

**P & E**

The District was recently contacted by California Rural Water Association (CRWA) regarding a small, 12-connection water association within the District's boundary in the China Lake Acres area just west of Pinto Street. The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, is requesting that the association consolidate with the District due to maintenance and redundancy issues. At this point, the CRWA needs to know if the District is willing to pursue consolidation and then the process will continue to include a grant application for monies to cover any planning, construction, and connection fees. Due to the location of the Hometown system, consolidation with the District would be relatively straight-forward and staff has no objection to the consolidation. The District should be able to perform engineering design and construction in-house. The committee recommended the District pursue consolidation with Hometown Water Association. An income survey will be required to determine if the area qualifies as a Disadvantaged Community (DAC) in order to qualify for grant funds. If grant funding comes through, the cost to the District will be minimal. Should Hometown not qualify for grant funding but be eligible for a low-interest loan, by mutual agreement, consolidation will not be pursued.

HOMETOWN  
WATER ASSOC.

The Board of Directors agreed by consensus authorizing staff to pursue consolidation with Hometown Water Association.

Last month the Board approved signing an Alternate Energy Agreement with ENGIE Services US for construction of solar facilities at Well 35. Because this is a "project" under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Board must adopt a CEQA document or determine that the project is exempt. Staff has prepared a Notice of Exemption for the project because the project is being constructed on land that was cleared and fenced for the drilling of Well 35. All construction activities will take place inside the fenced area. The committee recommended the Board adopt the Notice of Exemption for the Well 35 solar facilities project.

NOTICE OF  
EXEMPTION

MOTION: was made by Director Rajtora and seconded by Director Saint-Amand authorizing staff to file a Notice of Exemption for the Well 35 Solar Facilities Project. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Cordell, Cortichiato, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None.)

**ADMINISTRATION/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**ADMIN/EXEC**

The Board of Directors discussed the Association California Water Agencies (ACWA) Memorandum calling for candidate nominations for ACWA President/Vice President for the 2020-2021 Term. The Board of Directors made no nominations.

ACWA  
NOMINATIONS

**INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)**

**IWVGA**

Director Kicinski reported on the June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, IWVGA Regular Board Meeting and actions taken:

- The Proposition 1 grant funding 1<sup>st</sup> reimbursement was received on 06/19/19. Amount of reimbursement was approximately \$335,000. The second invoice packet has been submitted for reimbursement.
- Discussion on an Ordinance requiring all wells to be registered, including de-minimis.
- Discussion on the long-range cost to complete the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).
- An update on the meeting of June 19<sup>th</sup> between Capitol Core Group and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). Discussion will continue on the banking project.
- Possible benefits the Water District may gain from independently contracting with Wellntel to gather real-time data from the existing monitoring wells.

**GENERAL  
MANAGER AND  
STAFF UPDATE**

**GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE**

Don Zdeba updated the safety record to 1,637 consecutive days without a recordable injury.

SAFETY,  
PRODUCTION &  
NEW SERVICES

Metered water production at the wells for the month of June was 201,378,000 gallons (618.0 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 June, the number is 159,233,400 gallons (448.7 acre-feet). The conservation results for June were reported to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Consumption was down 37.6% compared to June 2013. The 20% conservation target established by the Board of Directors took effect last June 1<sup>st</sup>. Since that time, the cumulative result is 20.9%.

For the month of June, the District's reported R-gpcd was 133. This is 24.8% lower than June 2018, 33.8% lower than June 2017, 27.1% lower than 2016, and 31.1% lower than 2015.

There were two new connections during the month of June resulting in \$10,518.00 in capital facility fees. There have been 50 new connections during this fiscal year that began June 1<sup>st</sup>. The new connections have contributed \$222,842.05 in additional revenue.

Don Zdeba reported that due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, there was no Community Collaborative meeting at City Hall.

Don Zdeba reported that after the 7.1M earthquake, the District had lost the capability to email and/or post information. Therefore, Mr. Zdeba contacted the Ridgecrest Police Department to post on their Facebook page that the water in Ridgecrest was not contaminated and did not need to boil water. Mr. Zdeba thanked the Ridgecrest Police Department for them taking the time to notify the City of Ridgecrest and surrounding areas using social media.

PUBLIC  
OUTREACH

The following update was given on item assigned at the July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 Special Board Workshop:

BOARD  
WORKSHOP  
UPDATES

Evaporative Cooler Study: Enlist 20 sample points to collect data usage on evaporative coolers in preparation for the upcoming SB606 and AB1668 which will go into effect in 2023.

Update: Hour meters and new usage meters have been installed on the water supply lines at the homes of six employees and are collecting data. The number of sample points was reduced largely due to the increased cost of the meters (flow and hour) necessary to record the data.

