

**VALLEY OF THE MOON WATER DISTRICT**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
November 6, 2007

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Valley of the Moon Water District was held on Tuesday, November 6, 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:

Directors Present:	Mark Bramfitt Ron Prushko Sanford Smith Russell Townsend Ed Kenny
District Personnel:	Shari Walk, Office Supervisor Paul Gradolph, Operations and Maintenance Supervisor
General Manager:	Krishna Kumar
Public Present:	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 October 2, 2007
- B. Annual Statistical Report

Motion by **Director 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. Monthly Financial Reports & Disbursements

Motion by **Director Bramfitt**, seconded by **Director Smith** and carried unanimously by a roll call vote to approve the monthly financial reports and disbursements for the month of September 2007, in the amount of \$289,125.77.

B. 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 October 2007, as follows:

- **Project #2902 – Production Well No. 5:** Staff was in the process of reviewing the 95% plans, and would have all comments to the Engineer soon. The tentative schedule for this project was to solicit bids in December 2007 and award the contract in January 2008. Construction would start in the spring of 2008 when site conditions allow.

In response to **Director Prushko**, Mr. Gradolph stated the well was expected to be online in August or September 2008 due to vendor driven issues.

In response to **President Kenny**, Mr. Gradolph stated the cost of construction would not increase due to the two month delay.

- **Project #2912 – Agua Caliente, Trinity Oaks, El Verano Water Mains:** Staff received the 95% plans and specifications, had returned the comments to the Engineer, and was expecting the final bid documents in December. The tentative schedule was to bid that project in the spring of 2008.

C. Water Source Report

**Mr. Kumar** reported that between July 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>, the District reduced its use of Russian River water by 13.1%, or 139 acre feet, compared to the same period in 2004. During that time the District increased its groundwater pumping by only 11 acre feet, which means the reduction of 128 acre feet was on account of conservation measures implemented by the District customers. 92% of the water savings was due to conservation measures and 8% was on account of increased groundwater pumping.

In response to **Director Bramfitt**, Mr. Kumar confirmed that the District's response to the State mandated reduction was on the higher end in comparison to the other water contractors.

In response to **Director Smith**, Mr. Kumar confirmed that the collective reduction of Russian River water usage by all the water contractors was 21% during the four month period.

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

**Director Smith** commented that during discussions at the Water Advisory Committee meeting on how well the contractors did to meet the 15% State mandated reduction, Randy Poole, General Manager/Chief Engineer of the Sonoma County Water Agency implied that the water contractors would be looking at the same situation over the next 3-5 years. **Director Smith** added, although this was introduced as a one time only situation, the District should get used to this being the norm.

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

A. Technical and Water Advisory Committee Meetings of November 5, 2007

The Water Agency recently completed the preparation of a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Water Agency made a brief presentation at the WAC meeting explaining the components of that plan. The preparation of that plan made the Water Agency eligible to receive up to \$3M each year from FEMA for hazard mitigation. The Water Agency had also prioritized the ten most important projects to increase the overall reliability of the Water Transmission system in the event of a natural hazard. These projects would be phased in as part of the Agency's Capital Improvement Plan.

**Director Prushko** asked how soon repairs could be made to the aqueduct in case of a disaster, and does the Agency have the necessary materials on hand. Mr. Kumar said he was confident that the Water Agency was fully prepared to meet such an eventuality, and they also had a good team of service personnel. He estimated the repairs could be made with 24 hours; however, it depended upon the severity of the catastrophic event.

**Director Kenny** asked if the Water Agency ever put in loops for redundancy in the aqueduct. Mr. Kumar said that was precisely what the Water Agency's consultant had recommended.

**Director Smith** stated that although he agreed with Mr. Kumar's 24 hour estimate, during an earthquake, that project would be at what priority considering all the other problems the Agency would be facing. **Director Smith** inquired what the District had on its side to tide over while the Water Agency was dealing with the other problems. It was reported by **Director Bramfitt** that the District had made many seismic improvements over the past 3-5 years, such as installing valves, and backup generators at the pump stations.

In response to **Director Townsend**, Mr. Kumar confirmed that the District could convey emergency messages through email to those customers who had provided their email addresses as part of signing up for the online bill-pay program.

B. Christmas Party

**Mr. Kumar** reported that the VOMWD's Christmas Party had been scheduled at Deuce for December 13, 2007 at 6:00 P.M.

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

A. Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Plan

Mr. Kumar said that staff's recommendation is to adopt the resolution approving the plan.

