

Minutes

Sacramento Suburban Water District Regular Board Meeting Monday, November 15, 2021

Location:

3701 Marconi Avenue, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95821, and Audio Conference at 1-669-900-6833, and Video Conference using Zoom at Meeting Id #872 3279 5073.

Call to Order – Videoconference/Audioconference Meeting

President Wichert called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Wichert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Directors Present: Dave Jones, Craig Locke, Kevin Thomas, and Robert Wichert.

Directors Absent: None.

Staff Present: General Manager Dan York, Assistant General Manager Matt Underwood, Heather Hernandez-Fort, Jeff Ott, Ann Bradford, Jim Arenz, Dana Dean, Todd Artrip, Julie Nemitz, and Susan Schinnerer.

Public Present: William Eubanks, Gary Gin, Cortney Brand, Cathy Lee, Charlotte Stuart, Hannah Stuart, Audrey Harrington, Alan Driscoll, Paul Helliker, Jennifer Harris, and Legal Counsel Josh Horowitz.

Action Item

- AB 361 Findings to Continue Permit Director Remote Participation in Board Meetings**

Director Locke moved to approve the Item; Director Jones seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

AYES:	Jones, Locke, Thomas, and Wichert.	ABSTAINED:	
NOES:		RECUSED:	
ABSENT:			

Announcements

President Wichert announced that Kathleen McPherson resigned from the Board, and expressed the Board would hold a Special Board Meeting as soon as possible to discuss next steps in filling the Division 2 vacancy.

General Manager Dan York (GM York) wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Public Comment

None.

Consent Items

- 2. Minutes of the October 18, 2021, Regular Board Meeting
- 3. Treasurer’s Report
- 4. Policy Review - Reserve Policy (PL – Fin 004)

Director Locke moved to approve all Consent Items; Director Jones seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

AYES:	Jones, Locke, Thomas, and Wichert.	ABSTAINED:	
NOES:		RECUSED:	
ABSENT:			

Items for Discussion and/or Action

- 5. **Aquifer Storage and Recovery Economic Assessment**
Assistant General Manager Matt Underwood (AGM Underwood) presented the staff report and introduced Gary Gin (Mr. Gin) and Cortney Brand (Mr. Brand) with Leonard Rice Engineers, who presented the PowerPoint presentation and answered clarifying questions.

Directors asked clarifying questions.

William Eubanks (Mr. Eubanks) asked clarifying questions.

- 6. **Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission Open Nomination Period for Special District Commissioner Office No. 7, and Alternate Special District Commissioner for Offices No. 6 & 7**
GM York presented the staff report.

Director Thomas moved to vote for Ted Costa as Commissioner Office Number 7; President Wichert seconded.

Mr. Eubanks expressed that Gay Jones’ resume was very impressive as she had a tremendous amount of experience as well as a master’s degree, noting that Mr. Costa did not.

Director Locke noted he was unaware what Gay Jones’ master’s degree was in.

President Wichert moved to vote for Michael Hanson as Alternate Commissioner Office Number 6 and 7; Director Jones seconded.

For Ted Costa as Commissioner Office Number 7; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

AYES:	Jones, Locke, Thomas, and Wichert.	ABSTAINED:	
NOES:		RECUSED:	
ABSENT:			

For Michael Hanson as Alternate Commissioner Office Number 6 and 7; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

AYES:	Jones, Locke, Thomas, and Wichert.	ABSTAINED:	
NOES:		RECUSED:	
ABSENT:			

7. **New Staff Position Request - Hydrogeologist**

Dana Dan (Mr. Dean) presented the staff report and answered clarifying questions.

President Wichert moved to approve the staff recommendation.

Director Jones expressed he was not very comfortable approving the position, as he had additional questions such as the economic impact, if the position would need additional support staff, and the cost benefit of this position.

Director Locke echoed Director Jones’ concerns, noting he was most interested in newer, larger wells in an effort to move water more efficiently throughout the District. He expressed that he was not too interested in renovating the older wells, and felt that there could be a lot of institutional knowledge and experience found with consultants.

Mr. Dean reminded the Board that one disadvantage of using consultants is they do not have ownership of the District’s projects, therefore the level of quality could be jeopardized.

Director Thomas expressed he was hesitant approving the new position as he felt it was expensive.

President Wichert expressed he believed in in-house expertise, as staff all learn from one another.

Director Thomas requested staff bring the item back in a couple months.

Director Jones requested to include more economical information on the position.

President Wichert requested to bring the item back in February with an assessment on what it would take to recruit a fully qualified hydrogeologist.

