

VALLEY OF THE MOON WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 5, 2006

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Valley of the Moon Water District was held on Tuesday, July 5, 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 Sanford Smith
Directors Excused:	Ed Kenny
District Personnel:	Shari Walk, Office Supervisor Paul Gradolph, Operations and Maintenance Supervisor
General Manager:	Krishna Kumar
Public Present:	Ken Borba and Sandi Hansen, <u>Sonoma Index-Tribune</u>

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A.** Receive and Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 6, 2006
- B.** Resolution No. 060701, Accepting Project Closing Documents, Water Facilities Installation Agreement with the Chauvet Hotel and Development Company LLC, Project No. 2906
- C.** Authorize Staff to Submit a Statement to the Sonoma County Clerk's Office that No Amendment to the District's Conflict of Interest Code is Required at this Time
- D.** Adopt Updated Injury and Illness Prevention Program

Motion by **Director Woods**, seconded by **Director Prushko** and carried unanimously by a voice vote to adopt the Consent Calendar, as shown, with Director Bramfitt's abstention from Item 3A.

4. PUBLIC PRESENTATION

There was no public presentation.

5. OPERATIONAL & COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Approve Current Financial Reports for May 2006

Motion by **Director Bramfitt**, seconded by **Director Prushko** and carried unanimously by a roll call vote to approve the monthly Financial Reports & Disbursements for the month of May 2006 in the amount of \$387,634.03.

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 June 2006, as follows:

- **Project #2855 - Glen Ellen Storage Tank:** The project was complete with the exception of minor SCADA programming and the Regional Water Quality Control Board's approval of the diesel spill clean up report. A dedication ceremony has been scheduled for July 19 at 4:00 P.M.
- **Project #2892 – Agua Caliente Booster Station:** The contractor, Bartley Pump, has commenced the project this week.
- **Project #2899 – Boyes Springs Water Mains:** Bids were opened on June 22. A recommendation of award for the project is planned for the August meeting agenda.
- **Project #2900 – El Verano Area Water Mains:** Bids were opened on June 22. A recommendation of award for the project is on the current meeting agenda.
- **Project #2901 – Glen Ellen Area Water Mains:** The water mains and services have substantially been completed with the exception of Arnold Drive, which has started this date. A new water main loop being constructed on Arnold Drive, as part of this project, would be a big benefit to the Glen Ellen area.
- **Project #2902 – Production Well No. 5:** Staff was in the process of receiving the necessary documents to execute the contract with Nor-Cal Pump and Well. Start of construction was expected in mid July.

Mr. Gradolph reported that a letter had been received from the Sonoma County Department of Health Services with respect to a private well that had been contaminated with Barium and Arsenic. He explained that the VOMWD had received the letter because the VOMWD system was within a half mile radius of the private well in the 19100 block of Railroad Avenue. The well was part of a small privately owned water system serving an apartment complex. There had been some confusion that the well was part of the VOMWD water system which had generated a number of calls to VOMWD offices. District staff had readily responded to all customer enquiries.

President Smith reported that the excavation had begun on Arnold Drive this date.

C. Water Source Report

In response to Director Prushko, **Mr. Gradolph** advised that all the District wells were all currently on line but had not been needed up until this time. He reported that approximately 0.8 mgd [million gallons a day] was being produced. He stated that the new segment of the Aqueduct from the Eldridge Tanks to Madrone Road and the VOMWD's new Glen Ellen tank had been helping with water storage.

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

President Smith reported that he had attended a Community Leaders' Tour sponsored by the Sonoma Valley Vintners and Growers Alliance on June 26, which had included a visit to a number of wineries and the wastewater recycling ponds of one winery which were sufficient to irrigate six acres of vineyards. He also reported that he would be attending a Global Warming Seminar, as related to water, in Rohnert Park on July 7.

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

General Manager Kumar reported that there had been no Water Advisory Committee (WAC) meeting. Mr. Kumar otherwise reported that the regular biannual election of VOMWD Board of Directors would take place on November 7, 2006. Nominations for officers would be open on July 17 and closed on August 11. As in the past, the VOMWD had put together an information package for prospective candidates, which package included Board meeting dates and times, a copy of the VOMWD's Conflict of Interest code, information regarding the Brown Act and other Board information. The packet would be made available to interested parties upon request. He requested that the Sonoma Index-Tribune advise of the availability of that package.

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

A. Discuss/Direct Staff: Goal Setting Workshop

Mr. Kumar advised that the Board had requested that a workshop be held to discuss the District's goals and priorities. A similar workshop had been held in the past. The last session was in August 2004.

Director Woods characterized the list as very comprehensive of items that were ongoing for some time.

Director Bramfitt recommended the removal of the Glen Ellen water storage tank since it was complete and operational. With respect to water rate increases, he did not support a statement that the increases be matched to the cost of living. He supported low single-digit kind of increases on a regular basis as opposed to strict cost of living increases. He also suggested that updating the VOMWD's policies and codes was a low priority item.

While he agreed that updating VOMWD policies and codes was not a high priority item, **Director Woods** suggested that it was important to keep that information available not only to the Board but to the public. He recognized that the item had been on the list for a while. He suggested it be carried forward.

With respect to limiting water rate increases, **Director Woods** stated that the Board strived to limit water increases no matter what, preferring incremental and regular adjustments, as needed.

Director Bramfitt noted that the Sonoma County Water Agency's (Water Agency's) increases did not appear to be minimized, which made the Board's efforts to limit increases all the more difficult. He held less

confidence that the Water Agency would be able to deliver water supplies at a reasonable cost. He suggested that the future was the wells. He was pleased to see over the last six years the water system improvements in the VOMWD. He added that the VOMWD had its financial and operational systems in order. He stated that water supply and water conservation were the absolute priorities for him.

