

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

FEBRUARY 8, 2021

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 Jim Worth. **PLEDGE**

**DIRECTORS ATTENDING**

**ROLL CALL**

VIA TELECONFERENCE: Director Mallory J. Boyd  
Director Charles F. Cordell  
Director Stan G. Rajtora  
Vice President David C.H. Saint-Amand

DIRECTORS ABSENT: President Charles D. Griffin

**STAFF ATTENDING**

VIA TELECONFERENCE: Don Zdeba, General Manager;  
Jim Worth, Attorney;  
Renée Morquecho, Chief Engineer;  
Ty Staheli, Chief Financial Officer;  
Jason Lillion, Operations Manager;  
Lauren Smith, Recording Secretary

**AGENDA DECLARATION**

**AGENDA  
DECLARATION**

Recording Secretary, Lauren Smith, reported that the agenda for tonight's Regular Board Meeting was posted on Thursday, February 4, 2021.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

**CONFLICT OF  
INTEREST**

None.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

**PUBLIC  
COMMENTS**

Renee Westa-Lusk asked if staff would report how many accounts are delinquent due to nonpayment during the pandemic. Don Zdeba replied the number of delinquent accounts is made available in the Finance Committee report included in the Board packet.

Director Cordell thanked the public, Board, and staff for their prayers while he was in the hospital the past couple of months.

**PRESENTATION BY CHRIS BROWN OF FEDAK & BROWN, LLC:  
2019-2020 AUDIT REPORT**

**2019-2020  
AUDIT REPORT**

A PowerPoint of the 2019-2020 Audit Results was presented to the Board by Chris Brown of Fedak & Brown, LLC. Mr. Brown reported on the financial highlights of the District such as current assets, current liabilities, total net assets, total revenues, total expenses, capital contributions, and total expenses vs. total revenues.

It is the opinion of Fedak & Brown the financial statements referred to within the audit fairly present the financial position of the District as of June 30, 2020. The District received an unmodified "clean" report. As a result of the audit, no material weaknesses within the District's internal control structure were identified.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

MOTION: was made by Director Boyd and seconded by Director Rajtora approving the Minutes of the January 11, 2021 Regular Board Meeting, January 14, 2021 Special Board Meeting, January 27, 2021 Special Board Meeting Workshop, and payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$704,405.63. Motion was carried, unanimously by the following roll call vote:

President Griffin:	Absent
Director Boyd:	Aye
Director Cordell:	Aye
Director Rajtora:	Aye
Vice President Saint-Amand:	Aye

**KRIEGER & STEWART ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS: 2021 FEE SCHEDULE**

**K&S 2021 FEE SCHEDULE**

Don Zdeba presented Krieger & Stewart's (K&S), Engineering Consultants, 2021 Fee Schedule, as well as a 2020-2021 fee comparison spreadsheet (included in the Board Packet). K&S last increased their rate of compensation in January 2020. The proposed rates are to be implemented immediately.

MOTION: was made by Director Cordell and seconded by Director Rajtora to approve the 2021 fee schedule for Krieger & Stewart as presented. Motion was carried, unanimously by the following roll call vote:

President Griffin:	Absent
Director Boyd:	Aye
Director Cordell:	Aye
Director Rajtora:	Aye
Vice President Saint-Amand:	Aye

**ADMINISTRATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**RESO NO. 21-01: ACWA/JPIA NOMINATIONS**

The Board reviewed the qualifications of candidate Randall Reed of Cucamonga Valley Water District. The District did not receive any other incumbent/candidate qualifications and thus unanimously decided to make the following motion:

MOTION: was made by Director Cordell and seconded by Director Rajtora to approve Resolution No. 21-01: Concurring in nomination of incumbent Randall Reed of Cucamonga Valley Water District to the Executive Committee of the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA JPIA). Motion was carried, unanimously by the following roll call vote:

President Griffin:	Absent
Director Boyd:	Aye
Director Cordell:	Aye
Director Rajtora:	Aye
Vice President Saint-Amand:	Aye

