

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

OCTOBER 11, 2022

The Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District was called to order by President Saint-Amand 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 Mallory Boyd **PLEDGE**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: President David C.H. Saint-Amand
Director Charles D. Griffin
Director Stan G. Rajtora
Vice President Mallory J. Boyd **ROLL CALL**

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Don Zdeba, General Manager
Jim Worth, Attorney
Ty Staheli, Chief Financial Officer
Jason Lillion, Operations Manager
Justin Thompson, Associate Engineer
Lauren Smith, Recording Secretary

AGENDA DECLARATION

Recording Secretary, Lauren Smith, reported that the agenda for tonight's Special Board Meeting was posted on Friday, October 7, 2022. **AGENDA DECLARATION**

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

President Saint-Amand stated his opinions shared during this meeting are his own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of his employer, nor the Board. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

The Board heard public comment from Mike Neel, Mike Sinnott, and Travis Reed. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

BOARD VACANCY

One application was received to fill the Board vacancy. The applicant is previous Board member, Ron Kicinski. The selected candidate will fulfill the remaining time of the current term, ending in November 2024. Mr. Kicinski's application and supporting documents were included in the Board packet. **BOARD VACANCY**

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Director Rajtora appointing Ronald R. Kicinski as Director to fill the Board vacancy. Motion was carried, unanimously, by the following roll call vote:

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| President Saint-Amand: | Aye |
| Director Griffin: | Aye |
| Director Rajtora: | Aye |
| Vice President Boyd: | Aye |

Don Zdeba administered the Oath of Office to Ron Kicinski. Mr. Kicinski attended the rest of meeting as a Director.

CONSENT CALENDAR

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: was made by Director Rajtora and seconded by Vice President Boyd approving the Minutes of the September 12, 2022, Regular Board Meeting, Minutes of the payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$1,624,213.65, and Resolution No. 22-13: AB 361 Finding. Motion was carried, unanimously, by the following roll call vote:

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| President Saint-Amand: | Aye |
| Director Griffin: | Aye |
| Director Rajtora: | Aye |
| Director Kicinski | Aye |
| Vice President Boyd: | Aye |

PLANT & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

P&E: SURPLUS LIST

Staff presented a list of surplus vehicles and other equipment/supplies. These will be advertised locally and on the District's website once approved by the Board. The vehicles will have a reserve price.

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Vice President Boyd approving the Surplus List as presented. Motion was carried, unanimously, by the following roll call vote:

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| President Saint-Amand: | Aye |
| Director Griffin: | Aye |
| Director Rajtora: | Aye |
| Director Kicinski | Aye |
| Vice President Boyd: | Aye |

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)

IWVGA

Director Rajtora commented on the September 14, 2022, Board meeting of the IWVGA including:

- Next IWVGA Board meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2022
- The purchase 750 acre-feet of Table A water is progressing slower than anticipated. The due diligence period is being extended for an unforeseen amount of time. The down payment is also being postponed for the time being
- Imported Water Pipeline Alignment Study is still in progress and being conducted by Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
- Future agenda items include: a lease agreement with the State of California for monitoring well access, an agreement with Antelope Valley East Kern (AVEK) Water Agency for pipeline alignment study support and deposit, approval of letter to AVEK regarding imported water connection
- Recycled Water Study is essentially completed, and the report is due by the end of the year
- Rose Valley sub-flow monitoring effort is scheduled to begin fall/winter 2022

- Board authorized the Water Resources Manager, Stetson Engineers, to prepare a Water Recycling Feasibility Study for the United States Bureau of Reclamation
- Capital Core Group (CCG) indicated DWR will begin grant proceedings for funding for Phase 2 of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SMGA) implementation
- IWVGA's transition to a new financial system is still in progress with no firm completion date

The Board heard public comment from Judie Decker, Mike Sinnott, and Mike Neel.

Jim Worth reported on recent actions regarding the Comprehensive Adjudication, including:

**COMPREHENSIVE
ADJUDICATION**

- Judge granted a stay of discovery in the adjudication matters for 180 days
- Staff is reviewing members of the public in the valley who did not receive the mailer to serve them one more time to fulfill the requirement
- A Case Management Conference has been scheduled for December 2, 2022; 1:30 p.m.
- The second public meeting regarding the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Facilitation process was held on October 4th. The next steps are for Stantec to reach out to the Planning Committee and to discuss potential further tasks.

GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE

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

Don Zdeba updated the safety record to 538 consecutive days without a recordable injury.

