

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 13, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District was called to order by President Boyd at 4:30 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 George Croll. **PLEDGE**

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: George Croll, General Manager
Jim Worth, Attorney
Jason Lillion, Operations Manager
Renée Morquecho, Chief Engineer
Tyrell Staheli, Chief Financial Officer
Lauren Smith, Recording Secretary

AGENDA DECLARATION **AGENDA DECLARATION**
Recording Secretary, Lauren Smith, reported that the agenda for today's Regular Board Meeting was posted on Wednesday, November 8, 2023.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
Director 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.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
None.

With no further Board or Public comments, President Boyd recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 4:32 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION **CLOSED SESSION**
The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 4:37 p.m.

Closed Session was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 6:16 p.m.

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

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

The Board heard public comment from Mike Neel and Renee Westa-lusk.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**CONSENT
CALENDAR**

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Vice President Kicinski approving the Minutes of the October 10, 2023, Special Board Meeting, October 23, 2023, Special Board Meeting, and Payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$1,094,605.89. Motion was carried, unanimously by the following vote: (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

PLANT & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

**P&E CM
ACCEPTANCE OF
CONTRACT
WORK: CSE**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to accept the Contract Work completed by Canyon Springs Enterprises (CSE) on October 24, 2023. The project to construct three new reservoirs was completed nearly five months ahead of the Contract Completion Date for an adjusted Contract Amount of \$4,753,933.19. There were six Change Orders totally \$52,433.19, which is approximately 1.1% of the original Contract Amount.

MOTION: was made by Director Saint-Amand and seconded by Director Rajtora to accept the completed Contract Work by CSE in the amount of \$4,753,933.19. Motion was carried, unanimously by the following vote: (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

Staff did not receive the updated construction cost, to include all facilities installed, prior to tonight's Board meeting. Staff recommended the item be deferred to the December Board meeting. The Board unanimously agreed to defer the item, as no action can be taken without updated costs.

**DEDICATION OF
FACILITIES:
TOWNSHIP
SUITES BY
MARRIOTT**

No action taken.

ADMINISTRATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**ADMIN/EXEC CM
EDUCATION
REIMBURSEMENT
POLICY**

The Board reviewed the proposed draft Education Reimbursement Policy to be included in the Personnel Manual. Instead of a set amount, the policy now states: "The amount of reimbursement shall not exceed the cost of a fulltime (12 units) California resident attending a State funded university." This will allow for fluctuating college costs. The policy also includes a requirement for employees to inform the District of their intention to seek reimbursement for college courses by a specific date.

MOTION: was made by Vice President Kicinski and seconded by Director Griffin approving the Education Reimbursement policy as presented. Motion was carried, unanimously by the following vote: (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

AUTHORIZATION TO OBTAIN BIDS

AUTH TO OBTAIN BIDS NORTHWEST TRANSMISSION PIPELINE PROJECT

Renee Morquecho explained that for procedural purposes, the Board must authorize staff to obtain bids with a specific date noted. The plan is for the bid to go out by the end of November.

The bid package is expected to be reviewed by staff this week.

The Board heard public comment from Judie Decker and Renee Westa-Lusk.

MOTION: was made by Director Saint-Amand and seconded by Director Griffin authorizing staff to obtain bids for the Northwest Transmission Pipeline Project. Motion was carried, unanimously by the following roll call vote:

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

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)

IWVGA

Vice President Kicinski discussed action items of the October 11, and November 8, 2023, IWVGA meetings, including:

- Next IWVGA meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2023
- IWVGA Legislative Agenda and 2024 Work Plan presented by Capitol Core Group
- Update on the Shallow Well Mitigation Program
- Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) five (5) year update

The Board discussed the recent article published in the newspaper regarding Assembly Bill (AB) 779 by IWVGA Chair Scott Hayman and Vice Chair Phillip Peters. Director Griffin commented he was not made aware this letter would be published. The District Board plans to respond accordingly.

Staff will continue conversations with the City regarding the Wastewater Treatment Program.

