

VALLEY OF THE MOON WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 4, 2006

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Valley of the Moon Water District was held on Tuesday, April 4, 2006, 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 Sanford Smith 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:	Mark Bramfitt Ron Prushko Michael Woods (arrived at 6:32) Sanford Smith
Directors Excused:	Ed Kenny
District Personnel:	Shari Walk, Office Supervisor Paul Gradolph, Operations and Maintenance Supervisor
General Manager:	Krishna Kumar
Public Present:	Robert Mosher and Sandi Hansen, Sonoma Index-Tribune

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A.** Receive and Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 7, 2006

Motion by **Director Bramfitt**, 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 February 2006

Motion by **Director Prushko**, seconded by **Director Bramfitt** and carried 4-0-1 by a roll call vote to approve the monthly Financial Reports & Disbursements for the month of February 2006 in the amount of

\$209,532.91.

President Smith reopened Public Comments at this time.

Robert Mosher, a local resident, suggested that water runoff during the rainy season should be directed or redirected into holding areas to recharge the aquifer

General Manager Krishna Kumar advised Mr. Mosher that concept had been considered. He offered to provide more information to Mr. Mosher in that regard.

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

Operations and Maintenance Supervisor Paul Gradolph presented the summary review of current District projects and significant operations and maintenance issues for March 2006, as follows:

- **Project #2855 - Glen Ellen Storage Tank:** The tank was filled with water on March 24. A water sample could be collected once the required contact time for the water and the interior coating had been met. Electrical work had started but had been slow due to the unseasonably wet weather. The fence and landscape work would proceed as weather permitted. Staff anticipated that the tank could be placed in service at the end of April 2006.
- **Project #2892 – Agua Caliente Booster Station:** Material submittals had been reviewed and comments had been returned to Bartley Pump. The majority of the material had been ordered and received by the contractor although the concrete vault could not be ordered until the existing pipe elevations could be verified in the field. Excessively high ground water levels at the project site had prevented the contractor from getting that information. The project would proceed as weather conditions permitted.
- **Project #2899 – Boyes Springs Water Mains:**
- **Project #2900 – El Verano Area Water Mains:** The 100 percent drawings and bid specifications had been completed. Permission to advertise both projects would be requested at the May 2 Board meeting.
- **Project #2901 – Glen Ellen Area Water Mains:** A prebid meeting was held on March 27. Attendees' questions were answered and a physical visit to each site was conducted. The bid opening is scheduled for 2:00 P.M. on April 19. A recommendation of award would be presented at the May 2 Board meeting.

C. Water Source Report

General Manager Kumar presented an accounting of total water deliveries in acre feet for January, February and March in 2004, 2005 and 2006. He identified the percentage of change from year to year for same month deliveries. Acknowledging a 7 percent increase in February 2006 from the prior year's deliveries, he described the potential reasons for the increase, primarily related to a change in weather pattern where ratepayers turned irrigation systems on early in the season and left the irrigation system on even after the rains had returned. He suggested that the March numbers were lower because of excessive rain during that month.

President Smith explained that he had raised the question given the increased water deliveries from previous years which should not have occurred given the rain experienced during the winter months of

2005/2006, which should have resulted in lower water deliveries. He questioned whether or not there was any way to override a consumer's irrigation system to force the conservation of water.

Director Bramfitt suggested that there might be other reasons for the increase, such as an increase in household size.

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

President Smith reported that he had attended the quarterly Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Insurance and Personnel Committee meeting on March 23, 2006 in Sacramento. He presented a handout to the Board outlining the meeting subjects. He noted that there were three insurance plans that were up for renewal. The dental plan would be renewing at the current rate for the next fiscal year, through June 30, 2007, while both the disability and life insurance plans would see a reduction in premiums.

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

A. Water Advisory Committee (WAC) Meeting of April 3, 2006

General Manager Kumar advised that Sonoma County Water Agency (Water Agency) staff had made several presentations regarding fisheries issues faced by the Agency. It had been reported that the Water Agency planned to operate the rubber dam with a notch in the middle to help fish migration. Another presentation related to the draft Water Policy Statement. The WAC had determined that a subcommittee would work with the Water Agency to finalize that Policy Statement. The new schedule for the Water Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR) had been distributed at the meeting. According to that schedule, the EIR Certification and project approval was anticipated to occur in June 2008.

Mr. Kumar also advised that there had been much discussion about the need to submit to the State Department of Health Services (DHS) the capital cost estimates for the installation of fluoridation treatment facilities at 10 year intervals. Having just learned that the requirement applied to public water systems with 10,000 or more service connections, he noted that the VOMWD was not covered by that requirement.