Director Prushko took this opportunity to thank Mr. Kumar for helping to limit the Water Agency's increases. He was in agreement with the overall goals on the list under discussion.

In response to Director Bramfitt, **Mr. Kumar** expressed a desire to retain the meter replacement program on the list to pursue replacement programs on a regular basis.

In response to Director Prushko, **Mr. Gradolph** advised that the VOMWD had aggressively pursued its capital improvement program and the VOMWD's infrastructure was in good shape as a result.

Mr. Kumar also responded to questions and advised that while there was a simultaneous need to pursue most of the goals listed; prioritizing the tasks would not cause any problems at the staff level. He also noted that whether or not meters would be placed on farm production wells would be addressed by the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Plan, for which the planning is currently underway. With respect to the second Aqueduct, he explained that the newly completed Eldridge/Madrone Pipeline was one segment of that second Aqueduct and which had already helped the VOMWD in getting the Hana Tank adequately filled. The remaining segments would be included in the upcoming Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Water Agency's Transmission System and Reliability project.

The discussion evolved into long-term water supply issues over the next ten to fifteen years with respect to the loss of water supply through loss of allocation, earthquakes or other emergencies, and with the desire for more system improvements, such as a reservoir.

Director Woods suggested that discussion should be a future agenda item. He expressed concern getting too far a field without using the goals document for what it could do and not for what it could not.

Director Bramfitt noted that the goals document related to relatively short term tasks while the issues under discussion were long-term twenty-year water supply issues which required serious evaluation.

Mr. Kumar noted that there were financial implications for the options to be evaluated by the VOMWD. He did not see that the VOMWD had the financial wherewithal to be able to appropriately evaluate some of those options.

Director Prushko suggested that the VOMWD pursue State grants or other funds to study the options.

President Smith emphasized that the VOMWD had to find some way to have water available for its current and future customers. He stressed the need to look at all possible supply sources. He otherwise characterized the goals as an excellent reflection of where the VOMWD stood and where it should be going.

Mr. Kumar recommended a new bullet in the goals document under Water Supply to *Explore Long Range Water Supply Options*. The other recommendations from the Board were also noted as follows:

- 2) Water Storage: Remove Item a), the Glen Ellen water storage tank since the project was complete. (Bramfitt)

- 7) Fiscal and Office System Improvements: Reword Item a) *Strive to limit water rate increases, as needed.* (Bramfitt/Woods)

B. Discuss/Award: Boyes Hot Springs Area Water Mains Project No. 2899
Construction Contract to Pipeline Excavators in the Amount of \$528,528

Mr. Kumar reported that four bids had been received for the water mains replacement project. All were found to be acceptable. The lowest responsible bid had been received from Pipeline Excavators. The VOMWD had worked with that firm previously. Brelje & Race had determined that Pipeline Excavators was qualified to perform the work and recommended the acceptance of the bid.

President Smith verified with staff that the VOMWD had done business with the other bidders as well.

On motion by **Director Prushko**, seconded by **Director Bramfitt** and carried unanimously by a roll call vote to award Project No. 2899, Boyes Hot Springs area water mains replacement project, to Pipeline Excavators in the amount of \$528,528.

C. Discuss/Approve: Change Order No. 5 in the Amount of \$6,310 for North Bay
Construction, Inc., Glen Ellen Storage Tank Project

Mr. Kumar stated that North Bay Construction had submitted Change Order No. 5 for \$6,310 to extend conduit chase to the top of the tank and to relocate two antennas to the top of the tank for better reception of radio signals for transmitting data to the SCADA system, to be located at the VOMWD office.

When asked, **Mr. Gradolph** noted that the equipment was generally placed on the top of the tank. In this case it had not been but the tank had been considered to be high enough to be adequate for transmission purposes.

On motion by **Director Bramfitt**, seconded by **Director Woods** and carried unanimously by a roll call vote to approve Changer Order No. 5 in the amount of \$6,310 for North Bay Construction, Inc.

D. Discuss/Appoint: District's Representatives to the Water Advisory Committee and
the Technical Advisory Committee

Mr. Kumar reported that the Restructured Agreement had been approved by all the water contractors and the Water Agency and had become effective June 20, 2006. There would be two separate bodies; the Water Advisory Committee (WAC) comprised of elected members of the governing bodies of the water contractors and the Water Agency, and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprised of staff members of the water contractors and the Water Agency. He advised, when asked, that the WAC meetings would be held once a quarter while the TAC would meet monthly.

Director Woods recommended that the President serve as the representative and the Vice President serve as the alternate to the WAC.

President Smith suggested that the representative and alternate not be on the same election cycle.

Director Bramfitt suggested that President Smith be the lead and that Vice President Kenny be asked at the next meeting if he would be willing to serve as the alternate to the WAC. If not, another member could be designated at that time.

By consensus, **President Sanford Smith** was designated as the representative to the WAC with the alternate to be confirmed at the next meeting of the Board and **General Manager Kumar** was designated as the representative to the TAC.

- E. **Discuss/Receive:** Status Report Regarding the Schedule for Adoption of the Sonoma County Draft General Plan 2020

Mr. Kumar identified the new schedule in the staff report and explained that the Water Agency was in the process of finalizing updated water demands for the VOMWD based on the population projections contained in the General Plan 2020.

9. **CLOSED SESSION**

- A. None

10. **RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION**

There was no Closed Session.

11. **REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no request for future agenda items.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by **Director Bramfitt**, seconded by **Director Woods** and carried unanimously by a voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is a regular meeting on Tuesday, August 1, 2006 at 6:30 P.M.

Shari Walk, Deputy Board Secretary