

VALLEY OF THE MOON WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 2, 2011

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Valley of the Moon Water District was held on Tuesday, August 2, 2011, 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 Bandur 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:	Ron Prushko Ed Kenny Mark Bramfitt Al Bandur
Directors/Excused:	Russ Townsend
General Manager:	Krishna Kumar
District Personnel	Paul Gradolph, Operations & Maintenance Supervisor Shari Walk, Office Supervisor
Public:	Mark Heneveld and Heidi Danieli

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Minutes of the July 5, 2011 Board of Directors Meeting.

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

4. PUBLIC HEARING – NONE

5. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

A. Monthly Financial Reports & Disbursements for June 2011.

General Manager Kumar reported that the monthly revenue and expense comparison report reflects the final figures for FY 2010-2011. Mr. Kumar noted that the District had budgeted for a transfer of \$250,000 to the Capital Improvement Program Budget for 2010-2011, while the actual amount ended up at \$350,000, due in part to a variety of on-going cost control measures adopted by the District.

In response to **Director Prushko**, Mr. Kumar said the total revenues for FY 2010-11 were \$3.65 million and the total expenses were \$3.30 million as compared to last fiscal year at \$3.51 and \$3.13 respectively.

In response to **President Bandur**, Mr. Kumar said that the water sales revenue this fiscal year was very comparable to that of last fiscal year, indicating a steadiness on the revenue side.

On motion by **Vice President Bramfitt**, seconded by **Director Prushko** and carried unanimously by a roll call vote to approve the monthly Financial Reports & Disbursements for the month of June 2011 in the amount of \$398,104.34.

B. Water Source Report.

Director Kenny commented an article in the local newspaper, and wondered how ironic it was to push the message of conservation this particular year with most of the lakes and reservoirs in the State being full and the State Water Project even declaring the availability of ‘surplus’ water for sale.

President Bandur stated that even in the face of an abundance of water, it was always a good idea to stay in conservation mode.

6. PRESIDENT’S AND DIRECTORS’ REPORTS OR COMMENTS

President Bandur announced that he will be stepping down as a director due to family obligations, and the next meeting on September 6th will be his last.

Vice President Bramfitt said it was a great pleasure to have **President Bandur** on the Board and a great honor for the entire board, given his tremendous service over the years to the City of Sonoma and lending that expertise to this board. He thanked him for his service and added that his experience and knowledge will be really missed.

The other board members congratulated **President Bandur**, and thanked him for his service as well.

President Bandur commented that this was a great board to serve on, and that the District had a good staff and he was honored to be part of it.

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

Mr. Kumar reported on the following items:

1. Russian River Biological Opinion (BO) Update

National Marin Fisheries Service and the Water Agency were not planning to use a particular level of fish population as an indicator of the success of the habitat restoration initiatives undertaken by the Water Agency to satisfy the requirements of the BO. The actual fish population will depend on several other variables which are outside the control of the Water Agency, including oceanic conditions and long term climatic changes. Instead, both the agencies will focus on improving the fish habitat in the Dry Creek area.

Given the growing budget woes at the federal level, it had been increasingly difficult for the US army Corps to fund their share of the cost of improvements required by the BO. However, the Warm Springs Dam was essentially an Army Corps project with local funding and hence the Corps was legally liable to fund its share of the BO costs, notwithstanding the current or future budget woes. The Water Agency

representatives indicated that they have the same concern and were currently looking at various options to ensure the required funding from the Corps.

President Bandur asked if the Water Agency can be reimbursed if it ended up paying the Corps share of the expense. Mr. Kumar said that although it was likely, it was better to ensure an upfront payment from the Corps.

2. Natural Hazards Mitigation Projects

The Water Agency had been undertaking the construction of 10 high priority natural hazards mitigation projects. Top on the list was a project of vital importance to the District. It involved building a new segment of the Water Agency's Aqueduct at the point where it crosses Rogers Creek near Santa Rosa, this being the primary aqueduct which brought water into the District's service area. This new segment will be built on the premise – 'Bend not Break', in the event of an earthquake. FEMA had agreed to fund 75% of the project cost and the rest will be borne by the Water Agency and the project was slated for completion in 2012.

Another natural hazard mitigation project of importance to the District was the Water Agency's Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project. The Board had been briefed on earlier occasions about AMI in general. As part of its AMI project, the Water Agency will be installing an antenna on top of Sonoma Mountain. An antenna located on Sonoma Mountain could easily serve as an antenna for the District's own retail water meters when the District launches its own AMI program.

The Water Agency had also planned to install another antenna on top of their Eldridge water tank. The District staff had requested the Water Agency to install its second antenna on top of the District's Bolli tank (instead of on top of the Water Agency's Eldridge tank). The two antennas, one on top of Sonoma Mountain and the other on the Bolli tank, both to be installed and maintained by the Water Agency, would practically cover the District's entire service area, resulting in considerable savings to the District.

In response to **President Bandur**, Mr. Kumar confirmed that the Water Agency's AMI project was part of the overall reliability project.

3. Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Grant Funding

The Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Bay Area IRWMP) was a multi-stakeholder, nine-county effort to coordinate a strategic approach to regional water resources management. The Plan will build on water resources needs and planning strategies identified throughout the Bay Area, leveraging regional cooperation to more effectively address the needs identified.

Proposition 50 was passed by California voters in November 2002, authorizing \$3.4 billion general obligation bonds to fund a variety of specified water and wetlands projects. It set aside \$380 million for IRWMP related grants. Prop 50 was jointly administered by the California Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board.

The Bay Area IRWMP had been able to secure significant Prop 50 grant funding from the Department of Water Resources and the District's share was approximately \$33,000 which would be used for providing water conservation rebates to the District's customers during the years 2012 and 2013. This was the first time that the District had been able to secure Prop 50 funding.

4. IBM Project Update

The IBM leak detection project had been progressing well. The Water Agency had purchased several data loggers which would be deployed in all of the 10 Water Agency turn outs used by the District.

These data loggers would assist in collecting live flow data for the IBM project. The IBM research team, whose members are drawn from Israel, Canada, and several places in the US, visited the District and the Water Agency offices for a three day intense work shop in July. According to the research team, the progress so far had been very encouraging. They thought very highly of the District staff in terms of providing the required data and analysis on a timely fashion. Their recommendations for maintaining an optimal pressure regime would be forthcoming as early as October. The leak detection component would be launched later in the winter.

5. SVCSD – billing based on winter water usage

Many Valley residents have been making persistent requests to the Water Agency to base the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District's (SVCSD) sewer billing on actual winter water usage as opposed to the current system of charging all sewer customers a flat rate. The current system had been perceived as unfair to a lot of single occupant residents in the Valley who use considerably less water for flushing etc. than a household with many family members. The Water Agency had completed the necessary analysis to implement the new billing system beginning next year. The District and the City of Sonoma will provide information regarding winter water usage to the Water Agency annually. The Water Agency will send out letters to all its sewer customers in the Valley this winter indicating what would be their actual bill amount under the new system, if it had been implemented. That way the residents will have a t least one year's warning, before the actual implementation of the new system some time in 2013.

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS - NONE

9. CLOSED SESSION - NONE

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by **Vice President Bramfitt**, seconded by **Director Kenny**, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is a regular meeting on September 6, 2011 at 6:30 P.M.

Shari Walk, Deputy Board Secretary

Al Bandur, Board President