

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

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Valley of the Moon Water District was held on Tuesday, December 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

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A.** Receive and Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 7, 2006.
- B.** Adopt Resolution No. 061201, expressing appreciation for services rendered by outgoing Director Michael Woods.
- C.** Adopt Resolution No. 061202, accepting project closing documents for the County of Sonoma (Sheriff Substation) fire line service installation project no. 2905.
- D.** Informational handouts from the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Basin Advisory Panel meetings.

Director Bramfitt abstained from Item A of the Consent Calendar due to his absence from that meeting.

Director Townsend also abstained from Item A, since he was not serving on the Board at the time.

Motion by **Director Bramfitt**, seconded by **Director Prushko** and carried unanimously by a voice vote to adopt the Consent Calendar, with the removal of Item A. Since there was a lack of a quorum of the members present at the previous meeting, Item A, was carried forward to the next meeting.

4. PUBLIC PRESENTATION

There was no public presentation.

5. OPERATIONAL & COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Approve Current Financial Reports for October 2006

Motion by **Director Prushko**, seconded by **Director Bramfitt** and carried unanimously by a roll call vote to approve the monthly Financial Reports & Disbursements for the month of October 2006 in the amount of \$592,240.02.

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 November 2006, as follows:

- **Project #2892 – Agua Caliente Booster Station:** The programming for the pump station's logic controller was nearing completion, which was the remaining item to complete that project.
- **Project #2902 – Production Well No. 5:** Water quality analysis results had been received. The levels for iron and manganese, which are secondary constituents, were above the allowable state levels, and as such would require removal through a relatively simple sand filtration process.

Director Bramfitt confirmed with Mr. Gradolph that currently this was not being done with any of the other District wells, and asked if there were any other water quality concerns. Mr. Gradolph stated that the boron was marginal; however, when mixed with the Russian River Water, there should be no problems.

Director Kenny asked if it would be a different type of a system. Mr. Gradolph said the only thing different would be the filtration process, which is not a complex process.

Director Prushko asked if that process used an electrical charge with sand fed filters. Mr. Gradolph explained that the process used a chemical charge on what is called green sand, and it attracted the iron and manganese ions, and would be back flushed periodically.

Director Townsend asked if there would be any special handling of the discharge, to which Mr. Gradolph said the discharge is not considered hazardous waste, and hence there would be no special handling.

C. Water Source Report

Mr. Gradolph reported that all the District wells have been turned off for recharging, except for the Larbre well, since the District was obligated to purchase a certain amount of water each year from the Larbre well.

Director Prushko commented that our total demand of water was down.

Director Bramfitt had some concerns with customers still using water for irrigation. He pointed out the

need to increase our conservation efforts on the irrigation side.

Director Townsend asked what has the District done in the past regarding this. General Manager Kumar explained that the District had undertaken a whole host of measures to address this issue. Kumar said that a sporadic number of people would use water for irrigating their lawns etc., even during the off season; however it was not reflective of the whole community. The District had taken several steps including the implementation of a tiered water rate structure, and offering financial incentive for the removal of turf. The District's water conservation program was spearheaded by a representative of the Sonoma County Water Agency, who was also responsible for the water conservation programs of the Cities of Sonoma and Rohnert Park.

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

Director Bramfitt provided an update on the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Basin Advisory Panel meetings. He noted the handouts that General Manager Kumar had included in the Board package. He pointed out that the meetings to date had been largely educational, and there was a shared understanding among the panel members. In January the committee would start talking about making actual recommendations to the five sponsoring agencies.

In response to **Director Kenny**, **Director Bramfitt** indicated that the funding for the groundwater management planning was provided by the County of Sonoma, the County Sanitation District, the Valley of the Moon Water District, the City of Sonoma and the Sonoma County Water Agency.

Director Kenny inquired if **Director Bramfitt**, as a panel member was making recommendations on behalf of the entire Board. He also asked if the panel was looking at the possibility of taking water out of the Sonoma Creek. **Director Bramfitt** stated that the public outreach plan was for the panel members to report back to their own agencies and bring forward the agencies input in the matter. This was an attempt at a balanced view by all of the panel members. **Director Bramfitt** offered to make presentations to any other public groups which would benefit from these discussions.

