

VALLEY OF THE MOON WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 1, 2007

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Valley of the Moon Water District was held on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, 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 Ed 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:

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|---------------------|--|
| Directors Present: | Mark Bramfitt Ron Prushko Sanford Smith Russell Townsend Ed Kenny |
| District Personnel: | Shari Walk, Office Supervisor Paul Gradolph, Operations and Maintenance Supervisor Jason Archer, Water Distribution Mechanic – I |
| General Manager: | Krishna Kumar |
| Public Present: | Sandi Hansen, <u>Sonoma Index-Tribune</u> , and Sean Jeane, Brelje & Race Engineers |

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A.** Receive and Approve Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 3, 2007.

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

4. PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public hearing.

5. OPERATIONAL & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A.** Approve Current Financial Reports for March 2007

Motion by **Director Smith**, seconded by **Director Prushko** and carried unanimously by a roll call vote to

approve the monthly Financial Reports & Disbursements for the month of March 2007 in the amount of \$260,178.17.

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 April 2007, as follows:

Project #2902 – Production Well No. 5: A preliminary Design Report from the design engineer was expected later this month. Once received, staff will review the recommended lot layout, pumping equipment, etc., and comment back to the engineer. The well is expected to be online by summer of 2008.

Mr. Gradolph further commented that he and General Manager Krishna Kumar attended a workshop on April 24th put on by California Department of Health Services regarding crisis emergency risk communications. The workshop was funded through Federal grant money from Department of Homeland Security. The topics included how to effectively communicate within the District, with outside agencies, and with the media.

In response to **Director Prushko**, Mr. Gradolph reported that in the past the District had used amateur radio operators to transfer information to the Sonoma County OES, now the District would use the newly constructed Sheriff's substation, which is located close to the District office, for transferring that information. Portable radios would be provided to the Sheriff's department for communications between the District and the Sonoma County OES. Mr. Gradolph said he would be making contact with the Sheriff's substation to go over the procedure.

Director Prushko asked about the process for communicating with the City of Sonoma. Mr. Gradolph said the Sonoma County OES is more or less the clearing house for emergency information; the District would communicate through the Sheriffs department to the Sonoma County OES, who would relay the necessary information back to the City of Sonoma.

In response to **President Kenny**, Mr. Gradolph clarified that the rubber steel toe boots were for the new employee, and are purchased at the time of hire, replaced only on an as needed basis, and was for ensuring the safety of the employee.

Mr. Gradolph introduced Jason Archer who had joined the VOMWD as a Water Distribution Mechanic I. He noted that Mr. Archer lived in Petaluma and used to work at the Petaluma Coast Guard Training Center as a contract employee. Mr. Archer stated that he was excited to be working here and wanted to do a good job for the District.

The Directors welcomed Mr. Archer aboard.

C. Water Source Report

There were no comments on the Water Source Report

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

Vice President Bramfitt reported that he attended a meeting last week that turned out to be somewhat different than was expected, the same meeting that Director Sanford was invited to. The meeting was held in Santa Rosa on a Wednesday morning at 7:30. Most of the water contractors as well as environmental

organizations were represented at the meeting. The pitch was that the Sonoma County Water Agency was going to set up a website where the water contractors can report on their environmental progress in regards to emissions and energy use reductions.

Vice President Bramfitt was surprised to find out that all the Cities and the County have signed on to an agreement stating they will cut their greenhouse gas emissions footprint to 25% below the 1990 levels by 2015. Being in the environmental energy efficiency business, he felt that was a very staggering commitment on their behalf. They are looking at everything from their vehicle fleets, their energy use in their own facilities, and other kinds of environmental activities. In some ways, he was pleased that the VOMWD has not been asked to make that commitment because he thought it would be difficult to do in a cost effective manner. However at the same time, he would not like to see the District left behind in terms of progress towards meaningful environmental quality issues. As small as the District's footprint is, he thought we should take a close look at it, and he knew that it would be part of a future agenda.

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

General Manager, Krishna Kumar reported, the Water Agency's board of directors had plans to hold a workshop on April 10th to discuss the status of the Water Project EIR. That workshop was postponed and was held that morning, which he had attended. At the workshop, the Water Advisory Committee Chair Mike Martini handed over the resolution previously approved by the WAC to the Water Agency's board of directors. The operative parts of the resolution included the WAC demand to assign the highest priority for completion of the Water Project Draft EIR by June 2008.

At the workshop, it was indicated that the current schedule for completion of the Water Project Draft EIR is June 2008 and the final EIR is expected in June 2009. VOMWD was recognized as one of the 4 water contractors to have provided the Water Agency with a Board Resolution requesting for increased allocation of water.

