

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 9, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District was called to order by Vice President Saint-Amand at 6:03 p.m. via WebEx Teleconference. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director Kicinski. **PLEDGE**

**DIRECTORS ATTENDING:** Director Ronald R. Kicinski  
Director Stan G. Rajtora  
Vice President David C.H. Saint-Amand **ROLL CALL**

**VIA TELECONFERENCE:** Director Donald J. Cortichiato

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** President Charles F. Cordell

**STAFF ATTENDING:** Don Zdeba, General Manager;  
Renee Morquecho, Chief Engineer;  
Ty Staheli, Chief Financial Officer;  
Jason Lillion, Operations Manager;  
Lauren Smith, Recording Secretary;

**VIA TELECONFERENCE:** Jim Worth, Attorney;

**AGENDA DECLARATION**

Recording Secretary, Lauren Smith, reported that the agenda for tonight's Regular Board Meeting was posted on Friday, November 6, 2020. **AGENDA DECLARATION**

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

None. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

None. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**MOTION:** was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Director Cortichiato approving the Minutes of the October 13, 2020 Special Board Meeting, and payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$1,053,015.40. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote: **CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 20-08**

The Board reviewed Resolution No. 20-08: Authorizing Application for Funding on Behalf of Hometown Water Association and authorization to file Notice of Exemption. The District was contacted by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regarding a potential consolidation with Hometown Water Association (HWA). The Rural Water Association would assist the District and HWA with obtaining grant funds for the costs associated with the consolidation. Staff recommends Board Approval of Resolution No. 20-08.

**RESOLUTION  
NO. 20-08:  
HOMETOWN  
WATER ASSOC.  
FUNDING**

Staff will confirm with the IWVGA that when the District consolidates with HWA, it would also acquire its water allocation.

The Board heard public comment from Mike Neel.

MOTION: was made by Director Kicinski and seconded by Director Rajtora approving Resolution No. 20-08: Authorizing Application for Funding on Behalf of Hometown Water Association and authorization to file Notice of Exemption. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

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

**IWVGA**

Director Kicinski commented the IWVGA submitted an Expression of Interest for a Table A Entitlement offered by Montecito Water District. Follow-up meetings will be held with certain agencies in late November or December.

Don Zdeba added the Authority held interviews for the General Manager position on October 29, 2020 with no decision made. Further follow-up and discussion are to be held at the November 19<sup>th</sup> Regular meeting.

Director Kicinski also expressed the need for the Authority to develop a Finance or Oversight Committee to maintain and track its budget and expenses. He further added the need for the General Manager to be able to complete the tasks currently being provided by District staff.

The Board heard public comment from Mike Neel.

**GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE**

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

Don Zdeba updated the safety record to 148 consecutive days without a recordable injury.

Metered water production at the wells for the month of October was 169,313,500 gallons (519.6 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 October, the number is 192,044,500 gallons (589.4 acre-feet). The conservation results for October were reported

to the SWRCB on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Consumption was down 24.5% compared to October 2013. The 20% conservation target established by the Board of Directors took effect June 2016. Since that time, the cumulative result remains at 22.8%.

Comparing the October conservation results in recent years, 2019 was 32.5%, 2018 was 29.8%, 2017 was 29.4%, and 2016 was 25.5%.

The residential gallons for capita per day (R-gpcd) for the month of October was 156.9.

There were thirteen new connections added during the month of October. There have been forty-seven new connections during the fiscal year that began on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The new connections have contributed \$233,128 in additional revenue. This is significantly more than the same period last year when there were twenty new connections that contributed \$96,292.

The Board discussed possible dates to hold a Special Board Workshop during which Krieger & Stewart (K&S) will review the draft 2020 General Plan and also address follow-up questions pertaining to the presentation at the October Board meeting on a proposed project involving recharging the aquifer with water from the City's new wastewater treatment facility. The Board agreed to hold the Workshop on December 9, 2020; 9:00 a.m.