Director Bramfitt mentioned that some of the recommendations the panel may come up with may be so far out of the realm of possibilities, for example, why can't we take winter storm flows out of the Sonoma Creek, and do recharge, and why can't the Valley of the Moon Water District do that. How do we justify charging our rate payers for that? On the other side, some of the recommendations to the other panel members may seem the same way, such as putting meters wells, so that we know the amount of water used from the groundwater.

Director Bramfitt reported that he had pointed out to the advisory panel, that we need to put all the recommendations out on the table, and no one gets to dismiss any of them, we get to talk about all of them, and think hard about all of them, and pick the ones we can get our arms around. Taking water out of the creek was one concept talked about. Another one was the fact that we are all worried about salt water intrusion in the lower part of the valley; the key thing that he learned that he didn't know was that the more groundwater moved through sediments and rock basin etc., the more boron and manganese it picked up.

Director Bramfitt further mentioned that if we were pulling groundwater from a basin that had moved through rocks, we were going to have mineral salts (not bay salts) in the water.

Director Kenny recommended adding Sun Sol to the list of publications; **Director Bramfitt** said it has been added to the list.

Director Prushko was concerned about a well on Burndale that went dry after many years and suggested

considering taking steps to recharge that area.

Director Townsend commented that he read through the material, and found it to be very interesting and potentially quite beneficial. Like **Director Bramfitt** recognized, the hard work was ahead, and it was a matter of harnessing all of this information and ultimately weeding out the stuff that's just not going to be appropriate, and formulating a way to put it into practice. **Director Townsend** thanked **Director Bramfitt** for contributing his time to this important task.

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

A. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting of December 4, 2006

General Manager Kumar reported that a request was made by the Dry Creek Rancheria to the Corps of Engineers that they return the land surrounding Lake Sonoma and Warm Springs Dam to the Rancheria. The Corps, who owns the land, had formed a task force to consider the request. A Corps spokesperson had indicated that it could take several years to resolve the issue and that transferring the land would require an act of Congress. At the TAC meeting, Randy Poole, General Manager/Chief Engineer had reported that he had asked both the Sonoma County Counsel as well as his Washington D.C. Counsel for legal opinions on the Rancheria's request. He also indicated that no negotiations had taken place between the Water Agency and the Rancheria and the Water Agency had no intention to have any negotiations with them.

Director Prushko asked if they get possession of the land, would that land be tax exempt. He also commented that since we have the land we should keep it.

Director Townsend echoed the comment, further stating we don't need another casino in the area.

Director Bramfitt said he was a little less worried about the casino but was more concerned about the water stored behind the dam, for which the citizens of the Sonoma County were still paying for.

General Manager Kumar also reported that the Sonoma County Water Agency had kick-started a public-private collaboration to rebuild populations of steelhead trout and Chinook and coho salmon while considering the needs of water suppliers, homebuilders, gravel miners and farmers from Mendocino County to Monterey County. The group is called the Salmonid Coalition. Inspired by the public-private team that created the conservation strategy for the tiger salamander and listed plants on the Santa Rosa Plain in December, the Water Agency was fronting money toward developing recovery plans for the fish in a few years rather than the two decades that had gone into the Sacramento River Delta-San Francisco Bay Area recovery plan.

The Coalition had various sub-committees, one of which is the urban Sub-Committee. At the last meeting of that Sub-Committee, Chris DeGabriele and Kumar were tasked with compiling information on the regions' efforts at water conservation and reuse as well as the availability of regional water supplies. The information that was compiled was distributed at the last TAC meeting. **Mr. Kumar** explained the highlights of that information in an overhead presentation.

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no Old/New Business

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 Prushko** and carried unanimously by a voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.

Shari Walk, Deputy Board Secretary

Ed Kenny, Board Vice-President