

VALLEY OF THE MOON WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 6, 2005

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Valley of the Moon Water District was held on Tuesday, September 6, 2005, in the Board Chambers of the District Office at 19039 Bay Street, El Verano, California.

1. CALL TO ORDER - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - ROLL CALL

President Michael Woods called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call by **Deputy Secretary Walk** noted the following present:

Directors Present:	Ron Prushko Sanford Smith Michael Woods
Directors Excused:	Mark Bramfitt Ed Kenny
District Personnel:	Shari Walk, Office Supervisor Paul Gradolph, Operations and Maintenance Supervisor
General Manager:	Krishna Kumar
Public Present:	Andre Basset and Sandi Hansen, Sonoma Index-Tribune

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A.** Receive and Approve Minutes of Special Meeting of August 16, 2005
- B.** Adopt Resolution No. 050901 – Authorizing Termination of Easement on Parcel No. 056-583-014-000, 889 Los Robles Drive, and Quitclaiming that easement to the Property Owner

Motion by **Vice President Smith**, seconded by **Director Prushko** and carried unanimously by a voice vote to adopt the Consent Calendar, as shown.

4. PUBLIC PRESENTATION

There was no Public Presentation

5. OPERATIONAL & COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Approve Current Financial Reports for July 2005

Motion by **Director Prushko**, seconded by **Vice President Smith**, and carried unanimously by a roll call vote to approve the monthly Financial Reports & Disbursements for the month of July 2005 in the amount of \$695,540.76.

B. Review/Comment on Current District Projects and Significant O & M Issues

Operations and Maintenance Supervisor Paul Gradolph presented the summary review of current VOMWD projects and significant operations and maintenance issues for August 2005, as follows:

- **Project #2855 - Glen Ellen Storage Tank:** The water main, services and fire hydrants have been installed and placed in service. Submittals for the tank have been reviewed by VOMWD staff and a structural engineer at Winzler & Kelly. The VOMWD's comments have been returned to North Bay Construction and will be included in the tank construction.

Mr. Gradolph reported that the initial compaction tests of the fill performed by Taber Consultants were found to be unsatisfactory. The follow up tests also turned up with unsatisfactory results. North Bay Construction had agreed to proceed with the removal and recompaction of the fill material. However, North Bay had served a notice of potential claim for any additional costs associated with the recompaction work. A meeting was held on September 2, 2005 among the Contractor, Winzler & Kelly, Taber Consultants and the VOMWD which resulted in the resolution of outstanding issues regarding the compaction tests. As a result, North Bay Construction will not be submitting a claim for the recompaction work. Completion of the tank project was now expected late November or early December.

President Woods asked why the initial test failed, to which **Mr. Gradolph** reported that the soil types varied from the control sample in density, which may have skewed the compaction results.

Vice President Smith inquired as to when the traffic would become heavy on Hill Road. His neighbors wondered why there was so little disruption on Hill Road. **Mr. Gradolph** stated the water main portion of the work is complete which had caused some traffic disruption. He further reported that the steel plates will be delivered to the site in the next few weeks which could cause some traffic delays, although minimal.

Mr. Gradolph informed the Board that the VOMWD had issued Requests for Proposals for engineering design services for three of the capital projects planned for the current fiscal year with the final date for submission being September 20, 2005.

C. Water Source Report

Director Prushko noticed that there has been an increase in the well production to 17%, and inquired if that would continue through September and **Mr. Gradolph** answered yes.

6. RECEIVE & FILE PRESIDENT'S AND DIRECTOR'S REPORTS OR COMMENTS

Vice President Smith reported that he would be attending the tour of the Geysers Recharge Project along with **Director Bramfitt**.

7. GENERAL MANAGER'S AND DISTRICT COUNSEL'S REPORTS

A. Impact of Tiered Rates

In response to an earlier inquiry by **Director Prushko**, General Manager Krishna Kumar presented a slide, showing the comparison of revenues before and after the implementation of the tiered water rates by the VOMWD in January 2004. **Mr. Kumar** compared the revenues collected per 1,000 gallons before and after the implementation. The comparison showed that during the summer months, the VOMWD had collected slightly higher revenue per 1,000 gallons after the implementation of the tiered rates while during the winter months the opposite was true. The total revenues for the year were slightly higher after the implementation which was accounted for by the increase in the water rate. Weather was also a factor reflected in the total revenues collected. **Mr. Kumar** stated that it is fair to summarize that the tiered rates had been revenue neutral, as was hoped for.

President Woods verified with Mr. Kumar that the \$0.19 difference in the revenue collected per 1,000 gallons account for the wholesale water rate increase and did not mean that the VOMWD was receiving an additional \$0.19 in profit.

Mr. Kumar further stated that although the VOMWD implemented the tiered rates after a detailed study performed by a consultant, it was desirable to ensure that the VOMWD was not losing revenues on account of the implementation of the tiered rates. **Director Prushko** noted that was why he had raised this question initially, wanting to see whether the VOMWD was losing money as a result of implementation of the tiered rate. **President Woods** expressed his satisfaction that the VOMWD has been able to live to the promise it made to its customers to stay revenue neutral after the implementation of the tiered rates. **President Woods** thanked **Director Prushko** for raising this question.