Director Prushko stated the suggested time line for completing the EIR process was too long, and the Water Agency should hire more staff to complete the process sooner. Mr. Kumar said the agency had one of the best staffed, qualified, and competent environmental division in the area. He noted that since this is a specialized project, even if the Water Agency hired outside staff, it would take time for them to come up to speed.

Vice President Bramfitt inquired if the Resolution spoke specifically about filling the assistant general manager position at the Water Agency. Mr. Kumar said that language was taken out of the Resolution, as most of the water contractors had felt that was a Water Agency internal operations issue, and shouldn't be reflected in the Resolution. Mr. Kumar added that, according to Randy Poole, the process for hiring an assistant general manager was to start by June 2007.

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

A. **Discuss/Accept:** Master Water Plan - 2007

General Manager Krishna Kumar reported that the Board had previously awarded a contract to Brelje and Race Engineers to update the District's Water Master Plan. The firm had completed the task. Sean Jeane from Brelje & Race made a PowerPoint presentation to the Board summarizing the results from the Plan.

Director Prushko questioned Mr. Jeane's recommendation to increase the use of wells, and supported the District's approach of not using all available local resources and using such resources for emergency situations.

Director Prushko concurred with Mr. Jean's recommendation to consider construction of a parallel main in Agua Caliente Road from the Water Agency turn out to Vailetti Drive as that would considerably increase the system reliability.

In response to **Director Prushko**, Mr. Kumar clarified the rate of development within the City of Santa Rosa is determined by the City's General Plan, as adopted by the City Council, and the Sonoma County Water Agency had no direct role in the process. It was the City's responsibility to secure sufficient water sources to support its general plan.

In response to **Director Townsend**, Mr. Kumar clarified 1) that the target of 40% local production reflected in the Temporary Impairment MOU was a suggested goal, and not a mandatory requirement, and 2) the basis for sharing the cost of additional segments of the parallel Sonoma Aqueduct between the District and the City of Sonoma was tied to each entities maximum entitlement, however, the actual payments to the Water Agency was based on the actual water usage by each entity.

Vice President Bramfitt questioned Mr. Jean's recommendation for additional storage in Glen Ellen given the fact that the Glen Ellen Zone currently had adequate storage capacity and he emphasized that the prevailing political climate did not favor additional storage facilities in the area.

In response to **Vice President Bramfitt**, Mr. Kumar offered to bring back staff recommendations for implementing the recommendations in the Water Master Plan.

In response to **President Kenny**, Mr. Kumar stated that the population projection used in the Water Master Plan was based on the Sonoma County Draft General Plan 2020.

The Board thanked Mr. Jeane for his presentation.

B. Discuss/Direct Staff: Implementation of voluntary water conservation measures by District customers.

General Manager, Krishna Kumar, reported that the Sonoma County Water Agency (Water Agency) on Thursday, April 12 announced the release of a projection that indicated dangerously low water supply levels in Lake Mendocino this summer and fall and called for the immediate implementation of voluntary 10 – 15% water conservation efforts by its water contractors, customers and agricultural community.

In response to the request from the Water Agency, District staff had prepared informational brochures aimed at encouraging voluntary water conservation measures. The District and the City of Sonoma, with the help of water conservation staff at the Water Agency, had prepared a joint flyer regarding the need to conserve water. The brochures and the flyer were available at the District office and had also been posted on the District's website.

In response to **Director Kenny**, Mr. Kumar clarified that lower levels of water in the Russian River would generally increase the temperature of the river water and that could prove harmful to the fish. **Director Smith** clarified that different species of fish required different water temperatures for optimal existence and there is no single ideal temperature for fish.

Director Smith questioned the exact impact on the water production capabilities of the Sonoma County Water Agency due to the projected low levels in Lake Mendocino. **Mr. Kumar** responded by saying, that even though there is no direct correlation between reduced water levels in Lake Mendocino and the production capabilities, the Water Agency is trying to minimize any potential harm to the fish due to reduced

summer water levels in the River. He added that the way the Water Agency and its water contractors took care of the water needs of the fish will have an impact on how the State Water Resources Control Board ruled on the Water Agency's pending permit request.

President Kenny adjourned into Closed Session at 8:00 P.M.

9. CLOSED SESSION

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

10. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

President Kenny reconvened into open session at 8:13 P.M. and advised that there was nothing to report from Closed Session.

11. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - None

12. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Director Smith, seconded by Vice President Bramfitt and carried unanimously by a voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 5, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.

Shari Walk, Deputy Board Secretary

Edward Kenny, Board President