

REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – August 4, 2009

VALLEY OF THE MOON WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 4, 2009

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Valley of the Moon Water District was held on Tuesday, August 4, 2009, in the Board Chambers of the District Office at 19039 Bay Street, El Verano, California.

President Ron Prushko called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call by **Secretary Kumar** noted the following present:

Directors Present:	Ed Kenny Mark Bramfitt Al Bandur Russell Townsend Ron Prushko
District Personnel:	Paul Gradolph, O & M Supervisor
General Manager:	Krishna Kumar
Public Present:	Mark Heneveld, Val Robichaud, <u>Sonoma Valley Sun</u> and Sandi Hansen, <u>Sonoma Index-Tribune</u>

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Minutes of the July 7, 2009 Board of Directors Meeting.

On motion by **Director Bandur**, seconded by **Director Kenny** and carried by a voice vote to adopt the Consent Calendar, as shown.

4. PUBLIC PRESENTATION - NONE

5. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

- A. Monthly Financial Reports & Disbursements.

On motion by **Director Bramfitt**, seconded by **Director Bandur** and carried unanimously by a roll call vote to approve the monthly Financial Reports & Disbursements for the month of June 2009 in the amount of \$296,547.56.

- B. Water Source Report

Director Kenny confirmed with staff the amount of pumping from the District wells.

6. PRESIDENT'S AND DIRECTORS' REPORTS OR COMMENTS

Director Bramfitt deferred his comments regarding his attendance at the Water Advisory Committee meeting until Agenda Item 7.

Director Kenny discussed the issue of a reported drop in the groundwater level in the Temelec area. The need for metering the water production from the three privately owned Temelec wells was emphasized for getting a better picture of the well efficiency and accurately tracking any drops in the groundwater level. In response to **Director Kenny**, O&M Supervisor Gradolph indicated that it may cost the Temelec Homeowners Association up to \$1,000 each for the installation of meters at the well sites.

Director Kenny also complimented the District field staff for timely and efficient handling of a leak in the Temelec area.

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

A. Water & Technical Advisory Committee Meetings of August 3, 2009.

Summer 2009 Water Contractor Statistics

The June water usage data for all water contractors of the Sonoma County Water Agency (Water Agency), compared to the 2004 water usage, was distributed. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) had mandated a 25% reduction in the diversions from the Russian River by the Water Agency for the period June 15 through October 2, 2009 and the Water Agency was right on target to comply with the State Board order.

SCWA Temporary Impairment

The Water Agency's Board of Directors declared a temporary impairment of the water transmission system in April 2009 quoting 'budget constraints'. Since then the Water Agency had physically restricted its pumping to 53 MGD, which is the average usage. However, in mid-July when the temperatures were more than the average and consumption rose to 60 MGD, the Water Agency's system storage dropped below a desirable total of 85 MG, because of the restricted pumping. On July 24, 2009, the Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) sent a letter to the Water Agency to provide the water contractors with a financial analysis of the additional costs anticipated for exceeding 53 MGD, and an estimate of the additional revenue from water sales in excess of 53 MGD by July 31, 2009.

Since the Water Agency did not respond by that date, the Water Advisory Committee (WAC) unanimously adopted a resolution supporting the letter from the TAC and requesting the Water Agency to respond in writing.

Director Bandur confirmed with staff that the Water Agency has shut off water to all its surplus customers.

Director Bramfitt commented that during his tenure as the District's WAC representative during the last two years, he had not seen a more rancorous display of positioning between the Water Agency against all water contractors and in some instances with certain water contractors. There were adequate flows in the

Russian River to support increased pumping on the days such pumping was needed. It should not be a very difficult exercise for the Water Agency's operational staff to increase the pumping levels on such days.

Director Bramfitt, although voted in support of the WAC Resolution on behalf of the District, was concerned that the request did not turn into a 'blank check' for the Water Agency to come back and ask for additional rate increases. The Water Agency can pump more water for which the water contractors will pay for and the currently approved water rates should be paying for all of the Water Agency's incremental costs. Hence this should not be an issue at all, but for the politics involved in the matter.

Director Bramfitt pointed out that it would take only an additional 2 cfs (cubic feet per second) to increase the pumping on certain days from 53 MGD to 60 MGD and the current river flows could easily handle that additional diversion. He felt that the tenor of the discussions at the WAC meeting was really disappointing, which was both unfortunate and unnecessary.

In response to **Director Bandur**, **Director Bramfitt** explained that three members of the Board of Supervisors, Paul Kelley, Efen Carrillo, and Shirlee Zane were present at the WAC meeting and it appeared that Director Kelley, the Chair, would direct the Water Agency to prepare a formal reply to the TAC letter.

Director Bramfitt added that if there was to be a major heat wave in the Valley, the Water Agency has full capability to increase the pumping to meet the additional needs. If that was not the case, he would be really concerned.

Director Kenny complimented PG&E for a very useful rebate program under which PG&E provides free installation of new thermostats and a \$25.00 rebate for doing so. He hoped that word would get around of this program and more people would take advantage of it.

SCWA Strategic Alternatives

The WAC decided that the contractors should collectively present their responses to the Water Agency's Strategic Alternatives. Toward that end, the WAC requested the TAC to make a presentation to the WAC at its November meeting, which can then be presented at the workshop that the Water Agency will be holding at a later date.

Director Bramfitt suggested that, given the Water Agency's request for a formal feedback, the Board should agendaize an item to consider this matter.

Water Conservation Presentation

The WAC also requested the TAC to make a presentation to the WAC regarding the combined successes of the water contractors in the area of water conservation.

Visit to SDC by Directors Bramfitt and Bandur

A copy of a written report prepared by Director Bramfitt describing the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) facilities was provided to the other Directors.

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS - NONE

President Prushko declared a five-minute recess prior to adjourning into Closed Session at 7:05 P.M.

9. CLOSED SESSION

- A. Conference with legal counsel to consider initiation of litigation, pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(c) – 1 case

10. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

President Prushko reconvened from Closed Session at 7:30 P.M. There was nothing to report.

11. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Bramfitt requested an agenda item to discuss the District's formal response to the Sonoma County Water Agency's presentation regarding the Water Agency's 12 Strategic Alternatives.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by **Director Bramfitt**, seconded by **Director Bandur**, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is a regular meeting on September 1, 2009 at 6:30 P.M.

Shari Walk, Deputy Board Secretary

Ron Prushko, Board President