Director Locke noted there was no substitute for experience and he was interested in finding the most qualified candidate, noting it would be expensive.

8. **Disposal of Surplus Real Property**

Mr. Dean presented the staff report and answered clarifying questions.

Director Thomas moved to approve the staff recommendation; Director Locke seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

AYES:	Jones, Locke, Thomas, and Wichert.	ABSTAINED:	
NOES:		RECUSED:	
ABSENT:			

General Manager’s Report

9. **General Manager’s Report**

GM York presented the staff report and answered clarifying questions.

- a. *Emergency Groundwater Delivery to the City of Sacramento*
A written report was provided.
- b. *Emergency Preparedness*
A written report was provided.
- c. *Table Top Workshops*
A written report was provided.

Department/Staff Reports

10. **Financial Report**

Jeff Ott provided an update to the staff report.

- a. *COVID-19 Financial Update*
A written report was provided.
- b. *Financial Highlights*
A written report was provided.
- c. *Budgets*
A written report was provided.
- d. *Information Required by LOC Agreement*
A written report was provided.

11. **District Activity Report**

Todd Artrip provided an update to the staff report

12. **Engineering Report**

Mr. Dean provided an update to the staff report.

President Wichert requested to schedule a meeting with staff on CIP.

Mr. Eubanks inquired about the status of the Butano Well.

Mr. Dean expressed there were additional delays in completing the project, however, he expected it would be completed by the first quarter of 2022.

a. Major Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Projects

A written report was provided.

b. Planning Documents

A written report was provided.

c. Other

A written report was provided.

Information Items

13. Sacramento Suburban Water District Goals – 2021 Update

GM York provided an update to the staff report.

President Wichert requested to schedule a meeting with staff on SCADA.

14. Update on North Service Area Water Supply Capacity Problem Due to Well Contamination

A written report was provided.

President Wichert expressed he was interested in what has been accomplished from the list provided.

AGM Underwood pointed out the project status of several of the projects.

President Wichert requested staff work on permanent agreements to secure water supplies.

AGM Underwood agreed with President Wichert.

GM York expressed there were not any pressure zones in the North Service Area and would review the permit to verify.

15. Environmental Review for Wells 81A, 81B, 81C - Antelope North/Poker Project

A written report was provided.

16. Upcoming Water Industry Events

A written report was provided.

17. **Upcoming Policy Review**

A written report was provided.

a. *Workplace Dishonesty Policy (PL – Adm 006)*

A written report was provided.

b. *Investment Policy (Pl – Fin 003)*

A written report was provided.

Director’s Reports (Per AB 1234, Directors will report on their meeting activities)

18. a. Regional Water Authority (Director Jones)

The agendas for the November 4 and 8, 2021, Board Meetings were provided.

Regional Water Authority Executive Committee (General Manager York)

None.

b. Sacramento Groundwater Authority (Director Wichert)

The agenda for the November 10, 2021, Regular Board Meeting was provided.

President Wichert provided an oral report of the SGA Board Meeting he attended.

c. Director Reports – AB 1234

Director Thomas provided an oral report the SGA Board Meeting he attended on October 14, 2021; and the meeting he had with the General Manager on October 15, 2021.

Committee Reports

19. a. Carmichael Water District/SSWD Joint Board Meeting (Director Locke)

Draft Minutes from the October 6, 2021, meeting were provided.

Director’s Comments/Staff Statements and Requests

None.

Closed Session (Closed Session Items are not opened to the public)

The Board convened in Closed Session at 7:39 p.m. to discuss the following:

20. Conference with real property negotiator involving the purchase, sale, lease or exchange of APN 229-0362-018, Sacramento, CA. Dan York, District negotiator, will negotiate with Anthony Caruso. Instructions to the negotiator(s) may include price, terms of payment, or both. (See Government Code sections 54954.5(b) and 54956.8.)

21. Conference with legal counsel – potential litigation; Government Code sections 54954.5(c) and 54956.9(a) and (d)(4); consideration of initiating litigation involving the

State Water Resources Control Board's proceedings related to the California Water Fix and the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update.

22. Conference with legal counsel--anticipated litigation; Government Code sections 54954.5(c) and 54956.9(a) and (d)(2) and (3); significant exposure to litigation involving November 8, 2021 cease and desist letter under Government Code section 54960.2 from William Eubanks.

Return to Open Session

The Board convened in Open Session at 8:17 p.m. There was no reportable action.

Adjournment

President Wichert adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Dan York
General Manager/Secretary
Sacramento Suburban Water District