

Minutes

Sacramento Suburban Water District Regular Board Meeting Monday, February 28, 2022

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 #841 5578 4873

Call to Order – Videoconference/Audioconference Meeting

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

Pledge of Allegiance

President Locke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Directors Present: Jay Boatwright, Dave Jones via Zoom, 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, Dana Dean, Todd Artrip, Julie Nemitz, and Greg Bundesen.

Public Present: William Eubanks, Robert Porr, Jon Guz, Lora Carpenter, Cameron Parks, Eric Rodriguez, and Legal Counsel Josh Horowitz.

Action Item

1. **AB 361 Findings to Continue Permitting Director Remote Participation in Board Meetings**

Director Thomas moved to approve Item 1; Director Wichert seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

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

Announcements

General Manager Dan York (GM York) announced:

- Special 20-year lunch bags, containers, and keychains are at the dais for Directors in commemoration of the District’s 20-year anniversary.
- RWA provided a reimbursement check from the Prop 1 IRWM Implementation Grant for \$55,318.53 for the Project 3 Well 79 Verne/Panorama Pumping Station Project. See letter at dais.

Public Comment

None.

Consent Items

2. **Minutes of the January 24, 2022, Regular Board Meeting**
3. **Minutes of the February 7, 2022, Special Board Meeting**
4. **Treasurer’s Report**
5. **Policy Review - Debt Management Policy (PL – Fin 011)**
6. **Policy Review - Reasonable Accommodation and Interactive Process Policy (PL – HR 014)**
7. **Policy Review - Disconnection of Residential Water Service Policy (PL – CS 001)**

Director Wichert requested to pull Item 2 for discussion.

William Eubanks (Mr. Eubanks) requested to pull Item 4 for discussion.

President Locke moved to approve all Consent Items except Items 2 and 4; Director Thomas seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

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

Director Wichert withdrew his request to pull Item 2.

President Locke moved to approve Item 2; Director Boatwright seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

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

Regarding Item 4, Mr. Eubanks highlighted a few line items in the Treasurer’s Report that displayed District staff teambuilding events, and suggested staff find a different way for accounting for those events.

Director Thomas moved to approve Item 4; Director Boatwright seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

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

Director Wichert requested staff rename “construction in progress” in the Treasurer’s Report with the actual project name, so he can understand it better and make it more clear.

Jeff Ott (Mr. Ott) expressed he would change the language.

Items for Discussion and/or Action

8. Presentation on District’s 20 Year Anniversary

GM York presented the staff report and PowerPoint presentation.

President Locke requested clarification on slide 67.

Mr. Eubanks suggested staff create a video presentation out of the PowerPoint presentation to show to schools and other agencies, as he felt the District has great leadership, staff, and a great story to tell.

9. Resolution No. 22-05 Authorizing the Issuance of Not to Exceed \$52,000,000 Refunding Revenue Bonds in Multiple Issues and Approving the Execution and Delivery of Certain Documents in Connection Therewith and Certain Other Matters

Mr. Ott presented the staff report and presented a PowerPoint presentation.

Cameron Parks with Citigroup, additionally presented the PowerPoint presentation.

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

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

10. **Social Media Outreach Program Discussion**

Greg Bundesen (Mr. Bundesen) presented the staff report, PowerPoint presentation and answered clarifying questions.

Director Wichert suggested adding Twitter to the list of social media platforms to consider.

Discussion ensued over different scenarios of correspondence with customers through social media.

President Locke expressed that after the presentation, he was in favor of the District participating in social media.

Director Thomas was also in favor of social media, suggesting staff bring back further information on additional paths forward.

Director Wichert requested staff bring back a budget revision.

President Locke requested staff bring back an implementation plan with a few options that would not be too costly, what to expect for staff time, if an additional staff position was needed, and a proposed budget.

11. **Combination Study Business Case Analysis – Proposal Update**

GM York presented staff report.

President Locke added a summary of the last meeting.

Director Wichert noted he was in favor of staff preparing the study, as he believed all of the information would come from staff and it would be much more valuable.

The Board requested staff send them the proposal from Raftelis. GM York expressed he would send it to all.

Mr. Eubanks expressed he was not in favor of a combination of the two Districts, as he didn't see any benefit to the District.

12. **Policy Review – Directors' Compensation and Expense Reimbursement Policy (PL – BOD 003)**

GM York presented staff report.

Director Wichert expressed he requested to add the item to the agenda for the Board to review and submit any comments to staff.

Staff noted that any suggested edits by Directors were due to staff by Monday, March 4, 2022.

13. **Policy Review - Rules for Proceedings of the Board of Directors (PL - BOD 002)**
GM York presented staff report.

Director Wichert pointed out that an abstention vote was equal to a yes vote in the policy.

