

**VALLEY OF THE MOON WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 5, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Valley of the Moon Water District was held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, 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 Foreman 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:	Mark Heneveld Ed Kenny Ron Prushko Meghan Peddicord Jon Foreman
General Manager:	Daniel Muelrath
District Personnel:	Shari Walk, Administration & Finance Manager
Public:	Approximately 40 people in attendance for the public hearing

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Minutes of the April 7, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting.
- B. Water Facilities Installation Agreement with Valley of the Moon Realty LLC, Project 2951
- C. Water Facilities Installation Agreement with Green Grass LLC, Bunchgrass LP, Proj. 2953

On motion by **Director Heneveld**, seconded by **Director Kenny**, and carried unanimously by a voice vote to adopt the consent calendar as shown.

4. PUBLIC PRESENTATION

- A. Groundwater in Sonoma Valley and Future Formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

General Manager Muelrath gave a power point presentation regarding the groundwater conditions in the Sonoma Valley, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and the future formation of a

groundwater sustainability agency. SGMA now requires all groundwater basins designated as high or medium priority basins (Sonoma Valley is medium priority) to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans. Additionally, the State law requires the development of one or more Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) within the groundwater basin by June 30, 2017. In the Sonoma Valley eligible local public agencies that may form a single or multiple GSAs are: Valley of the Moon Water District, City of Sonoma, Sonoma County Water Agency and or County of Sonoma. If no local agency wants to manage groundwater the County of Sonoma becomes the GSA by default unless the County opts out then the State Water Resource Control Board is the backstop.

1. Should the District participate in a facilitated regional approach with multiple local agencies?
2. Should the District be the lead groundwater sustainability agency for its current service area?
3. Should the District serve as the lead groundwater sustainability agency for an area larger than its current service area (i.e. Sonoma Valley)?

President Foreman opened the public hearing at 6:45 pm.

The following comments were received:

- 1) Carla Noyes, District customer, said she supports VOMWD as the lead agency, and notes we'll have to partner with the Sonoma County Supervisors, Sonoma County Water Agency and the City of Sonoma, but would like us to also consider including the Ecology Center and California Fish and Wildlife as they could be instrumental in helping restore the Sonoma Creek.
- 2) Scott Horine, Bonness Road resident, commented on having too much groundwater on his property, and the County not issuing him a permit for a winery because of it.
- 3) Bruce Adams, District customer, confirmed with General Manager Muelrath that the amount of water in Lake Sonoma was at 87% of capacity and that we are not as bad off as other parts of the State.
- 4) Heidi (last name unknown), Bonness Road resident, supports VOMWD being the lead groundwater sustainability agency, but does not support the installation of meters on private wells.
- 5) Caitlin Cornwall, Sonoma Ecology Center said she does not have a preference on who becomes the lead agency, but said it should include all of Sonoma Valley. Groundwater and surface water should all be inclusive.
- 6) In response to Phillip Sales, Felder Road resident, Mr. Muelrath said the 27% figured in the slide presentation was the percent of groundwater used by rural residential and included hobby vineyards.
- 7) Gina Cuclis, District customer, is also in support of the District becoming the lead agency and agrees with Ms. Cornwall that the area should include all of Sonoma Valley.
- 8) Fred Allebach, East side of town, said he was very impressed with General Manager Muelrath's presentation and Valley of the Moon Water District as a whole, and too believes locally is the way to go for a GSA.
- 9) Kathy Pond, Kenwood resident, commented that whatever agency is formed they need to include all stakeholders.
- 10) Tom Conlon, District customer thought this was a good opportunity to communicate with others and work together to solve the groundwater issue. He hopes that current ratepayer money is not used to subsidize the program.

No other members of the public came forward to speak. **President Foreman** closed the public hearing at 8:05 pm.

5. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

A. Monthly Financial Reports & Disbursements for March 2015.

On motion by **Director Kenny**, seconded by **Director Heneveld**, and carried unanimously by a roll call vote to approve the monthly Financial Reports & Disbursements for the month of March 2015 in the amount of \$272,587.05.

B. Water Source Report.

General Manager Muelrath reported that all wells were off in the month of March, and turned back on in April after determining that they had recovered. The chlorine feeder was changed at the Larbre Well site.

C. Operational updates.

General Manager Muelrath reported the following:

- 1) Valve cards are being loaded into the asset management system. There are approximately 2,700 valves in our system so it will take a couple months before all the data has been transferred.
- 2) The hydrant run that was damaged by PG&E has been repaired. The costs in excess of \$35,000 will be reimbursed by PG&E.

6. PRESIDENT'S AND DIRECTORS' REPORTS OR COMMENTS

Director Kenny reported that while attending the City of Sonoma's council meeting, he announced the public hearing that VOMWD would be having tonight regarding groundwater in Sonoma Valley and the formation of a groundwater sustainability agency.

Director Heneveld reported that the WAC recommended approval of a 10 year water supply agreement with Marin Municipal Water District.

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

General Manager Muelrath reported the following:

WAC/TAC Meeting: The Temporary Urgency Change Order issued by the State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) dealt with preserving water in Lake Mendocino. The upper Russian River flows were reduced from 185cfs to 75cfs and the lower Russian River flows were reduced from 125cfs to 85cfs.

Water Supply Levels: Lake Sonoma is at 87% of current water supply capacity and 90% of average for this time of year. Lake Mendocino is at 54% of current water supply capacity and 76% of average for this time of the year.

SWRCB Emergency Regulations: Over the past month the SWRCB has issued two draft versions of the water emergency regulations and are expected to make a final ruling by tomorrow afternoon. Current draft regulations show VOMWD's conservation target to be 20%, whereas others in Sonoma and Marin have targets that range between 16% and 28%. The Sonoma Marin Saving Water Partners requested that the SWRCB allow the partnership to tackle conservation savings on a regional basis which would have resulted in a 20% regional target, however, as of this time they have declined to include this option.

Vice President Peddicord excused herself from the meeting.

8. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

A. Equivalent Single Family Dwelling (ESD) Policy.

General Manager Muelrath summarized the historic and current status of the implementation of the District's ESD policy. The Board directed staff to draft recommendations on how to solve the following issues as they relate to the District's ESD policy:

1. Enforcement of the policy to collect additional ESDs on customers that are using water in excess of the ESDs they paid for (post 1999 accounts)
2. Determining an ESD for pre 1999 accounts (grandfathering)
3. Enforcement of the policy to collect additional ESDs on customers that are pre 1999 accounts
4. Accounting for well production when a location has a well or installing a well and is connecting to the District system
5. Refunding of Connection Fees paid where no development/water connection has since occurred.

B. Drought Workshop.

General Manager Muelrath said with the statewide mandate to reduce water usage, staff has been receiving calls from customers for conservation information. Staff is seeking approval to host a drought workshop to assist customers with ideas and ways to conserve water.

The consensus of the board was to hold a drought workshop.

President Foreman convened the meeting into Closed Session at 8:45 P.M.

9. CLOSED SESSION

- A.** Conference with legal counsel to consider pending litigation, pursuant to government code section 54956.9 (a) – “VOMWD v Brown and Caldwell, et. Al”
- B.** Conference with Labor Negotiator Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6; Agency Negotiator: General Manager Daniel Muelrath; Negotiating Parties: International Union of Operating Engineers, Stationary Local 39 AFL-CIO.

President Foreman reconvened from Closed Session at 9:10 P.M. There was nothing to report.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by **Director Heneveld**, seconded by **Director Kenny**, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is a regular meeting on June 2, 2015 at 6:30 P.M.

Shari Walk, Deputy Board Secretary

Jon Foreman, Board President