SPECIAL BOARD  
WORKSHOP -  
GENERAL PLAN

Don Zdeba commented due to a conflict with another meeting, he was unable to participate in this month's web-based Community Collaborative on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

PUBLIC  
OUTREACH

The following updates were given on items assigned at the July 23, 2020 Special Board Workshop:

BOARD  
WORKSHOP  
UPDATES

- Take a closer look at the IWVGA fees and provide a breakdown  
**UPDATE:** There has been discussion among the GA staff about current and future fees, specifically the need to implement an Administrative Fee at some point in time. Those discussions are not yet ready to bring to the Board.
- Mr. Worth to research legal options regarding Will-Serve letters and implementing fees  
**UPDATE:** Mr. Worth did not currently have an update. He expects to have one at the December Board meeting.

A video survey of the Well was conducted last week which showed fouling has started after sitting for three years. The contractor will provide a proposal for scrubbing/bailing the Well before chlorination and setting the new pumping equipment. The tie-in for the pipeline and electrical was successfully completed today. ENGIE plans to complete their electrical design this month and mobilize in December.

WELL 35  
UPDATES

The C-zone booster building seismic upgrades went out to bid last Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, and bids are due by Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Once the final payment is made to Nicholas Construction for their completed work on the pipeline at the Gateway booster site, it will be submitted to CalOES for reimbursement. The booster station drawings are 50% complete and being reviewed by staff. The work needed for the C-zone booster building seismic upgrades and the new booster station at Gateway will both require an extension from CalOES. Staff has

POST-  
EARTHQUAKE  
REPAIRS

begun working with CalOES on the necessary paperwork, which must be submitted before January.

Ty Staheli reported that the estimated year-to-date revenues as of October 31, 2020 are \$4,737,889 and expenses are \$4,302,838. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$435,051, which exceeds budget by \$899,337. FINANCIAL STATUS

Mr. Staheli reviewed the report provided by ENGIE Services for July through October 2020 with the Board of Directors. The guaranteed savings during that time was \$180,669.00 and actual savings was \$152,053.74. The total savings since July 2018 is \$4,467,833.91. SOLAR PRODUCTION

Mr. Staheli reported on the following conservation items: CONSERVATION  
➤ State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Waster Report - For 2020, there have been thirty-six water waste reports received with thirty-six contacts made. There have been six formal Second Notices and two penalties issued.

ATSI was on-site today installing the new hardware and software. So far, the following wells are completed: 9A, 10, 13, 17, 34, Arsenic Plant 2, Kendall, and Salisbury tanks, Gateway, Salisbury, and Sunland Boosters, and Springer PRV. SCADA

For the month of October, Plant 1 produced 19,880,000 gallons, and Plant 2 produced 30,949,000 gallons. Staff had a conference call with K&S and Filtronics regarding troubleshooting the media breakthrough issue with the plants. Filtronics will be providing the District a cost estimate for remediation of the media loss in the filter vessels. ARSENIC TREATMENT

Mr. Lillion reported for the month of October, seventeen services were repaired and thirty were replaced. The NO-DES truck made seventeen runs in October and filtered 143,250 gallons. Since inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 7,529,345 gallons. Twenty-five valves were exercised, resulting in a total of 1,029 valves turned this year. OPERATIONS

**BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Director Rajtora thanked the staff and Ray Hocker for their work to provide a livestream of the Board meeting.

Director Kicinski echoed Director Rajtora's comments. He also sends best wishes to President Cordell who is dealing with some health issues.

Director Cortichiato commented that since day one he has been impressed with the District as an agency. He thanked all the staff and current Board members, adding its been a pleasure serving with them.

Vice President Saint-Amand thanked Director Cortichiato and Director Kicinski for their years of service, both as Directors and President.

Mr. Zdeba thanked Director Cortichiato for all his support over the years and selecting him to be the General Manager.

With no further Board or Public comments, Vice President Saint-Amand recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 6:55 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 7:05p.m.

**CLOSED  
SESSION**

The meeting was recalled to Open Session at 8:20 p.m.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Smith  
Recording Secretary

APPROVED: DECEMBER 14, 2020