President Woods asked whether the staff had looked into the question of whether the tiered rates are having the desired conservation impacts and any evidence of its success. Mr. Kumar replied that the VOMWD has anecdotal evidence to conclude that the implementation of the tiered rates was having its desired effects with customers calling in to share their personal experiences where they had reduced their summer time water use considerably.

B. Properties on Hill Road are within the VOMWD boundary

In response to an earlier inquiry by **Director Prushko**, Mr. Kumar presented a slide showing the properties on Hill Road in relation to the VOMWD boundary, noting that several properties around the Hill Road were clearly within the VOMWD boundary. **Director Prushko** clarified that the property belonging to Mr. Sassenrath was within the VOMWD boundary.

President Woods thanked the staff for being responsive to the questions from the Directors in a timely manner.

C. Payment to Region – 1 officials, or other voluntary officials of ACWA.

In response to an earlier inquiry by **Vice President Smith**, Mr. Kumar reported that staff had been able to ascertain the status of payment, if any, from ACWA, to the voluntary officials of ACWA Board and ACWA Committees, including the voluntary officers of the ACWA Regions. Staff understood that none of these officers were reimbursed for any of the expenses related to their attending ACWA meetings etc. nor were they paid any per diem for such attendance. However, ACWA

reimbursed both the President and Vice-President of ACWA their expenses to attend designated ACWA events.

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Discuss/Approve:** A license agreement with UNAVCO Inc. for locating a GPS monument and authorize the General Manager to execute the agreement and file a Notice of Exemption with the Sonoma County Clerk in accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Mr. Kumar reported that the EarthScope was a national science initiative to explore the structure and evolution of the North American continent and to understand the physical processes controlling earthquakes and volcanoes. EarthScope's Plate Boundary Observatory (PBO) was a network of Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers that will record ground motion associated with earthquakes and volcanoes in the western US, allowing scientists to better understand these potentially destructive events. The VOMWD had received a request from the Assistant Permitting Coordinator with the National Science Foundation's Plate Boundary Observatory to explore the possibility of siting a GPS monitoring station at the VOMWD's Temelec storage tank site. The proposed GPS station will measure ground shifts caused by earthquakes and slow fault slip between earthquakes.

Mr. Kumar recommended the approval of a license agreement with UNAVCO Inc. for locating a GPS monument and authorization of the General Manager to execute the agreement and filing of a Notice of Exemption with the Sonoma County Clerk in accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. Mr. Kumar introduced Andre Basset, Field Engineer from UNAVCO.

Vice President Smith stated that he was an amateur radio operator and used GPS all the time, and found that at his location, he was getting readings that vary in terms of altitude by maybe 10 feet or so. He was able to pick up about 17 of the transmitting satellites at one point or another. He asked Mr. Basset how their system worked. Mr. Basset replied that they were able to get up to sub millimeter level accuracy by listening to more of the frequencies, whereas the handheld receiver actually utilized only L1 frequencies. The frequencies ranged from L1 to L5; the higher the frequency the more accurate and costly they would be.

President Woods verified with Mr. Basset that those frequencies were coming from the same satellite, and hence the satellites were broadcasting or transmitting on more than one frequency. Mr. Basset explained the process through which they were able to accomplish sub millimeter level accuracy and that this technology had been available for over ten years.

Director Prushko asked about the long term goal of the project. Mr. Basset replied that UNAVCO was selected to put in the GPS stations, and the data, when once collected, was actually available to the public and to anybody wishing to use it. Typically, the information was used by people studying tectonics, and who were looking for small plate movements. This was true especially in California. It will also be used by people for other novel approaches, such as weather forecasting, and for calculating the amount of moisture in the atmosphere. The information also helps out surveyors, who use the GPS station as a reference point.

Vice President Smith asked how close the proposed Temelec site was to the Rogers Creek Fault, and was the site the optimum in terms of stability of the site itself. Mr. Basset explained that the Temelec site was about a mile or so from the Rogers Creek Fault, and the site was selected because of its location and stability. Mr. Basset said the equipment was far enough away from the road, on the side of a hill and behind homes,

making it a good site for the stated purpose.

Vice President Smith asked if the data was transmitted from the site to their office in Richmond. Mr. Bassett clarified that the data was initially transmitted via a cell phone or modem to Boulder, Colorado for archiving and subsequently distributed to other locations.

Motion by **Director Prushko**, seconded by **Vice President Smith**, and carried unanimously by a voice vote, to approve a license agreement with UNAVCO Inc. for locating a GPS monument and authorize the General Manager to execute the agreement and file a Notice of Exemption with the Sonoma County Clerk in accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

B. Discuss/Approve: ACWA committee nominees for the 2006-2007 term.

Director Prushko informed the Board that he would like to withdraw his membership from the ACWA Ground Water Committee for the forthcoming term, because he has been unable to participate in the past due to time constraints.

President Woods and **Vice President Smith** indicated their willingness to continue serving on the ACWA Energy Committee and the ACWA Insurance and Personnel Committee respectively.

9. CLOSED SESSION - NONE

10. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

11. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Vice President Smith requested staff to bring back to the board information on the VOMWD's emergency preparedness plan.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by **Vice President Smith**, seconded by **Director Prushko** and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is a regular meeting on October 4, 2005 at 6:30 P.M.

Shari Walk, Deputy Board Secretary