

VALLEY OF THE MOON WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 5, 2010

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Valley of the Moon Water District was held on Tuesday, January 5, 2010, 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 Ron Prushko called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. concurrently with the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Valley of the Moon Water District Financing Corporation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Directors Present:	Al Bandur Mark Bramfitt Ed Kenny Russell Townsend Ron Prushko
General Manager:	Krishna Kumar
District Personnel:	Paul Gradolph, Operations and Maintenance Supervisor Shari Walk, Office Supervisor
Public Present:	Chuck Somers

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chuck Somers, a District ratepayer, stated that he built a home on Sunnyside Avenue, and on account of the fire sprinklers needed a one inch meter, instead of a 5/8" meter. Mr. Somers said the service charge for the one inch meter is greater than the service charge for the 5/8" meter, and since the larger meter was needed because of the fire sprinklers, he requested an exemption in the service charge rate. He asked the board to consider charging him at the 5/8" meter service charge, since he only used 29,000 gallons of water for the whole year.

Director Bandur confirmed with Mr. Somers that the County required the 1" meter and not the District.

Director Bandur stated that industry wide, 5/8" meters will be phased out and replaced with 1" meters. He complimented Mr. Somers for his conservation efforts.

Director Bramfitt stated that the service charge was not only for meter maintenance, but really represented a facilities charge over all; it represented the cost of the pipes, part of the reservoirs, etc.

Director Bramfitt addressed Mr. Somers, stating that he appreciated his position, especially considering his low water use, and obviously the service charge was a huge portion of his bill. However, he was not at all comfortable making a single case adjustment. He thought that the appropriate time to revisit the meter charge was during the next review of the District's rate structure.

Mr. Somers stated his understanding that another water district in the Russian River area had granted such exemptions.

Director Bramfitt said that as **Director Bandur** pointed out, all new construction will require 1" meters, maybe that becomes the District's standard charge. When the District undertakes its next rate study this should be brought to the consultant's attention.

In response to **Director Kenny**, Mr. Somers said he has 55 sprinklers in the new home.

In response to **President Prushko**, Mr. Somers said he doesn't know what the demand would be if all 55 sprinklers were to go off at the same time, but would get that information.

Mr. Somers thanked the board for the opportunity to speak.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Minutes of the December 1, 2009 Board of Directors Meeting.
- B. Project Closing Documents for Water Facilities Installation Project No. 2911.

On motion by **Director Bramfitt**, seconded by **Vice-President Townsend** 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.

Vice-President Townsend asked if there was a reason why after 5 months into the fiscal year, several of the Capital Improvement Projects had yet to be started or completed.

Mr. Gradolph said that both the Chestnut Tank painting and the Agua Caliente Well Pump Replacement would be done in this fiscal year, and the two large water main projects, Mulford, Academy, Fairview, Manzanita main replacement and the Trinity Oaks Interconnection will be bidding in March, with a start date in June to accommodate the Dunbar School schedule.

On motion by **Director Bramfitt**, seconded by **Director Kenny** and carried unanimously by a roll call vote to approve the monthly Financial Reports & Disbursements for the month of November 2009 in the amount of \$254,463.05.

- 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 December 2009.

- **Project #2926 – Boyes Springs Main Replacement and Trinity Interconnection: Mr. Gradolph** reported that this project was in the final stages of engineering design. The project included the replacement of small diameter steel water mains on Manzanita Road, Academy Lane, Fairview Lane, Mulford Lane and a new eight-inch water main connecting the Trinity Oaks zone to the Glen Ellen zone. He said Trinity Oaks area obtained its water directly from the Sonoma Aqueduct and had no storage or an interconnection to the nearby Glen Ellen zone. This new pipeline will give the Trinity area access to the storage in Glen Ellen if the Sonoma Aqueduct is to be temporarily shutdown.

In response to **President Prushko**, Mr. Gradolph said the Glen Ellen Fire District requested 6 fire hydrants to be installed as part of the interconnection project, which the fire district will be responsible for paying, and that the project involves installing a new 8 inch water main.

President Prushko commented that this will be helpful for fire protection in that area, and asked if the small tank in Glen Ellen was still online. Mr. Gradolph said it was still online, making the storage capacity in Glen Ellen 650,000 gallons.

In response to **Director Bramfitt**, Mr. Gradolph said the interconnection project on Dunbar Road will be done in June after school is out to accommodate the school schedule and also to prevent restricted work hours by the County.

C. Water Source Report

President Prushko commented that the well use consumption was cut down to 13% in November.

