

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

MARCH 9, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District was called to order by President Cordell 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 Kicinski. **PLEDGE**

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None.

STAFF 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, March 5, 2020. **AGENDA DECLARATION**

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

None. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

None. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Rajtora had a question regarding the February 10, 2020 Minutes. Item was pulled for further discussion. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Vice President Saint-Amand approving the Minutes of the March 5, 2020 Special Board Meeting Workshop and payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$949,873.36. Motion was carried, unanimously by the following roll call vote:

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

Director Rajtora mentioned in the February 10, 2020 Minutes it stated the Board directed staff to provide an overview of costs accrued by the District for the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) at the March Finance Committee Meeting. A report was not provided and Director Rajtora requested for it to be presented at the April Finance Committee Meeting. The minutes had no errors.

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Vice President Saint-Amand approving the Minutes of the February 10, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. Motion was carried, unanimously by the following roll call vote:

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

PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Renee Morquecho provided an overview of the variance request for APN 511-031-05. The owners have been made aware that if the variance is granted, a Covenant Running with the Land will be filed against their property requiring a mainline extension at their cost if a property owner to the west requests water and needs to extend the water line.

**P&E: VARIANCE
REQUEST
(CRESCENCIO)**

MOTION: was made by Director Rajtora and seconded by Director Kicinski to approve the Variance Request of Albino and Frann Crescencio for APN 511-031-05. Motion was carried, unanimously by the following roll call vote:

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

ADMINISTRATION/EXECUTIVE

The Board reviewed the Request for Nominations from LAFCo to fill one Independent Special District Representative and one Alternate position on Kern LAFCo for a four-year term. The Board made no recommendation for nominations.

**ADMIN/EXEC:
KERN LAFCo
NOMINATIONS**

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)

IWVGA

Director Kicinski reported on the following actions taken at the February 20, 2020 IWVGA Regular Board Meeting:

- Potential administrative and augmentation fees.
- Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance No. 01-20: Requiring the installation of, use of, and reporting on metering equipment for groundwater extraction facilities in the Indian Wells Valley basin.
- Stetson Engineers has received 27 Pumping Verification Questionnaires which were due by March 1st.

Jim Worth clarified the IWVGA is not going to allocate water rights, as they do not have the authority to modify a water right.

Mr. Worth further read the following to clarify the possible penalties of not complying with Ordinance No. 01-20, Article 6. Enforcement Penalties, Section 1. Violations - "Violations of this Ordinance shall be subject to the provisions of all applicable laws including, but not limited to, the penalties and procedures set forth in Water Code section 10732."

The Board also discussed the Brackish Water Study and how the group must identify potential locations for the well to be drilled in the El Paso area through the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Technical Support Services (TSS) program. The original well location was to align closely with the SkyTEM flight plan path to allow correlation of data collected. DWR's priority is Groundwater Sustainably Plan (GSP) management rather than scientific studies. The Brackish Water Group believes the well can satisfy both requirements.

Director Rajtora requested that potential well locations be presented to the Board prior to a final decision.

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

GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE

Don Zdeba updated the safety record to 1,882 consecutive days without a recordable injury. It was noted the 2,000 day would fall on July 4th, a year after the seismic activities in Ridgecrest.

Metered water production at the wells for the month of February was 105,230,700 gallons (322.9 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 February, the number is 102,421,000 gallons (314.3 acre-feet). The conservation results for February were reported to the SWRCB on March 3rd. Consumption was down 18.2% compared to February 2013. The 20% conservation target established by the Board of Directors took effect June 2016. Since that time, the cumulative result is 22.5%. For the month of February, the District's reported R-gpcd was 85.6, which is:

2.6% higher than	February 2019
9.8% lower than	February 2018
7.1% higher than	February 2017
7.2% higher than	February 2016
1.8% higher than	February 2015

There were nine new connections added during the month of February resulting in \$45,612 in capital facility fees. There have been fifty new connections since the fiscal year began on July 1st, resulting in additional revenue of \$228,078.

Don Zdeba attended the March 3rd Community Collaborative meeting at City Hall and reported on the following:

**PUBLIC
OUTREACH**

- At the March 19th IWVGA Meeting the Board had the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 01-20: Requiring Metering of non-deminimis wells.
- Non-deminimis groundwater pumpers were provided a questionnaire to report their extraction information going as far back as 1937. Questionnaires were due by March 1st.
- The IWVWD Special Board Meeting Workshop scheduled for March 5th to review the District's prior efforts to identify alternate supplies of water both within and outside the basin.
- The District will have a booth at the upcoming Home & Leisure Show scheduled for March 21st and 22nd.