The following update was given on items assigned at the January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 Special Board Workshop:

Update 1997 General Plan: Update the 1997 General Plan (Plan), which will include distribution line expansion for disadvantaged communities, water haulers, and shallow wells. Plan will identify the areas, pros and cons, prioritize the areas, cost of line expansion to each area, and funding sources. Jim Worth will define Disadvantaged Communities (DAC).

Update: Krieger & Stewart has provided a revised budgetary figure of \$228,200, which includes a Board of Directors workshop, the use of the District's GIS system in preparation of new water system facilities maps and a GIS-based model. This item was included in the FY2020 General Fund Budget.

The Mid-Year Board Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, July 30, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the District's Board Room. President Cortichiato asked Board Members to notify the General Manager of any specific items to be discussed no later than Monday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The following items will be added to agenda: Review of Disaster Response, Wellntel, Reserve Policy Review, and Bulk Station Upgrades and Rates.

MID-YEAR  
WORKSHOP

Renee Morquecho reported the Public Health Goals report, mandated by the California Health and Safety Code, is available for review on the District's Website <http://www.iwvwd.com/public-documents/water-quality-reports/>. The report must be prepared every 3 years to provide additional water quality information to the public beyond that given in the Annual Water Quality Report. This report covers three years, 2016-2018, and lists any constituents found exceeding Public Health Goals (PHGs) or Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs). A public hearing will be held during the August 12, 2019 Board meeting.

PUBLIC HEALTH  
GOALS

Ninety percent of the plans and specifications are expected on Wednesday from Krieger & Stewart. When staff reviews and sends back to Krieger and Stewart with comments, it'll take approximately five working days to finish and get it out for bid.

WSIP

Ty Staheli reported that through June Fiscal Year 2019, budget for FINANCIAL revenues is \$11,810,400 and \$10,848,121 has been received. For STATUS expenditures there is a budget of \$11,973,367 and \$11,852,331 has been spent. This is overall negative by approximately \$841,243.

Ty Staheli reviewed the report provided by ENGIE Services for June AMI PROJECT 2018 to June 2019 with the Board of Directors. The guaranteed savings during that time was \$485,410.01 and actual savings was \$508,744.23.

A little over 5,200 AMI registers have been installed to date. The SOLAR iWater software that will be used to automate the register changes is PRODUCTION being tested by staff. WaterSmart was onsite training staff.

Ty Staheli reported on the following conservation items: CONSERVATION

- ✓ State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Waster Report - For 2019, there have been 31 water waste reports received. Thirty-one contacts were made. There have been four formal Second Notices and one Third Notices with penalties.
- ✓ Cash for Grass - One hundred and fifty-two (152) yards have been completed resulting in removal of 183,528.5 square feet of turf (\$183,528.50). There are 21 yards (51,423 square feet) in the process of being converted. There are 11 yards (\$30,000) that are pre-approved and are awaiting notice for pre-inspection. There are two pending applications. There are approximately \$103,049 Cash for Grass funds available from the revised \$382,000 budget. Approximately 31.5 acre-feet of water per year will be saved from yards that have been converted.

The bulk station connectivity and software issues were due to BULK STATION insufficient data. The District now has 1G of data. As of June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 311 transactions were made totaling 186,379.8 gallons. Of the 29 bulk hauler accounts, 21 paid less for the month of June than the flat rate they were previously billed.

Jason Lillion reported that Plant 1 produced 25,392,000 gallons and ARSENIC Plant 2 produced 4,169,000 in June. The plants are currently off line due to the earthquake. Arsenic plants should be back on line by the end of the week.

Jason Lillion reported that for the month of June, 11 services were OPERATIONS repaired and 43 were replaced. The NO-DES truck made 38 runs and filtered 183,630 gallons. Since inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 5,204,005 gallons. No valves were turned.

#### BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

#### BOARD COMMENTS

Director Rajtora commented that he is proud of the staff and how they responded to the earthquakes.

Director Kicinski agreed with Director Rajtora and added the families of the first-responder employees.

Director Saint-Amand commented that over the years the Water District has been well run and that customers are depending on the District's infrastructure and its employees. Director Saint-Amand stated that he is honored to be a part of it.

Vice-President Cordell commented that the employees work with professionalism and appreciates the staff.

President Cortichiato commented hats off to staff for a job well done.

With no further Board or Public comments, President Cortichiato recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 7:28 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 7:35 p.m.

The meeting was recalled to Open Session at 8:36 p.m.

Jim Worth announced that in regard to Agenda Item 9.B:

MOTION IN CLOSED SESSION: was made by Director Saint-Amand and seconded by Vice-President Cordell to approve an interim three (3) year Memorandum of Understanding with the District's employees concluding labor negotiations with its employees pending resolution of one remaining issue. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Cordell, Cortichiato, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None.)

There was no further action taken that would require disclosure under the Brown Act.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Koch  
Recording Secretary

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_