

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

SEPTEMBER 9, 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 Director Stan Rajtora. **PLEDGE**

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Vice-President Charles F. Cordell

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

AGENDA DECLARATION

Recording Secretary, Lauren Duffy, reported that the agenda for tonight's Regular Board Meeting was posted on Thursday, September 5, 2019. **AGENDA DECLARATION**

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

None.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Ryan Smith, bulk water customer, expressed his concerns and issues with the new bulk station, stating it wasn't ADA compliant. Mr. Smith submitted a request for "reasonable modification" and asked for a response by September 23, 2019. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Sophia Merk, bulk water customer, submitted a comment letter in response to the "Bulk Water Billing Poll" distributed by the Water District to gauge all bulk haulers interest in changing the current billing system from pre-pay to standard billing.

Cindy Dottery, bulk water customer, voiced her constant issue of not receiving an email receipt from the new bulk station.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**CONSENT
CALENDAR**

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Director Rajtora approving the Minutes of the August 12, 2019 Regular Board Meeting, August 30, 2019 Special Board Meeting, and to approve payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$912,716.98. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

President Cortichiato:	Aye
Vice President Cordell:	Absent
Director Kicinski	Aye
Director Rajtora:	Aye
Director Saint-Amand:	Aye

PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

P & E

The Board of Directors reviewed the proposals and quotes for two vehicle replacements and purchase of one lift trailer. The District will be replacing truck #143 and #341 as a result of the vehicles no longer meeting CARB diesel emissions requirements.

MOTION: was made by Director Saint-Amand and seconded by Director Rajtora to approve the replacement of two vehicles and the purchase of one lift trailer. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

President Cortichiato:	Aye
Vice President Cordell:	Absent
Director Kicinski	Aye
Director Rajtora:	Aye
Director Saint-Amand:	Aye

FINANCE COMMITTEE

**FINANCE
COMMITTEE
RESO 19-04**

The Board of Directors reviewed the proposed edits to Resolution No. 13-08: Establishing a Review Policies adopted September 9, 2013. The proposed edits would be adopted as a new Resolution, No. 19-04, and would include the following:

- Minor revisions of verbiage
- "The reserve shall not exceed the replacement costs of 1 Five Million Gallon Tank, 1 Well, and 1 Booster Station"

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Director Rajtora to approve proposed edits to Resolution No. 19-04: Reserve Policy. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

President Cortichiato:	Aye
Vice President Cordell:	Absent
Director Kicinski	Aye
Director Rajtora:	Aye
Director Saint-Amand:	Aye

ADMINISTRATION/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**ADMIN/EXEC
ACWA
CONSIDERATION**

The Board of Directors discussed appointing Tim Parker, the Water District's hydrogeologist consultant, to represent the District on the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Groundwater Committee.

MOTION: was made by Director Saint-Amand and seconded by Director Kicinski to appoint Tim Parker as the District's representative on ACWA's Groundwater Committee. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

President Cortichiato:	Aye
Vice President Cordell:	Absent
Director Kicinski	Aye
Director Rajtora:	Aye
Director Saint-Amand:	Aye

The Board discussed Resolution No. 19-XX: Supporting nomination of Pam Tobin as a candidate for ACWA Vice President. The Board received additional nominations and unanimously decided to defer to President Cortichiato, ACWA representative for the District, to use his best judgement at the ACWA Fall Conference during the voting session.

ACWA VICE
PRESIDENT

*Item dies due to lack of a motion.

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)

IWVGA

Director Kicinski reported on the August 15, 2019, IWVGA Regular Board Meeting and actions taken:

- Proposition 1 grant funding 2nd reimbursement has been approved in the amount of \$352,055.21.
- A formal request has been made for an extension of the Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDAC) programs due date.
- The updated Well Registration Form has been made available on the IWVGA website.
- IWVWD staff is continuing work on the Pro-Forma, which will outline the IWVGA financial costs through the development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and will extend through December 2020.

Additionally, the IWVGA will be putting up a billboard with regards to the required Well Registration for all wells within the basin. The deadline for registration is October 1, 2019. The IWVWD will most likely cover the costs for the billboard then request reimbursement from the IWVGA. The billboard is estimated to be up for two months.

GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE

**GENERAL
MANAGER AND
STAFF UPDATE
SAFETY,
PRODUCTION &
NEW SERVICES**

Don Zdeba updated the safety record to 1,700 consecutive days without a recordable injury.

Metered water production at the wells for the month of August was 239,057,000 gallons (733.6 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 231,556,700 gallons (710.6 acre-feet). The conservation results for August were reported to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on September 5th. Consumption was down 20.9% 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 22.5%.

For the month of August, the District's reported R-gpcd was 187. This is 3.7% lower than August 2018, 3.2% higher than August 2017, 5.9% lower than 2016, 10.2% lower than 2015, and 29.4% lower than 2014.

There were three new connections added during the month of August resulting in \$15,204 in capital facility fees. There have been nine new connections since the fiscal year began on July 1st, resulting in additional revenue of \$45,612.

Don Zdeba reported on the following from the Community Collaborative meeting at City Hall on September 3rd:

PUBLIC
OUTREACH

- Damages to District facilities and equipment as a result of the July earthquakes.
- The upcoming public hearing on the Governor's Seismic Commission on September 11th, Ridgecrest City Hall.
- IWVWD was invited to an event on October 30th, hosted by Palmdale Water District to share their earthquake experience.
- The Contract with Department of Water Resources (DWR) for the Brackish Feasibility Study has been signed and the first invoice package is being assembled by Wade Major, of aquilogic.
- Dates of the next IWVGA Board meeting, as well as the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings. Additionally, the passing of Ordinance No. 19-01: Mandatory Well Registration.

