

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING WORKSHOP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

July 30, 2019

The Special Board Meeting Workshop of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District was called to order by President Cortichiato at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Directors Hearing Room, 500 West Ridgecrest Boulevard, Ridgecrest, California. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Don Zdeba. **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;
Chuck Krieger, Engineering Consultant;
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 today's Special Board Meeting Workshop was posted on Thursday, July 25, 2019.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

**CONFLICT OF
INTEREST**

None.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

None.

BOARD WORKSHOP

**BOARD
WORKSHOP
BULK HAULER
STATION**

Don Zdeba reported that the major issue from the Bulk Water Haulers at the June 10th Regular Board Meeting was with the billing and rates. The rates are the result of the Cost of Service Study. There are 29 active bulk haulers. Out of those 29 accounts, only eight paid more than they would've paid with the previous plan of \$38.80/month. The rate issue does not seem to be pertinent other than costing the bulk haulers more in general.

The following issues were addressed:

- ✓ Prepaying account. Response: Aquaflow does not integrate with Springbrook software.
- ✓ Billing. Response: To put the bulk haulers on the same billing cycle with all customers would involve setting up a separate billing cycle, receive the information from Aquaflow, manually enter in Springbrook, lockout notices, and collections. Aquaflow will not integrate with Springbrook software and it creates a second level of work for customer service.
- ✓ Lower the five-foot tall screen. Response: The screen is in place and will not be lowered.
- ✓ Display hard to read in the afternoon. The cover on top of the display is intended to use as a shade for the screen when lifted up.
- ✓ There were some recent issues with not being able to get water. Response: This has been addressed with the vendor.
- ✓ No receipts. Response: One person was reporting that they were not receiving their receipts thru email, but it was later discovered to be going in to their SPAM folder.
- ✓ Hoses. Response: There is no cancer risk. The hose has a standard Proposition 65 warning on the brass fitting for the hose, which does not contact the water.
- ✓ Auto pay. Response: Because Aquaflow does not integrate with Springbrook software, auto pay is not accessible.

Public making comments were Cindy Dottery, Bill Farris, Sophia Merk, Judie Decker, Chuck Griffin and Earl Wilson. Issues brought forward are as follows:

- Display is too high. Need a step up.
- Need chain to hold display cover up.
- The cap was stolen. It does need a lock.
- Printout changes with every load. It is hard to keep track.
- Waterflow. It is taking twice as long to fill tank.
- Not handicapped accessible.
- Significant delay when getting multiple loads.
- Receipts are sporadic.
- Do not receive a bill and cannot use autopay.
- Printout does not reflect what was done.
- Calibration is off.
- Customer does not use internet and would like to get a statement.
- Zone charge is not equitable. They are being overcharged.
- Display is not on long enough to snap a picture.

The Board of Directors discussed with staff possibly increasing the pressure to make it quicker to fill water hauler tanks, billing, display timing, and alternate forms of communicating. Staff responded that they will check with Aquaflow whether the pressure can be increased and increasing display timing. Staff will investigate manual billing and communication.

Don Zdeba asked the Board to allow staff to make a report before the Board of Directors take action. Report will be presented at a subsequent Plant & Equipment Committee Meeting and Regular Board Meeting.

Don Zdeba reported that on July 11th, staff met to discuss response by the District to the 7.1M earthquake on July 5th. A debrief report was included in the Board Workshop packet. On July 25th, all actions recommended were categorized into four quadrants: DISASTER RESPONSE

- Quadrant 1 Actions - Low Criticality/High Cost
- Quadrant 2 Actions - Low Criticality/Low Cost
- Quadrant 3 Actions - High Criticality/High Cost
- Quadrant 4 Actions - High Criticality/Low Cost

The Earthquake Debrief Master Action List was distributed at the Workshop. Several items on the list have been addressed.

After Board discussion, the Board of Directors agreed by consensus that a representative from the District should attend Emergency Services Committee Meetings. Director Saint-Amand will find out when and where the monthly meetings are held.

The Board of Directors discussed the current Financial Reserve Policies (Resolution No. 13-08), which was included in the Board Packet. After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed to send to the Finance Committee to address items discussed: RESERVE POLICY REVIEW

- 1) Inflation factor.
- 2) Specific quantitative goals.
- 3) Emergency reserve for salaries.
- 4) Unplanned purchases.
- 5) Non-restrictive reserves.

Don Zdeba reported that currently the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) has an agreement with Wellntel for a pilot project. The pilot project includes two wells that a previous board director owns and is equipped with the Wellntel technology. The pilot project was intended to last 60 days beginning in March and is still ongoing. The IWVGA board considered the invoices and voted to continue the program for a year. WELLNTEL

The idea was raised that Indian Wells Valley Water District might see an advantage in equipping the monitoring wells in the Water Supply Improvement Project (WSIP). A map was presented with the location of the WSIP's five wells. The WSIP was to identify the impact of surrounding wells if the District was to move pumping out to the southwest. One well is a District monitoring well, the remaining four wells are privately owned. Kern County Water Agency monitors wells in the Indian Wells Valley twice a year to measure and sample. Information is shared with the well owners. Wellntel will give the District real-time data. Wellntel technology would be beneficial to the District to be able to see the impact of surrounding wells when starting a District well. The WSIP wells would be a good starting point.

The Board of Directors agreed by consensus to have staff obtain costs from Wellntel using the wells in the WSIP.

Updated 2019 District Goals and Accomplishments were included in the Board Packet. There were no concerns addressed by the Board of Directors. GM GOALS AND PRIORITIES

Vice-President Cordell commented that those installing the bulk station did an excellent job. It is convenient for the most part, but it should be looked in to about doing a billing and upping the pressure. BOARD GOALS AND PRIORITIES

Director Saint-Amand commended staff for the Emergency Response Plan.

Director Kicinski commented on continuing to get the information on costs for converting swamp coolers to air conditioning, and to maintain the S & P rating of AA-.

Director Rajtora commented on regaining a full-time General Manager as soon as possible and not to subsidize the Groundwater Authority. The IWVGA needs to have a full-time General Manager and the District should obtain repayment (\$500,000) from the IWVGA as soon as possible.

President Cortichiato thanked staff for an excellent job responding to the 7.1M earthquake. The IWVGA needs their own general manager. Staff needs to get involved with a banking project with Inyo County and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)

Don Zdeba recapped items requested by the Board of Directors:

- Staff report for bulk monthly billing. ACTION PLAN
- Bulk Water Station flow rate increase.
- Representative at the Emergency Services Committee Meetings. Director Saint-Amand to inquire when and where meetings are held.
- Finance Committee - Discuss reserves and make recommendations.
- Wellntel - Obtain costs for Wellntel technology for WSIP wells.
- Organization Chart - Administration costs for IWVGA (budget). Costs to operate the Groundwater Sustainability Act.

None. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

BOARD COMMENTS

The Board of Directors expressed their sincere gratitude to Rose Koch for her years of service with the District. Ms. Koch will be retiring at the end of the week. The Board of Directors also welcomed Lauren Duffy into the position of Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the workshop was adjourned by President Cortichiato at 11:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Koch
Recording Secretary

APPROVED: _____