

VALLEY OF THE MOON WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 2, 2008

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Valley of the Moon Water District was held on Tuesday, December 2, 2008, in the Board Chambers of the District Office at 19039 Bay Street, El Verano, California.

1. CALL TO ORDER PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE OATH OF OFFICE FOR INCOMING DIRECTORS ROLL CALL
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President Mark Bramfitt called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Deputy Secretary Shari Walk administered the Oath of Office to incoming Directors **Mark Bramfitt, Ed Kenny, Ron Prushko, and Al Bandur.**

Roll Call by **Deputy Secretary Walk** noted the following present:

Directors Present:	Mark Bramfitt Ron Prushko Al Bandur Ed Kenny Russell Townsend
District Personnel:	Paul Gradolph, Operations & Maintenance Supervisor Shari Walk, Office Supervisor
General Manager:	Krishna Kumar
Public Present:	Mark Heneveld & Sandi Hansen, Sonoma Index-Tribune

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A.** Minutes of the November 4, 2008 Board of Directors Meeting.
- B.** Bank signature card.
- C.** Appreciation for services rendered by outgoing Director Sanford K. Smith.

President Bramfitt thanked staff for including item 3.C, appreciation for services rendered by outgoing Director Sanford K. Smith.

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

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 October 2008, in the amount of \$242,370.41.

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 2008, as follows:

- **Project #2902 – Production Well No. 5:** Functional testing of the filtration unit had been completed. The performance testing of the unit was scheduled for early December. The filtration unit was working well. The California Department of Public Health will be performing an inspection the following week.

In response to **President Bramfitt**, Mr. Gradolph confirmed that testing had been done, and that the inspection by the California Department of Public Health was a visual walk through.

- **Project #2912 – Agua Caliente, Trinity Oaks, El Verano Water Mains:** The contractor was making the final service connections on Hillcrest Ave., Cragmont Dr., and Woodland Dr. Upon completion of minor punch list items, this project will be complete.

In response to **Vice President Prushko**, Mr. Gradolph said the contractor hit some hard rock while working in the Hillcrest area, and thus a shallow trench option was approved by the County of Sonoma.

C. Water Source Report

Vice President Prushko confirmed with Mr. Gradolph that the wells have been shut off for recharge.

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

Director Bandur reported that he received a tour of the District’s facility by Operations and Maintenance Supervisor Paul Gradolph. He thanked staff for that opportunity.

Director Kenny talked about a recent article in the Press Democrat highlighting a novel process, designed by a local entrepreneur who is an electrical engineer, to clean solar panels and which recycles used water.

President Bramfitt stated that the largest solar installation that he was aware of in the Valley is the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District’s treatment plant and it maybe worth making a connection with that facility.

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

- A. Technical Advisory Committee Meeting of December 1, 2008

General Manager Kumar reported on the following:

TAC meeting of December 1, 2008

The Sonoma County Water Agency's (Agency) Board of Directors was planning to release the draft EIR for the Water Supply Project on December 9th. The public comment period would end on March 15th. The Agency would like to hold a public hearing in Sonoma at the Vet's building on Thursday, February 26th, 2009. It would be a joint hearing with 2 elected officials each from the Agency, VOMWD, and the Sonoma City Council. The open house will begin at 6:30, and the hearing will be from 7 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Vice-President Prushko asked if there was any discussion at the meeting about Judge Nadler's recent decision. Mr. Kumar stated that the Agency's Board of Directors were yet to make a determination as to how to proceed on the matter.

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- A. Set public hearing to consider increase in Connection & Service Line Charges.

Mr. Kumar made a PowerPoint presentation outlining the current and proposed connection charges and showing the calculations used in determining the proposed charges.

In response to **Director Townsend**, Mr. Kumar clarified the calculation of the percentage increase.

Vice-President Prushko confirmed that the District was increasing the fee each year by the cost of living index, but was recommending an additional 85% this year, which seemed high.

Director Bandur clarified that the connection fees were increased annually by the cost of living index, however, the actual costs hadn't been looked at since 1999.

President Bramfitt stated that the District was collecting fees from new customers to pay for the Water Agency's expansion projects, which was asking the right people to pay for it.

In response to **Director Townsend**, Mr. Kumar explained the basis of cost apportionment of the various aqueduct facilities run by the Water Agency.

President Bramfitt confirmed with Mr. Kumar that no new storage project has been included in the current Capital Improvement Plan.

In response to **Director Bandur**, Mr. Kumar stated that the last water master plan update indicated that the District had an adequate amount of storage.

In response to **Director Kenny**, Mr. Kumar pointed out some comparisons, noting that East Bay Mud charged \$37,000 for a hook up, North Marin Water District just approved an increase of \$28,000 per ESD, Contra Costa Water District was at \$16,000 and the City of Sonoma was at \$12,900. The District was

proposing \$12,500, which was and should be comparable to the City of Sonoma's.

In response to **President Bramfitt**, Deputy Secretary Walk clarified that if an existing home added a second unit, there would be no front foot charge if it is on the same Assessors Parcel Number, but would pay a capacity charge.

President Bramfitt confirmed with Mr. Kumar that a) staff will review these charges every five years or sooner if needed; b) the notice of public hearing would be going to the North Coast Builders Exchange, other interested parties, and be published in the local newspaper; and c) that necessary tracking mechanisms were in place for the capacity fees collected.

The Board directed staff to notify the North Coast Builders Exchange and other interested parties, publish a notice in the local newspaper, and schedule a public hearing for January 6, 2009, to consider increasing the Capacity Charge to \$8,841 per Equivalent Single-Family Dwelling and the Service Line Charge for a 1" connection to \$3,400, effective April 1, 2009, and to annually update the charges to reflect the increase in the Engineering News Record Construction Cost Index beginning July 2010.

B. Replacement of water meters.

Mr. Kumar presented this item, stating this was the fourth year of the District's on going meter replacement program.

In response to **Director Bandur**, Mr. Kumar said the District received two bids for this work, and that customer valves will only be installed where ones don't currently exist.

Motion by **Vice President Prushko**, seconded by **Director Bandur** and carried unanimously by a roll call vote to approve an agreement with Vulcan Construction and Maintenance, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$46,931 for replacing water meters and installing customer valves and authorize the General Manager to execute the agreement.

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 7:28 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is a regular meeting at 6:30 P.M. on January 6, 2009.

Shari Walk, Deputy Board Secretary

Mark Bramfitt, Board President