Metered water production at the wells for the month of September was 190,147,300 gallons (583.5 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 September, the number is 232,024,000 gallons (712.1 acre-feet).

Since June there has been a requirement from the State Board to submit a preliminary report with consumption, population, and R-gpcd by the third business day of the month. The preliminary report was submitted October 3rd. The full report is still required by the 28th of the month. District's full report was submitted on October 6th.

The conservation results for September show consumption down 22.3% compared to September 2013. The 20% conservation target established by the Board of Directors took effect June 2016. Since that time, the cumulative result is 23.4% on the strength of four consecutive months exceeding 30%.

In response to Governor Newsom's request for a voluntary 15% reduction to address current drought conditions, SWRCB is also comparing current water consumption to the same month in 2020. Comparing September 2020 to September 2022, there is an 1.3% reduction in consumption.

Comparing the September conservation results in recent years, 2021 was 24.2% lower than the 2013 baseline year, 2020 was 21.0% lower, 2019

was 16.1% lower, and 2018 was 10.7% lower. The residential gallons for capita per day (R-gpcd) for the month of September was 183.2. This includes both indoor and outdoor usage.

There was one new connection added during the month of September, contributing \$5,086 in Capital Facility Fees. There have been four new connections this fiscal year which began July 1st, contributing \$16,962 in Capital Facility Fees.

Mr. Zdeba commented he did attend the Community Collaborative meeting at City Hall on October 4th. He announced the Public Workshop for the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Facilitation process would be held that evening during which results from the stakeholder assessment interviews, as well as the responses from the online survey would be shared. He also mentioned the Board is seeking to fill the vacancy resulting from the passing of Director Cordell and that the District is still seeking candidates for the Junior Associate Board (JAB) Member pilot program.

PUBLIC
OUTREACH

Regarding the JAB Member pilot program, Sierra Sands Unified School District (SSUSD), Cerro Coso Community College, and the Chamber of Commerce are assisting with publicizing the program. Only one application has been received. Applications are due by Wednesday, November 9th.

Staff continues to work with Providence Strategic Consulting to promote WaterSmart. As of this morning, there are 1,545 active accounts accounting for 11.9% of customers. This is up from the 11.8% reported last month. There were 1,709 customer alerts issued in September and there have been 12,240 in the past 12 months.

Justin Thompson reported the footing was poured last week. Both the supply and discharge lines have been pressure tested. Backfill of the floor of the building has been completed and pouring of the floor is scheduled for next week. Construction on the C-zone tanks began this week.

BOOSTER
STATIONS AND
TANKS PROJECT

Ty Staheli reported that the estimated year-to-date revenues as of September 30, 2022, are \$4,661,408 and expenses are \$4,437,822. Revenues exceeded expenditures by \$223,586, which is less than budget by \$28,786.

FINANCIAL
STATUS

Mr. Staheli reviewed the report provided by ENGIE Services for July 2022 through September 2022 with the Board. For September, the actual savings was \$50,066.93 and the guaranteed savings \$45,969.77. Since we just started a new fiscal year, the total savings thus far is \$151,753.07. At the Well 35 site, the actual savings for September was \$2,123.47 and guaranteed was \$1,906.73. The total savings since the Well 35 site went online January 2022 was \$19,173.03.

SOLAR
PRODUCTION

Mr. Staheli reported on the following conservation items:
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Waster Report - So far in 2022, there have been a total of 82 water waste reports received with 82 contacts made. There have been five formal Second Notices and zero penalties issued.

CONSERVATION

Jason Lillion reported that 16,955,000 gallons were produced from Arsenic Plant 2. Water Supply is currently prepping for removal of

ARSENIC
TREATMENT

current media at Arsenic Plant 1 in preparation for Pureflow to be onsite November 7th to install the underdrains and reinstall the media.

Mr. Lillion reported for the month of September, 18 services were replaced. The NO-DES made nine runs. Since inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 8,594,235 gallons. 9 valves were exercised, 690 year-to-date.

OPERATIONS

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Board welcomed Director Kicinski back to the IWVWD Board of Directors.

**BOARD
COMMENTS**

Vice President Boyd and President Saint-Amand also congratulated and welcomed the next General Manager of the District, Travis Reed.

With no further Board or Public comments, President Saint-Amand recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 7:22 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 7:32 p.m.

**CLOSED
SESSION**

Closed Session was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 8:52 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 8:52 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Smith

Recording Secretary

APPROVED: NOVEMBER 14, 2022