The following quarterly update was given on items assigned at the January 23, 2019 Special Board Workshop:

BOARD
WORKSHOP
UPDATES

- Update 1997 General Plan. Updates to 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) as part of the updated General Plan.

Staff had a call with Krieger & Stewart (K&S) today with regards to the progress of the updated General Plan. Staff has provided and will continue to provide K&S with documents requested.

The following update was given on items assigned at the January 23, 2020 Special Board Workshop:

- Replacement of Swamp Coolers. Discussion to be held with the appropriate parties to possibly establish a CCA.

Don Zdeba provided the Board with a 2015 email on potential water savings by equipping coolers with purge pumps and eliminating constant bleed lines.

President Cordell reiterated the District is not mandating the change from swamp coolers to air conditioners.

- Senate Bill (SB) 606 and Assembly Bill (AB) 1668.

No update available at this time.

A pre-construction meeting was held with Pacific Hydrotech on February 11th. Submittal review continues and Pacific Hydrotech has indicated they will mobilize on March 23rd.

WELL
UPDATE

35

Staff has submitted several items to CalOES, including: Air Release and Vacuum Valve Assemblies, and the Saddle Rupture on East Drummond. Items are still being reviewed by CalOES.

POST-
EARTHQUAKE
REPAIRS

The District has received documentation indicating approval of the reimbursement for Well 30 in the amount of \$90,994.00.

Staff received a report from BESST on the zonal flow and chemical profile testing of Well 10. The report indicated that there were not enough zones of high arsenic concentration that could be sealed off without significantly affecting the flow of the water from the well. Layne mobilized today to install new equipment and for the pump/motor

repair. Once completed, it will also be submitted for reimbursement to CalOES.

Staff is waiting to hear from CalOES if seismic upgrades would be reimbursable for the Bolted Steel Tanks prior to putting the tanks back in service.

Ms. Morquecho commented that she asked CalOES if the cost of the recent diving inspection of the tanks would be reimbursable, to which CalOES replied yes.

Staff has begun work on the new design and have decided to move the station to the east side of the Ridgecrest Heights tank. Staff completed the site topography and rough layout. Once the design is complete, it will be reviewed by an ADA Compliance specialist and then presented to the bulk water haulers at an evening meeting for their review. BULK WATER STATION UPDATE

Since Cosner-Neipp installed the new radio at the bulk station, the internet connection has been functioning well.

Ty Staheli reported that the estimated year-to-date revenues as of February 29, 2020 are \$7,213,329 and expenses are \$7,899,139. Expenses exceeded revenues by \$685,810, which exceeds budget by \$588,601. FINANCIAL STATUS

Ty Staheli reviewed the report provided by ENGIE Services for July 2019 to February 2020 with the Board of Directors. The guaranteed savings during that time was \$309,962.01 and actual savings was \$314,714.73. The total savings since July 2018 is \$1,908,784.01. SOLAR PRODUCTION

There are 2,000 AMI registers left to be installed. Of the five meter reading routes that were checked, only 24 meters were not being read by the automated system. Staff believes these meters did not have antennas or the signal is being blocked for some other reason. Staff will check these meters. AMI PROJECT

Ty Staheli reported on the following conservation items:

CONSERVATION

- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Waster Report - For 2020, there have been three water waste reports received with three contacts made. There have been no formal Second Notices nor Third Notices.
- Cash for Grass - One hundred-sixty-three (163) yards have been completed resulting in removal of 192,309.5 square feet of turf (\$192,309.5). There are fourteen yards (49,965.0 square feet) in the process of being converted.
- There are ten yards (\$28,000) that are pre-approved and are awaiting notice for pre-inspection.
- There is one pending application.
- There are approximately \$101,726 Cash for Grass funds available from the revised \$382,000 budget.
- Approximately 48.2 acre-feet of water per year will be saved from yards that have been converted.

- The Cash for Grass deadline for yards to be completed was February 29th. One yard is still being processed then the program will come to an end. Mr. Staheli clarified the District did not receive the funds in advance, but rather would obtain reimbursements from the program once yards were completed.

ATSI has received all the components from Royal Electric and will be shipping them to the District this week. The components needed for the panel designs have been sent for fabrication and work has begun. Staff expects factory acceptance testing in mid-March or early April. SCADA

Mr. Lillion reported for the month of February, thirteen services were repaired and thirty-seven were replaced. The NO-DES truck made 27 runs in February and filtered 270,635 gallons. Since inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 6.1 million gallons. Seventy-nine valves were turned. OPERATIONS

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No Board comments.

BOARD COMMENTS

With no further Board or Public comments, President Cordell recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 6:45 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 6:56 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The meeting was recalled to Open Session.


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

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,


Lauren Duffy
Recording Secretary

APPROVED:

April 13, 2020