The following update was given on items assigned at the July 31st, 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 five employees, four of which are collecting data. Data collected since June indicates an average of about 146 gallons per day. This is consistent with data available in reports published and available on the internet.

The following update was given on items assigned at the January 23rd, 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: A work order was issued on July 11th for Krieger & Stewart (K&S) to begin work on the District's 2020 General Plan. K&S has provided staff with a very comprehensive list of information needed to begin work on the General Plan.

The Board requested this item be reported on quarterly, versus monthly.

The following update was given on items assigned at the July 30, 2019 Special Board Workshop:

BOARD
WORKSHOP
UPDATES
(cont.)

Bulk Monthly Billing:

As directed by the Board at the August Regular Board Meeting, staff sent a "Bulk Water Billing Poll" letter to all bulk water customers, asking for their preference for billing. Out of 39 letters sent requesting votes by Wednesday, August 28th, 14 responses were returned as follows:

- 10 in favor of maintaining the present billing (pre-pay)
- 2 in favor of returning to past billing (monthly)
- 1 abstaining due to lack of information
- 1 response with both billing options checked

Obtain costs for Wellntel technology for Water Supply Improvement Project (WSIP) Wells:

Mr. Zdeba commented that a proposal was received from Wellntel for the Water Supply Improvement Project (WSIP). Renee Morquecho is in the process of contacting the well owners involved with the program to provide information and gauge their interest in participating.

Ms. Morquecho added there would be no costs to the well owners, the Water District would support the costs associated with the Wellntel technology.

IWVGA Budget Administration costs:

Mr. Zdeba reported on a conference call that was held earlier that day between Stetson Engineers and IWVWD staff, discussing the development of projected administrative costs for the IWVGA.

IWVWD staff is working with Stetson Engineers to provide a template of administrative accounts (i.e. telephone, salaries). The goal is to provide the IWVGA Board with a draft template at the September meeting. Projected numbers will be added to the template once costs are estimated.

Staff will be meeting with Krieger & Stewart tomorrow morning to review comments on the plans and specifications. Staff will gather any additional information needed to finalize the bid package for well 35. The project is expected to be out to bid by the end of September.

WSIP

The work on Well 30 has been completed and the well is online. Staff is currently reviewing the report from Superior Tank Solutions for the recommended repairs/replacements for the two bolted steel tanks. Furthermore, the welded steel tanks are to be inspected by Rubicon Applied Divers on September 10th - 11th.

POST-
EARTHQUAKE
REPAIRS

Staff is currently reviewing the report provided by Soils Engineering, Inc. (SEI) regarding the C-zone booster building. Ms. Morquecho commented staff is working on a plan to re-route piping in order to isolate the Gateway boosters and stop leaking, then build a new booster station east of the current one.

ATSI reported the Program Control Narrative is completed for the wells, boosters, and tanks, as well as an outline for the arsenic plants. Installation of the parts and programming of the system

SCADA

is expected to be completed by late November.

Ty Staheli reported that the estimated year-to-date revenues as of August 31, 2019 are \$1,555,800 and expenses are \$2,079,749. Revenues exceeded expenses by \$523,949, which exceeds budget by \$107,280. The anticipated accrual of June water sales was \$100,000 greater than expected bringing the net revenue to -\$523,949.

FINANCIAL
STATUS

Ty Staheli reviewed the report provided by ENGIE Services for August 2018 to August 2019 with the Board of Directors. The guaranteed savings during that time was \$92,496 and actual savings was \$91,610.

SOLAR
PRODUCTION

A little over 6,200 AMI registers have been installed to date. The iWater software that will be used to automate the register changes is being tested by staff. Neptune has provided a proposal for ten additional collectors (currently 5 collectors are installed) which totals \$290,000. Staff made revisions to the proposal and received a revised quote from Neptune, pending further review.

AMI PROJECT

Ty Staheli reported on the following conservation items:

CONSERVATION

- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Waster Report - For 2019, there have been forty-four water waste reports received and forty-four contacts made. There have been five formal Second Notices and one Third Notices with penalties.
- Cash for Grass - One hundred-fifty-five (155) yards have been completed resulting in removal of 185,789.5 square feet of turf (\$185,789.50). There are twenty yards (50,182.0 square feet) in the process of being converted.
- There are 13 yards (\$34,000) that are pre-approved and are awaiting notice for pre-inspection.
- There is one pending application.
- There are approximately \$103,049 Cash for Grass funds available from the revised \$382,000 budget.
- Approximately 31.9 acre-feet of water per year will be saved from yards that have been converted.

Jason Lillion reported that Plant 1 produced 536,000 gallons and Plant 2 produced 62,125,395 in August. The plants are on-line and running without issue.

ARSENIC

Mr. Lillion reported that for the month of August, twenty-five services were repaired and forty-two were replaced. The NO-DES truck made 21 runs and filtered 123,090 gallons. Since inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 5,519,035 gallons. Two hundred-twenty-five (225) valves were turned.

OPERATIONS

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

BOARD
COMMENTS

Director Rajtora announced an upcoming workshop hosted by the Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District (EKCRD) focusing on drought resistant plants. Mr. Rajtora further asks for the staff to be more proactive and learn about legislative bills regarding outdoor water use.

Director Kicinski thanked everyone for all of their hard work.

With no further Board or Public comments, President Cortichiato recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 7:29 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

CLOSED SESSION

The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 7:37 p.m.

The meeting was recalled to Open Session.

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 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Duffy
Recording Secretary

APPROVED: Oct. 15, 2019