**Director Bramfitt** commented that this plan was done by a committee, it was not perfect, and it was a working document. The Basin Advisory Panel is committed to meeting quarterly, to follow the progress made by the Water Agency, City of Sonoma and the District. They will be watching the ongoing monitoring to see how bad it might get, or whether the things we do work.

**Director Bramfitt** fully supported the plan, and stated there was a tremendous amount of hard work ahead to complete the recommendations in the plan. He reminded that the environmental aspects of the plan have yet to be addressed. He added that there was a tremendous amount of hard work in the future to make all of the projects listed in the plan to happen. He thought that the right people were sitting around the table, especially people representing the agricultural and environmental interests, who now had a better understanding of what's going on, and he believed they will support the governmental agencies when these projects came up for implementation.

Motion by **Director Bramitt**, seconded by **Director Smith** and carried unanimously by a voice vote to adopt Resolution 071101 approving the Sonoma Valley Ground Water Management Plan.

#### **B. Cooperative agreement with City of Sonoma**

**Mr. Kumar** stated that the California Department of Health Service, currently known as the Department of Public Health, had informed the District that they would like to see a cooperative agreement between the District and the City of Sonoma that would help both the entities meet their maximum day demands during summer. In discussions with the City, he had learned that this kind of cooperative spirit between the City and the District had been in existence for the past 20-25 years. This document was merely a formalization of the willingness on the part of the entities for mutual aid. The City of Sonoma had reviewed the agreement and concurred with it.

Motion by **Director Smith**, seconded by **Director Prushko** and carried unanimously by a voice vote to authorize the General Manager to sign the cooperative agreement with the City of Sonoma dictating the conditions of use for the Sonoma Aqueduct.

#### **C. Environmental Responsibility Plan**

**Mr. Kumar** acknowledged the help he received from **Director Bramfitt** on this item. He pointed out that several things outlined in the plan had already been implemented, and there were others that the District could implement in a phased manner.

**Director Bramfitt** commented that with the increased potential for the need to get the District's carbon footprint down and all the other environmental considerations that were flying at every agency; he believed it's prudent for the District to have a plan like this. He reiterated that the District needed to think about all the activities that the District undertake, and what was the best way to mitigate any environmental impacts of those activities. It was not a huge footprint, but it was interesting to look at the list, and see that the District had already done several things, and there were others that the District should be thinking about. **Director Bramfitt** asked staff to report back to the Board on an annual basis as to the progress in implementing the plan.

Motion by **Director Bramfitt**, seconded by **Director Smith** and carried unanimously by a voice vote to adopt the District's Environmental Responsibility Plan and direct the General Manager to implement the Plan.

#### **D. Water-Efficient Demonstration Garden at District office**

**Mr. Kumar** reported that there are a number of dead plants at the front of the District office, and thought that would be a good opportunity for constructing a water efficient demonstration garden, and was told that it

had been an interest of the Board for quite sometime now. Staff received a design/build quote from Sonoma Landscapes, who came highly recommended.

**Director Bramfitt** supported the project. He suggested, as a way to minimize the cost of the project, to contact the County Sheriff's Department who ran a nursery in northern Santa Rosa or Windsor, and had many of the plants on the list that could be obtained at no cost to public agencies.

**Director Smith** said he had concerns about the cost of this project, and wondered how the District was going to convince individual landowners to invest \$18,500 in this type of project, which appeared to cover a very small area.

**Director Townsend** shared the same concerns that **Director Smith** had with the cost. Although, he thought it would be nice to have some drought resistant plants, with maybe, informational tags by them, he would like to get more information on the no cost plants that **Director Bramfitt** mentioned, and asked if this item could be put off until the next board meeting.

In response to **President Kenny**, as to whether this plan contained water resistant grasses, **Director Bramfitt** said grasses were listed on the plans.

**Mr. Kumar** stated that in view of the concerns raised by the Board, staff will reconsider, check to see if there were ways to reduce the overall cost and check into the no cost plants available at the Sheriffs Department and will bring this item back at a future date.

9. **CLOSED SESSION**

There was no Closed Session.

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 Smith** and carried unanimously by a voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is a regular meeting on Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.

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Shari Walk, Deputy Board Secretary

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Ed Kenny, Board President