

VALLEY OF THE MOON WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2008

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Valley of the Moon Water District was held on Tuesday, October 7, 2008, 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 Mark Bramfitt 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 Ed Kenny Russell Townsend
District Personnel:	Paul Gradolph, Operations & Maintenance Supervisor Shari Walk, Office Supervisor
General Manager:	Krishna Kumar
Public Present:	Sandi Hansen, Sonoma Index-Tribune

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A.** Minutes of the September 2, 2008 Board of Directors Meeting.
- B.** 2009 Holiday Schedule.
- C.** High-Efficiency Toilet Rebate Program.
- D.** Water Main Replacement and Water Main Extension Agreements with Coldspring Fields LLC.
- E.** Reimbursement Agreement for Water Conservation Program with the Sonoma County Water Agency for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

Vice President Prushko requested the removal of Consent Calendar Item E for discussion.

Motion by **Vice President Prushko**, seconded by **Director Townsend** and carried unanimously by a roll call vote to adopt the Consent Calendar with the removal of Item E.

The following item was removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion.

- E. Reimbursement Agreement for Water Conservation Program with the Sonoma County Water Agency for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

Vice President Prushko expressed concerns with the time to turn over the toilet rebates, noting 60 to 90 days turn around time to process the rebates. He also questioned the amount of reimbursement to the Water Agency under the proposed agreement, and whether some or part of the conservation programs could be done in house, or hire a person who could possibly be shared with the City of Sonoma to perform the conservation tasks. He expressed his desire to keep the approximately \$79,000 generated in the Valley in the Valley itself by hiring locally to do this job.

Director Townsend had some of the same concerns, and inquired why this agreement was not seen either as part of the budget approval process or potentially even before.

Director Kenny inquired as to the process to be followed for seeking such an arrangement with the City of Sonoma.

President Bramfitt concurred with the views expressed and indicated that there is clearly merit in combining the District's program with that of the City of Sonoma, if that could be accomplished. He also directed staff to find out the reason for such an inordinate delay in processing of the rebates.

General Manager Kumar concurred that there was indeed a potential for savings by combining the programs of the District and the City of Sonoma and it was also beneficial to hire somebody locally to run this program. Mr. Kumar requested for the approval of the agreement with the understanding that staff would explore these options and report to the Board in a month or two. He also reported that depending on the outcome of that effort, the agreement with the Water Agency could be terminated during the course of this fiscal year since the agreement allows for such termination.

Motion by **Vice President Prushko**, seconded by **Director Townsend** to approve Consent Calendar Item E, and direct staff to explore the possibility of combining the programs run by the District and the City of Sonoma with a view to reduce the overall program cost and to retain the dollars in the Valley itself.

4. PUBLIC HEARING - NONE

5. OPERATIONAL & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Monthly Financial Reports & Disbursements

Motion by **Vice President Prushko**, seconded by **Director Kenny** and carried unanimously by a roll call vote to approve the monthly financial reports and disbursements for the month of August 2008, in the amount of \$746,807.43.

- 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 September 2008, as follows:

- **Project #2902 – Production Well No. 5:** The installation of the chlorination equipment and the electric service connection from Pacific Gas & Electric Company are complete. The

contractor, Arnold Construction, was in the process of installing the electrical equipment and SCADA controls. Tentative start up of the well was scheduled for mid October.

Paul Gradolph, Operations and Maintenance Supervisor reported that Well No. 5 was nearing completion, and should be started up within the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Kumar noted that PG&E was great to work with, and that the electrical connection was actually made 15 days ahead of the original schedule.

- **Project #2912 – Agua Caliente, Trinity Oaks, El Verano Water Mains:** The contractor, Piazza Construction, had started on the final section of work located on Hillcrest Avenue, Woodland Street and Cragmont Drive. This water line replacement project was scheduled for completion in late October.

In response to **Vice President Prushko**, Mr. Gradolph reported that the second phase of Carmel Avenue project was currently in the Capital Improvement Budget for 2011-2012, however, the projects were revisited each year during the budget process, and the time-line could potentially change.

C. Water Source Report

There were no comments on the Water Source Report.