B. PG&E Rebate

Mr. Kumar reported that thanks to the lead provided by Director Bramfitt, the VOMWD had applied for a rebate offered by PG&E for potential energy savings associated with the Agua Caliente booster pump station project.

C. Staff Retirements

Mr. Kumar reported that a long term employee of the VOMWD, Larry Carniglia, had formally announced his retirement for February 7, 2007, after having served the VOMWD for over 27 years. Another long term employee had also indicated a retirement at the same time. He would provide the Board with plans to fill those positions closer to the retirement dates.

D. Water Forum/PG&E Seminar/IT Seminar

Mr. Kumar reported that he had attended the Sonoma Valley Water Forum along with Directors Bramfitt and Prushko, the annual Water Conservation Showcase sponsored by PG&E in San Francisco, and the publicity seminar for non-profits offered by the Sonoma Index-Tribune.

President Smith also spoke about the presentations offered by the Water Agency at the April 3 meeting of the WAC.

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

A. Discuss/Direct Staff: Preliminary Operations and Maintenance & Capital Improvement Program Budgets for Fiscal Year 2006-2007

Mr. Kumar presented the preliminary Operations & Maintenance and Capital Improvement Program Budgets for Fiscal Year 2006-07. He explained that the proposed preliminary budget of \$3,697,216 presented a balanced budget and included a 2.5 percent rate increase to both the service charges and the commodity charges to reflect a nominal cost of living increase. The preliminary budget showed an increase of 3.3 percent over the current year's budget, due somewhat to the increased cost of purchased water. He referenced the tables in the staff report to identify the current and proposed rates for FY 2006-07 for single-family residential and flat-rate customers, and to identify the increases that ratepayers could expect with a 2.5 percent rate increase.

Mr. Kumar advised that the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2006-07 had been proposed at \$2,244,404. The budgets reflected the Board's commitment to providing VOMWD customers with reliable, high quality and affordable water.

Based on the Board's direction, **Mr. Kumar** stated that staff would modify the preliminary budget and present the final draft of the budget to the Board at its May 2 meeting. The public hearing and the adoption of the final budget was scheduled for the June 6 Board meeting.

Director Bramfitt referred to the five year CIP and clarified a number of points related to the size of the projects in the early years of the five-year CIP.

President Smith characterized the preliminary budgets as an excellent start for budget planning that he did not see would require adjustment at this time. He thanked staff for the hard work.

B. Discuss/Direct Staff: Water Advisory Committee's Draft Letter to the Sonoma County Water Agency Regarding WAC Priorities

Mr. Kumar stated that as advised at the last meeting, a few members of the WAC had informally met under the leadership of Santa Rosa Councilmember Mike Martini to draft a letter to the Chair of the Water Agency Board of Directors. Changes to the letter had been recommended by the Santa Rosa Board of Public Utilities, which changes were provided to the Board for its information. He identified the WAC's priorities as stated in the draft letter.

Director Woods commented that he had expressed some concerns for the previous version of the letter. He stated that the current letter was an improvement to that previous version. He supported the letter.

Director Bramfitt also expressed his support for the revised letter.

President Smith acknowledged the consensus of the Board that it was generally in accord with the contents of the draft letter.

Director Bramfitt stepped down from the dais at this time due to the fact that he was a candidate for Special District Representative to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

C. Discuss/Select: Candidate for Special District Representative to Local Agency

Formation Commission

Mr. Kumar explained that the application material for the only candidate, Mark Bramfitt, had been included in the staff report. He recommended that the Board discuss and select the desired candidate for Special District Representative to LAFCO and authorize the President to cast the vote for the selected candidate.

President Woods was pleased that Mr. Bramfitt was interested in being selected as the Special District Representative to LAFCO.

Motion by **Director Woods**, seconded by **Director Prushko** to select Mark Bramfitt as the candidate for the Special District Representative to LAFCO and authorize the President to cast the vote for the selected candidate. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes:	Prushko, Woods, Smith
Noes:	None
Abstain:	Bramfitt
Absent:	Kenny

Director Bramfitt rejoined the Board at this time.

President Smith adjourned into Closed Session at 7:18 P.M. to consider the following:

9. CLOSED SESSION

- A. Public Employee Performance Evaluation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 – General Manager

10. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

President Smith reconvened into open session at 7:44 P.M. He reported that no action had been taken in Closed Session.

11. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There was no request for future agenda items.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by **Director Bramfitt**, seconded by **Director Prushko** and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is a regular meeting on May 2, 2006 at 6:30 P.M.

Shari Walk, Deputy Board Secretary