Legal Counsel Josh Horowitz (Mr. Horowitz) confirmed that in the policy, an abstention vote counted as a yes vote, noting that the Board had the options to discuss it and change it.

Director Wichert expressed that if there was an option to change it, he was in favor of that.

Mr. Horowitz expressed it would only require some rewording and a removal of the citation to the court case.

Director Wichert expressed that he was not in favor of not allowing Directors to attend Ad Hoc or Non-Standing committees.

Mr. Horowitz expressed that under the Brown Act, Directors not on those committees were not allowed to attend or participate in Ad Hoc or Non-Standing committee meetings. He further noted that the Board President could make committees standing, which would allow other Directors to attend and listen.

Director Wichert expressed his intent was to eliminate Ad Hoc committees entirely, as he disagreed with not allowing other Directors to listen in.

President Locke agreed with Director Wichert, as he too felt that other Directors should be allowed to listen in on committee meetings, noting if that meant removing Ad Hoc committees, he would be in favor of it.

Mr. Horowitz reiterated that the Board President could remove all Ad Hoc committees and only hold meetings of the full Board.

Director Wichert additionally pointed out that he suggested amendments to the policy to allow public discussion from the public in response to Board request, in Rule 16.

Mr. Horowitz expressed concern over allowing members of the public to essentially provide a report to the Board, noting if you allow one member of the public that

permission, you would need to allow all members of the public the same permission. Noting it could be problematic.

Director Wichert was ok with Mr. Horowitz's suggestion in that section.

Director Boatwright further pointed out that the General Manager's Performance Review Committee was an Ad Hoc committee.

Mr. Horowitz expressed that the Board could hold that under the Brown Act rubric of negotiations with the General Manager and appoint a negotiator. He noted another option would be for the Board to appoint a Standing Personnel Committee with the main function being to interact with the General Manager to deal with their contract.

President Locke felt they seemed like reasonable suggestions, and he was not opposed to eliminating the Ad Hoc General Managers Performance Review Committee.

Director Wichert expressed he would work with Mr. Horowitz on finalizing the draft policy and it would be brought back to the March regular Board Meeting.

Mr. Eubanks supported eliminating committees as he felt they were useless.

General Manager's Report

14. General Manager's Report

GM York presented the staff report and answered clarifying questions.

a. *Barrett Ranch Property Acquisition*
A written report was provided.

b. *Redistricting Update*
A written report was provided.

Director Wichert requested not to split any zip codes during the redistricting study.

c. *Urban Water Management Plan*
A written report was provided.

Department/Staff Reports

15. Financial Report

Mr. Ott presented 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.

16. **District Activity Report**

Todd Artrip (Mr. Artrip) presented the staff report and answered clarifying questions.

17. **Engineering Report**

Dana Dean presented the staff report and answered clarifying questions.

Mr. Eubanks commented that he was not confident that the scheduled was accurate.

- a. *Major Capital Improvement Program Projects*
A written report was provided.
- b. *Active Wells*
A written report was provided.
- c. *Planning Documents*
A written report was provided.
- d. *Other Projects*
A written report was provided.

Information Items

18. **Safety Center Award – Excellence in Safety**

Assistant General Manager Matt Underwood (AGM Underwood) presented the staff report and answered clarifying questions.

19. **ACWA/JPIA Liability, Property, and Workers' Compensation Risk Review**

Mr. Artrip presented the staff report.

20. **ACWA/JPIA President's Special Recognition Award**

AGM Underwood presented the staff report.

21. **Upcoming Water Industry Events**

A written report was provided.

22. **Upcoming Policy Review**

A written report was provided.

- a. Training and Career Development Policy (PL - HR 004)

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

- 23. a. Regional Water Authority (Director Jones)
None.

Regional Water Authority Executive Committee (General Manager York)
The agenda for the January 26, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting was provided.

- b. Sacramento Groundwater Authority (Director Wichert)
The agenda for the February 10, 2022 Board Meeting was provided.

- c. Director Reports – AB 1234
Director Thomas provided an oral report on the Water Forum meeting he attended on January 27, 2022.

Director Boatwright provided an oral report on the SGA Board meeting he attended on January 25, 2022; and the RWA Executive Committee meeting he attended on January 26, 2022; and the tour he had with the General Manager on February 24, 2022.

Director's Comments/Staff Statements and Requests

None.

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

The Board convened in Closed Session at 8:55 p.m. to discuss the following:

- 24. Public employee performance evaluation involving the General Manager under Government Code section 54954.5(e) and 54957.

Return to Open Session

The Board convened in Open Session at 9:43 p.m. There was no reportable action.

Adjournment

President Locke adjourned the meeting at 9:44 p.m.

Dan York
General Manager/Secretary
Sacramento Suburban Water District