

Minutes

Sacramento Suburban Water District Special Board Meeting April 22, 2024

Location:

3701 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821, Audio Conference at 1-669-900-6833, and Video Conference using Zoom at Meeting ID #874 7921 8660

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

President Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Directors Present: Jay Boatwright, Craig Locke, Kevin Thomas, and Robert Wichert.

Directors Absent: Dave Jones.

Staff Present: General Manager Dan York, Assistant General Manager Matt Underwood, Heather Hernandez-Fort, Susan Schinnerer, Dana Dean, Julie Nemitz, Jeff Ott, Todd Artrip, Greg Bundesen, Dane Westvik, and David Armand.

Public Present: William Eubanks, Susan Eubanks, Adam Coyan, Paul Helliker, Ted Costa, Robert Matteoli, Pam Tobin, Sabrina Gulch, Steve Morris, Chris Peterson, Gwynne Pratt, Jose Henriquez, Jennifer Harris, Paul Helliker, Tom Gray, and SSWD Legal Counsel Josh Horowitz.

Announcements

None.

Public Comment

None.

Consent Items

1. **Draft Minutes of the March 18, 2024, Regular Board Meeting**
2. **Treasurer's Report**
3. **Resolution No. 24-02 Calling for the November 5, 2024, Sacramento Suburban Water District Election**
4. **April 2024 Legislation Update**

5. **2024 Water Conservation Stage Declaration**
6. **Resolution No. 24-03 Amending Regulation No. 3 – Water Service Charges and Rates, of the Regulation Governing Water Service**
7. **Sacramento Regional Water Bank**

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

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

Items for Discussion and/or Action

8. **Appreciation to William Eubanks for Attending Sacramento Suburban Water District Board and Committee Meetings for 20 Years**

General Manager Dan York (GM York) presented the staff report and presented William Eubanks (Mr. Eubanks) with an appreciation award. He pointed out that Mr. Eubanks has been attending Board meetings as well as Committee meetings for the past 20 years, that he always came very well prepared, and staff really appreciated his input and attendance. He commented that Mr. Eubanks has been a huge benefit to the District as well as staff.

President Thomas acknowledged his appreciation for all of the time and dedication that Mr. Eubanks has contributed to the District and the community.

Director Wichert expressed that Mr. Eubanks’ middle name should be “attention to detail,” as Mr. Eubanks is always very thorough.

Director Boatright commented that he appreciated Mr. Eubanks’ input at the Board meetings.

Director Locke expressed that he has learned a lot from Mr. Eubanks and that he appreciated his insight in the region and willingness to share it.

Assistant General Manager Matt Underwood (AGM Underwood) stated that the top three convictions that he understood Mr. Eubanks has are his love for the District, his dedication, and his dislike for acronyms. AGM Underwood expressed his appreciation for him.

Jeff Ott (Mr. Ott) expressed that over the years, he has had great conversations with Mr. Eubanks and that his contributions to the history of the District has been invaluable.

Todd Artrip (Mr. Artrip) reminisced on a memory he had of meeting Mr. Eubanks around 16 years ago with a leak in his backyard, where he had to use Mr. Eubanks’

jackhammer. He expressed that he felt Mr. Eubanks was a man of his word and truly believed in what he said, and that he really appreciated all he has done for the District.

Julie Nemitz expressed that she has always appreciated that Mr. Eubanks was on the side of what he felt was right, and would stand by that, and she felt that spoke to his integrity. She expressed that what she admired most was his love for his family.

Dana Dean (Mr. Dean) expressed that he appreciated Mr. Eubanks' integrity and noted that he was a great example of dedication to civic duty and that he appreciated him.

Greg Bundesen expressed his appreciation for Mr. Eubanks' candor and how he challenged staff. He also noted how much he appreciated Mr. Eubanks support for water conservation over the years.

Mr. Eubanks expressed how thankful he was for all of the kind words, and that he appreciated being appreciated. He expressed that he enjoyed his time at the District and that he was glad to know that he made an impact.

8.5 Del Paso Manor Water District Reorganization Discussion

GM York presented the staff report.

Jose Henriquez (Mr. Henriquez), Executive Officer for Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) provided an explanation of why LAFCo was pursuing initiating a dissolution of the Del Paso Manor Water District (DPMWD). He expressed that LAFCo was hoping this could be a collaborative process and that they will give DPMWD 12 months to address the deficiencies, or consider alternative solutions. He additionally pointed out that should DPMWD consider reorganization as a solution, there could potentially be grants they would be eligible for to assist with the infrastructure restorations, noting that the earlier the applications for those grants are submitted, the earlier the funds could be allocated, as it is a first come first serve basis.

Mr. Henriquez answered clarifying questions.

Director Wichert moved to direct staff to schedule a Joint Board Meeting with DPMWD to initiate potential reorganization discussions between the District and DPMWD, intended to be a Board action, and to establish a separate financial category for expenditures in pursuit of this effort going forward so we know what the District is putting out in support of the organization. Director Boatwright seconded the motion.