6. PRESIDENT'S AND DIRECTORS' REPORTS OR COMMENTS

President Prushko commented about the free toilet give-a-way program through the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District. He said that he objected to this program when it was first introduced. There had been a considerable increase in sewer fees over the years, and there are only three people sitting on the Sanitation District board monitoring what was going on. This free toilet idea came from Mr. Poole and the Sanitation District dictated how much it would pay the plumbers to install the free toilets. This free toilet give-a-way program was a sewer fee funded program. The Sanitation District contracted with out of town vendors from San Diego to install the toilets and the revenues generated were taken back to San Diego.

President Prushko felt that with the County's unemployment rate at 12.4%, taking jobs away from the local construction industry diverted monies that could have supported the local economy. Further, the free toilets are not American made. The smart thing for the Sanitation District to do was to either go back to the old \$150 rebate program, or to make it a requirement that only local vendors or contractors can install the toilets, to keep the money in the County. He thought the money used on the free toilet give-a-way program should be redirected to fix the infrastructure.

Director Kenny noted that when he was in business, all projects which used taxpayer money had to use materials made in the United States, or it would be a violation of the law.

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

Mr. Kumar reported that Ms. Walk completed a three day training seminar and at the end of which she took

and passed a written exam to be certified as a Grade 1 Conservation Practitioner by the American Water Works Association. He and the Board members congratulated Ms. Walk on this significant accomplishment.

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of Officers.

Director Bramfitt nominated Russell Townsend as the **President** and Al Bandur as the **Vice-President** of the Board of Directors of the Valley of the Moon Water District. There were no other nominations. The nominations were closed.

Motion by **Director Bramfitt**, seconded by **Vice-President Townsend**, and carried unanimously to elect **Russell Townsend** as the President and **Al Bandur** as the Vice-President of the Board of Directors of the Valley of the Moon Water District for 2010.

At this point, newly elected **President Townsend** chaired the meeting.

Motion by **Director Prushko**, seconded by **Director Bramfitt**, and carried unanimously to elect **Krishna Kumar** as the Secretary and **Shari Walk** as the Deputy Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Valley of the Moon Water District for 2010.

B. Board Representatives

Motion by **Director Kenny**, seconded by **Vice-President Bandur** and carried by a voice vote to keep the current slate of board representatives as shown below.

Organization/Committee	Board Representative (s)	First Alternate
Water Advisory Committee	Director Bramfitt	Director Bandur
Ad Hoc Liaison Committee with the City of Sonoma	Director Townsend Director Bramfitt	Director Kenny
ACWA – Region 1	Director Prushko	Director Townsend

C. Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership Joint Powers Agreement.

Mr. Kumar explained that as part of the water rates, the Water Agency used to collect from each of the Water Contractors water conservation monies which would be sent back to the Water Contractors for spending on water conservation programs. To avoid that circular arrangement, the Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership MOU was approved by the board on April 1, 2008. However, the Water Agency chose not to be a party to the MOU. The TAC was now proposing that the parties, with the exclusion of the Water Agency, revamp the original MOU into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) among the Water Contractors with the same goal of maximizing cost-effective water conservation programs in Sonoma and Marin Counties.

The changed format will allow the Water Contractors to jointly and collectively exercise the powers they each hold as water suppliers so as to more effectively and economically represent the interest of their respective water service customers in regional water strategy, programs, plans, and projects, including water conservation, and to have a larger and more effective voice in dealing with the Water Agency on such matters than they can have individually or when they solely interact with the Water Agency.

In response to **President Townsend**, Mr. Kumar stated that the JPA contained basically the same terms as the original MOU and that the District Counsel favored the JPA over an MOU.

In response to **Director Prushko**, Mr. Kumar said the signing of the JPA would not require additional insurance coverage, the District's current liability policy would be sufficient.

Director Bramfitt commented that this could be a good move considering grant monies may be easier to obtain as a group rather than individually.

On motion by **Director Bramfitt**, seconded by **Director Prushko** and carried unanimously by a roll call vote to approve the Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) and authorize the President to sign the JPA in substantially the same form as presented.

President Townsend adjourned into Closed Session at 7:20 P.M.

9. CLOSED SESSION

- A. **Conference with legal counsel to consider pending litigation, pursuant to government code section 54956.9 (a) – City of Santa Rosa vs. Sonoma County Water Agency**
- B. **Conference with legal counsel to consider initiation of litigation, pursuant to government code section 54956.9 (c) - 1 case**

10. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION
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President Townsend reconvened from Closed Session at 8:02 P.M. There was nothing to report.

11. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
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There was no request for future agenda items.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by **Director Bramfitt**, seconded by **Vice-President Bandur**, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is a regular meeting on February 2, 2010 at 6:30 P.M.

Shari Walk, Deputy Board Secretary

Russell Townsend, Board President