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

Director Kenny commented on the recent Russian River tour he attended, stating that he learned a lot, and had more appreciation for water conservation and the challenges associated with fishery management and state mandated in-stream flow regimes. He also described his visits to an area winery featuring a state-of-the-art recycled water facility and the fish hatchery at Lake Sonoma. He was also very pleased to learn the good standing that the District had within the water community in Sonoma County.

Vice President Prushko noted that he too was going to attend the Russian River tour, but cancelled to save the additional expenditure. He felt that since one Director was already attending, there was no need to pay for a second person.

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

A. Technical Advisory Committee Meeting of October 6, 2008

Mr. Kumar reported on the following:

TAC meeting of October 6, 2008

Biological Opinion

On September 24, 2008, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued the much awaited, 386 page long, Biological Opinion (BO), after more than a decade of studies. The BO was a 15-year recovery plan to implement the mandates of the NMFS as they relate to threatened and endangered fish species in the Russian River and its tributaries. The BO covers only the current operations of the Sonoma County Water Agency

(Water Agency).

Essentially, the BO confirmed that high summer flows in the upper Russian River and Dry Creek were too high for optimal juvenile salmon habitat. Another significant finding was that it might be better not to breach the sandbar, which builds at the mouth of the Russian River near Jenner, to allow the formation of a summertime lagoon in the estuary to benefit fish.

As part of the BO, NMFS had ordered that the following “Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives” be implemented jointly by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Water Agency to avoid a jeopardy opinion:

1. Change instream flow requirements by revising Decision 1610, both on an interim basis to be followed by a permanent revision, essentially lowering the current flows
2. Modify estuary water level management at the mouth of the River
3. Implement and Monitor Habitat Enhancements in Dry Creek.
4. Investigate feasibility of Dry Creek pipeline.
5. Fund expansion of Coho brood stock program at the Lake Sonoma hatchery.
6. Monitor up and down fish migration at Mirabel Inlatable dam.
7. Replace Mirabel fish screen.
8. Eliminate or modify Wohler infiltration ponds.

The total projected cost for these measures amounted to \$100 million, to be spent over the next 15 years. The Water Agency was currently in the process of fine tuning the cost elements and the funding sources. If the Water Agency is not successful in protecting the fish species through these habitat restoration measures, the Water Agency would be forced to consider the Dry Creek pipeline option or to reduce the flow in Dry Creek to 40 cfs.

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- A. Consider approval of Resolution No. 081003 declaring vacancy on the Board of Directors of the Valley of the Moon Water District and taking appropriate steps to fill the vacancy.

President Bramfitt expressed his regret in having to see **Director Smith** leave the Board and wished him well with his health. He added that **Director Smith** brought a tremendous amount of dedication and expertise to the Board.

Vice-President Prushko stated that **Director Smith** will be greatly missed and hoped to get someone on the Board with the same level of expertise on insurance and workers compensation issues and who can dedicate as much time as **Director Smith** did.

Director Kenny recalled the time when the District joined the ACWA JPIA and how badly the District needed expertise on insurance matters and how quickly **Director Smith** filled that void.

Director Townsend echoed the comments of his fellow Board Members.

President Bramfitt noted that **Director Smith** didn't want a plaque, but hoped to see him attend the holiday dinner when the Directors can acknowledge his contributions personally.

President Bramfitt outlined the schedule that the District needs to follow to appoint a new Director within

the 60 day period allowed under the statute. He also indicated that he and the General Manager would work to finalize the questions for the interviews based on a set of questions previously used for similar interviews by the Board.

Motion by **Director Kenny**, seconded by **Vice President Prushko** and carried unanimously by a voice vote to adopt Resolution No. 081003 declaring a vacancy on the Board and taking appropriate steps to fill the vacancy.

9. CLOSED SESSION - NONE

10. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
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There were no requests for future agenda items.

11. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by **Director Kenny**, seconded by **Vice President Prushko** and carried unanimously by a voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is a regular meeting at 6:30 P.M. on November 4, 2008.

Shari Walk, Deputy Board Secretary

Mark Bramfitt, Board President