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

**IWVGA**

Director Rajtora attended the January IWVGA Regular Board meeting and reported on actions taken including:

- Review of the 2018-2019 Financial Audit Report
- Approval of the 2021 Budget presented by Ty Staheli
- Approval of proposed meeting dates for 2021; second Wednesday of every month
- Variance request approval per Ordinance No. 04-20 for China Lake Acres and Northeast Leliter Water Co-Op
- Approval of Technical Support Services (TSS) Agreement

The Board discussed items on the February 10<sup>th</sup> IWVGA Regular Board meeting agenda, specifically Board consideration and approval of a Professional Services Agreement for general management and administrative services between Regional Government Services (RGS) and IWVGA.

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

**GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE**

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

Don Zdeba updated the safety record to 239 consecutive days without a recordable injury. The District currently has no staff in quarantine as a result either a positive COVID-19 test or exposure to someone testing positive. Staff is following Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Department of Public Health guidelines as well as AB 685 requirements for informing and testing those who have been in contact with the employees who tested positive.

Metered water production at the wells for the month of January was 118,823,000 gallons (364.6 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 January, the number is 112,770,000 gallons (346.1 acre-feet). The conservation results for January were reported to the SWRCB on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Consumption was down 16.0% compared to January 2013. The 20% conservation target established by the Board of Directors took effect June 2016. Since that time, the cumulative result is 22.6%.

Comparing the January conservation results in recent years, 2020 was 30.0%, 2019 was 23.8%, 2018 was 14.3%, and 2017 was 25.5%. The residential gallons for capita per day (R-gpcd) for the month of January was 94.1.

There were nineteen new connections added during the month of January including the connection for the ECC Berthing Camp (\$168,905). There have been seventy-seven new connections during the fiscal year that began on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The new connections have contributed \$549,005 in additional revenue. At the same time last year there were forty-one new connections that contributed \$182,466.

Don Zdeba commented he participated in this month's web-based Community Collaborative on February 2<sup>nd</sup> hosted by Mayor Bruen. He informed the participants the District office remains closed to walk-in traffic indefinitely and mentioned the District had received

**PUBLIC  
OUTREACH**

reimbursement from Kern County's portion of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for the upgrade work in our Board room. The upgrades will facilitate improved public access to District meetings.

The following updates were given on items assigned at the January 27, 2021 Special Board Workshop: BOARD  
WORKSHOP  
UPDATES

- Draft letter to the IWVGA requesting consideration of an exemption for the fees and additional water associated by the temporary Berthing Camp to house contractors involved with the construction on base

**UPDATE:** Letter drafted and provided to legal counsel for review on January 27<sup>th</sup>. After consultation with the IWVGA's lead counsel, it was recommended this request be postponed until the March 10<sup>th</sup> IWVGA meeting to allow staff sufficient time for discussion and to draft a staff report with a recommendation. Rushing to put this on the agenda for the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting would likely not result in a favorable decision.

- Address how brackish water would count toward the 7,650 acre-feet of pumping within the framework of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

**UPDATE:** Item assigned to Tim Parker, consulting hydrogeologist, working with Jim Worth. Received a draft response from Mr. Parker earlier today that is being reviewed and will be shared with the Board upon finalization.

- As one option for recovering unpaid bills accruing because of the Governor's Executive Order prohibiting shutoff due to non-payment, investigate putting delinquent bills on the County tax rolls

**UPDATE:** This will be considered along with other options.

- Send an email to Director Boyd confirming his nomination to the JPIA Committee so he can contact ACWA

**UPDATE:** Task completed on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

- Finance Committee to discuss objectives to consider when the District undertakes a new rate study. Committee to also discuss a policy for new connections particularly regarding fees

**UPDATE:** Item to be added to the agenda for the March Finance Committee meeting.

- Add a link to the District's website for rebate programs offered by Southern California Edison (SCE) related to cooling

**UPDATE:** Task completed on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

- Water Management Committee to develop a list of possible options for grant funding to be submitted to the IWVGA when they apply for grants, options that would benefit District customers

**UPDATE:** Item to be added to the agenda for the March Water Management Committee meeting.

Renée Morquecho reported the painting has been delayed due to the temperatures being too cold; however, staff received confirmation today that the painters will be on-site tomorrow, February 9<sup>th</sup>. ENGIE confirmed their electrical engineer will be on-site on Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> to finish up the electrical design.