DPMWD Director Gwynne Pratt commented that she was attending the meeting as a ratepayer of DPMWD, and supported Director Wichert's motion, and added that she was not interested in seeing a dissolution of the DPMWD, and that she supported working with the District to reorganize collaboratively.

Adam Coyan, General Manager of DPMWD, thanked the District for the support they have provided to DPMWD over the years, and expressed he was in support of seeing a voluntary combination of the districts.

Director Locke was in support of the motion, and further recommended amending the motion to include to expedite scheduling a Joint Board Meeting by the first of June if possible.

Directors Wichert and Boatwright both agreed to the amendment.

Clarifying questions were answered.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

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

9. **Sacramento Suburban Water District and Carmichael Water District Collaborative Partnership**

GM York presented the staff report.

Director Locke provided a summary of the Carmichael Water District’s (CWD) Special Board Meeting, noting that it appeared that members of the public were misinformed, and that he felt the CWD Board did not articulate a valid reason for a combination of the two districts well enough to the public.

Director Wichert noted that CWD appeared to be interested in preventing the District from utilizing their water rights, which he felt was a fatal flaw. He added that he felt that a consolidation of the two districts would have resulted in lower rates, which he felt was a compelling reason to consolidate.

Discussion ensued over the Mutual Aid Agreement.

Director Locke was unclear if CWD’s vote to not collaborate with the District included the preexisting Mutual Aid Agreement.

Director Wichert recommended the Board Presidents of each agency get together to discuss the option of another Joint Board Meeting to recertify the Mutual Aid Agreement.

GM York reminded the Board that the Mutual Aid Agreement was already approved and in place.

The majority of the Board was not interested in conducting another Joint Board Meeting.

President Thomas expressed he would reach out to CWD's Board President to discuss mutual aid.

10. **San Juan Water District and Sacramento Suburban Water District Potential to Re-Initiate Combination Discussion**

GM York presented the staff report.

Paul Helliker expressed that San Juan Water District (SJWD) looked forward to any communication from the District.

The Board expressed they were in support of staff drafting a letter to SJWD in support of combination discussions.

Director Wichert expressed there was not a budget for this discussion, therefore he was not in support of it. He additionally pointed out that SJWD had litigation currently pending with Citrus Heights Water District and Fair Oaks Water District.

Tom Gray, General Manager of the Fair Oaks Water District, commented that he was curious about clarification over where the discussions left off, as he felt discussions were suspended due to the need for further discussion with the SJWD wholesale agencies.

General Manager's Report

11. **General Manager's Report**

GM York presented the staff report.

a. *CIP/Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Partnership*
GM York presented the staff report.

b. *Kirby's Pump and Mechanical Update*
GM York presented the staff report.

c. *Del Paso Manor Water District*
GM York presented the staff report.

Department/Staff Reports

12. **Groundwater Well Status Report**

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

Director Wichert requested further information about the Coyle Well.

Mr. Dean expressed staff would provide further information about the Coyle Well at a future Board meeting.

13. **Engineering Report**

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

Director Wichert inquired about a stretching program, and requested an update on the Groundwater Well Asset Management Plan report and how it is progressing on its schedule.

Staff expressed that they would report back on those two items at a future Board meeting.

a. **Major Capital Improvement Program Projects**

A written report was provided.

b. **Planning Documents**

A written report was provided.

c. **Other Projects**

A written report was provided.

14. **Financial Report**

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

a. *Financial Highlights*

A written report was provided.

b. *Financial Statements*

A written report was provided.

c. *Budgets*

A written report was provided.

15. **District Activity Report**

Mr. Artrip presented the staff report.

Information Items

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

Mr. Artrip presented the staff report.

17. **American Water Works Association Competitions**

Mr. Artrip presented the staff report.

18. **Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program – North Watt Avenue Green Means Go**

Mr. Dean presented the staff report.

19. **Upcoming Water Industry Meetings/Conferences**

A written report was provided.

20. **Upcoming Policy Review**

A written report was provided.

a. Water Service Charges and Rate Setting Policy (PL – Fin 009)

b. Technology Use Policy (PL – IT 005)

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

21. a. Regional Water Authority (Director Wichert)

The agenda from the March 14, 2024, meeting was provided.

b. Sacramento Groundwater Authority (Director Boatwright)

The agenda from the April 11, 2024, meeting was provided.

c. Director Reports – AB 1234

Director Thomas provided an oral report of the meeting he had with Director Locke on March 1, 2024; the ACWA Regulatory Committee Meeting he attended on March 4, 2024; the Meeting he had with the General Manager on March 11, 2024; the RWA Board Meeting he attended on March 14, 2024; and the EPA Webinar he attended on March 19, 2024.

Committee Reports

22. a. Carmichael Water District/SSWD 2x2 Committee Meeting (Director Locke)

The Draft Minutes from the March 4, 2024, meeting were provided.

b. Facilities and Operations Committee Meeting (Director Jones)

The Draft Minutes from the March 7, 2024, meeting were provided.

c. Water Banking Committee Meeting

The Draft Minutes from the March 27, 2024, meeting were provided.

Director’s Comments/Staff Statements and Requests

None.

Adjournment

President Thomas adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Dan York
General Manager/Secretary
Sacramento Suburban Water District