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

George Croll provided updates on the District submitting comments to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding the proposed Imported Pipeline Project. He also commented on the preliminary comments submitted by the District regarding the preliminary Design Review for the Project. Further comments were requested by November 17th.

COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION

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Jim Worth reported the IWVGA filed a motion to be appointed as class counsel for small pumpers. The Hearing will be held on December 15th. The District is currently working on their response and will be filing on December 1st. The District intends to oppose this motion.

The Board heard public comment from Mike Neel.

GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE

**GENERAL
MANAGER AND
STAFF UPDATE
SAFETY**

As of today, employees at the Water District have worked 324 days since the last recordable injury.

Mr. Croll commented on the decrease in water usage.

Mr. Croll commented the District participated in the City's Trunk or Treat on October 27th. Amber Chapin and Lauren Smith worked the event.

**PUBLIC
OUTREACH**

The District had a booth at the Petroglyph Festival held on November 4th and 5th. This is one of the biggest public attended events the District participates in. Big thanks to the following employees for all of their help with this event: Robert Renfroe, Jack Kennedy, Johnny Estrada, Ana Chavez, Isabel Tejeda, George Croll, Sam Molina, and Lauren Smith. Without their efforts, the festival wouldn't have been such a success.

Staff reported they have a meeting scheduled with WaterView this week to provide updates on the current status of their findings. WaterView is a software provided through Eagle Aerial that allows us to see usage at a parcel level.

**STATE
REGULATORY
UPDATES**

The following updates were given on items assigned at the July 25, 2023, Special Board Workshop:

**BOARD
WORKSHOP
UPDATES**

• **Potential Strategic Planning Efforts**

The Committee recently met with George Croll. Updates will be provided to the Board and subsequent Board meetings accordingly.

CSE continues working on this project. There were issues with disinfection of the pump cans and discharge piping. Chlorination will take place again this week. The completion date may be pushed back due to the delay with disinfection.

**BOOSTER
STATIONS**

The estimated year-to-date revenues as of October 31, 2023, are \$5,271,427 and expenses are \$5,375,604. Expenditures exceeded revenues by \$104,177, which is better than budget by \$211,826. To date, the District has paid \$12,838,689 in GA Fees to the Groundwater Authority.

**FINANCIAL
STATUS**

Mr. Staheli reported on the following conservation items: State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Waster Report - Thus far in 2023, there have been a total of 62 water waste reports received with 62 contacts made. There has been 24 formal Second Notices and seven penalties issued.

CONSERVATION

Krieger & Stewart are finalizing initial plans for District review, those should be done this week and the final draft done in time for the project to be out to bid by the end of this month. Current plan is that the bid documents will allow for both conventional bell and spigot and fusible PVC for the District to weigh cost and timeline. Cal-Muni is currently in the process of selecting an underwriter and developing the first draft of rating agency presentation. The District is still on track for award of the project at the February 13th Board Meeting.

**INYOKERN RD
TRANSM. MAIN**

For the month of October Plant 2 treated 5,071,000 gal. The last time the Plant ran was on October 6th. Staff continues to work on sifting the treatment media.

**ARSENIC
TREATMENT**

Mr. Lillion reported for the month of October, two services were

OPERATIONS

repaired and 31 were replaced. The NO-DES truck made six runs in October, filtering 55,110 gallons. Since inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 9,099,195 gallons. 73 Valves were exercised.

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

**BOARD
COMMENTS**

Vice President Kicinski thanked the staff for their public outreach efforts.

The Board discussed potential Workshop agenda items and will discuss further at the December meeting.

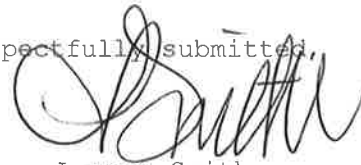
Director Saint-Amand commented on the decrease of water usage in the valley and the beautiful use of xeriscape.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Smith

Recording Secretary

APPROVED: DECEMBER 11, 2023