WELL 35  
UPDATES

A pre-construction meeting for the roof repair was held today between staff and Wasson Roofing and General Contracting. Wasson will be submitting a schedule of work to staff. K&S is working on the design for the booster station at Gateway. K&S is also working on a report

POST-  
EARTHQUAKE  
REPAIRS

for CalOES, which requested more information since the District plans to move both booster stations at the Gateway tank site, but only one was damaged during the earthquakes. Staff considers both stations as one system that works together, but CalOES may not reimburse for moving both boosters.

The District has submitted for reimbursement for the pipeline replacement phase at Gateway.

Ty Staheli reported that the estimated year-to-date revenues as of January 31, 2021 are \$7,815,984 and expenses are \$7,506,679. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$309,305, which exceeds budget by \$1,399,299. FINANCIAL STATUS

Mr. Staheli reviewed the report provided by ENGIE Services for July through January 2021 with the Board of Directors. The guaranteed savings during that time was \$282,778.81 and actual savings was \$243,962.46. The total savings since July 2018 is \$5,111,196.36. SOLAR PRODUCTION

Mr. Staheli reported on the following conservation items: CONSERVATION  
➤ State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Waster Report - SO far in 2021, there has been one water waste report received with one contact made. There have been zero formal Second Notices and zero penalties issued.

Jason Lillion reported the Site Acceptance Tests (SATs) have been completed with only Well 33 left of the sites where installations are done. Well 35 will be installed and tested upon contractor completion of construction. The Arsenic Removal Plants will be completed once they are brought online this spring. SCADA

The Plants remain offline for the winter. The District has reached out to Filtronic competitor Pureflow for a solution to the media in the Filter Effluent (FE) Tank. Pureflow is currently working on a quote to test their underdrain system in two of the six filter vessels. ARSENIC TREATMENT

Mr. Lillion reported for the month of January, three services were repaired and six were replaced. Construction began on Primrose to replace the 4' mainline with an 8' PVC mainline. The NO-DES truck made one run in January and filtered 8,190 gallons. Since inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 7,864,775 gallons. The NO-DES suffered a failure in the beginning of January when a Lovejoy coupling wore down. The part has since been replaced. Nineteen valves were exercised. OPERATIONS

**BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Vice President Saint-Amand welcomed back Director Cordell.

Director Cordell asked to meet with the main water users in town to discuss the possibility of establishing another water source in the valley. Item to be added to the next Water Management Committee meeting agenda prior to conversations being held with water users.

Director Rajtora also welcomed back Director Cordell.

Director Boyd referenced the denied variance submitted by ECC at the January 27<sup>th</sup> IWVWD Special Board Workshop and suggested further discussions on a potential policy addressing this issue in the future.

An item regarding this issue will be added to a future Administration Executive Committee agenda.

Vice President Saint-Amand thanked the staff for all their hard work and Mr. Brown for his presentation on the audit report.

With no further Board or Public comments, Vice President Saint-Amand recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 7:27 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 7:59 p.m.

**CLOSED  
SESSION**

The meeting was recalled to Open Session at 9:04 p.m.

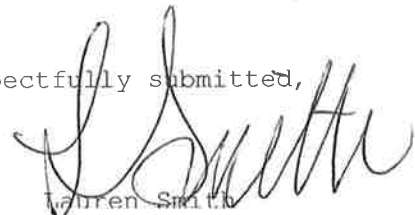
No action was taken which would require disclosure under the Brown Act.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Smith  
Recording Secretary

APPROVED:

March 8, 2021