



MINUTES

CALAVERAS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 26, 2022

Directors Present: Cindy Secada, President
Scott Ratterman, Vice-President
Bertha Underhill, Director
Russ Thomas, Director
Jeff Davidson, Director

Staff Present: Michael Minkler, General Manager
Rebecca Smith, Special Counsel
Rebecca Hitchcock, Clerk to the Board
Jeffrey Meyer, Director of Administrative Services
Damon Wyckoff, Director of Operations
Jesse Hampton, Plant Operations Manager
Stacey Lollar, Human Resources Manager
Brad Arnold, Water Resources Manager
Jessica Self, External Affairs Manager
Kate Jesus, Engineering Coordinator
Pat Burkhardt, Construction and Maintenance Manager
Charles Palmer, District Engineer
Kevin Williams, Senior Civil Engineer
Tiffany Burke, Administrative Technician Senior
Kelly Richards, Customer Service Supervisor
Catherine Eastburn, Accountant I
Kelly Soulier-Doyle, Accounting Technician II
Corinne Skrbina, Customer Service Senior
Carol Bowen, Customer Service
Kate Darby, Customer Service

Others Present:

Pat McGreevy
Linda Boyd
Andy Pereira
Donald Jensen
Lese Bolte-Jensen
Richard Metcalf
Ellen Metcalf
Hector Varga
Linda Mormon
Daisy Berba
Tim Brussmeau

Ralph Copeland
Marty DeMartini
Connie DeLuca
Vincent DeLuca
Suzanne Davis
Al Segalla

Approximately 25 additional members of the public participated online.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. ROLL CALL

President Secada called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. All Directors were present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lese Jensen addressed the Board regarding some CCWD properties in her area that have dilapidated buildings. She would like this item added to a future agenda.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

**MOTION: Directors Underhill/Davidson-Approved Consent Agenda Items:
3a, 3b, and 3c as presented**

- 3a Approval of Minutes for the Board Meeting of September 28, 2022
(Rebecca Hitchcock, Clerk to the Board)
- 3b Report on the Monthly Investment Transactions for September 2022
(Jeffrey Meyer, Director of Administrative Services)
- 3c Approve the Cancellation of the Board Meetings of November 23 and December 28, 2022
(Michael Minkler, General Manager)

AYES: Directors Underhill, Davidson, Ratterman, Thomas, and Secada

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

4. NEW BUSINESS

- 4c Update on Biosolids Composting
(Michael Minkler, General Manager)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Minkler introduced the item to the Board. He explained that biosolids have been treated through the wastewater treatment process creating something similar to fertilizer. CCWD must truck biosolids all the way to Suisun, CA at a cost of about \$200,000 per year. There have been past discussions about the need for a biosolids facility in Calaveras County. He stated a few months ago, there was an informal discussion between staff and a developer regarding a possible biosolids facility and there were multiple locations in the county discussed. The developer was also talking to the Calaveras County planning department, and they held a hearing to determine if a project like this would be allowed in the public service zoning specification. The developer submitted conceptual design at the CCWD facility in Copperopolis. He explained that no project applications have been submitted and everything is still conceptual. CCWD held a town hall meeting in Copperopolis to address this issue with the public and today it is on the agenda to have the same discussions with the Board. Director Davidson stated that the District used to truck the bio-solids to the Rock Creek dump out in Milton until the County determined the moisture content was too high

and could no longer accept it. He recommended people attend the Board of Supervisors meeting and ask about taking biosolids to the landfill again. Director Thomas would like to discuss the possibility of a biosolids facility adjacent to Rock Creek Landfill. Director Ratterman asked if other agencies would benefit from a biosolids facility in Calaveras County. Mr. Minkler discussed the Phoenix Energy biomass facility that the District is partnered with in West Point. Director Underhill asked how much the District spends on trucking our biosolids to Suisun and Damon Wyckoff explained it was approximately \$200,000 per year. Director Thomas discussed the possible location, stating that Copperopolis would be one of many locations analyzed. Mr. Minkler stated that there has been no decision on this project and there would be a lengthy process that would be open to the public and the Board of Directors would have to approve the action. This was the first time the full Board of Directors have been presented with this topic.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Donald Jensen addressed the Board regarding the potential biosolids facility location. He stated the developer stands to save a lot of money by choosing the Copperopolis location. He discussed the release of PFOA and PFOS during the biosolids processing. He also stated this would negatively affect home values in the area and a petition will be started to stop the project.

Suzanne Davis gave the Directors a printout regarding biosolids and reviewed the toxins that are produced during the biosolids process and stated a facility should not be located anywhere near a water source. She stated that using the fertilizer from these types of facilities is poisoning food.

Hector Vega expressed concern for the biomass plant and would like Copperopolis removed from the potential location list. He is upset about the potential loss of value to the neighboring homes and stated he will fight to keep it from happening.

Al Segalla stated as a real estate broker he did not feel a biomass facility would affect property values as there is already a sewage facility there. He added that composting can be a good thing and a benefit to the ratepayers.

An online participant spoke about an article in the Victorville Daily Press about a fire in a similar facility that has been burning for three months.

Linda Mormon lives near the plant and stated she is allergic to sulfur and would have to move if approved.

A Saddle Creek resident asked about the transport trucks traveling in and out of the area.

Director Secada stated she feels that there is a project in the works even though the District is stating otherwise.

Mr. Minkler responded that any project would have to go through a thorough environmental review about explained how an environmental review works

Cindy Babros discussed the traffic and trucks potentially going into the water and stated farmers need to keep records if they use this type of fertilizer.

Steven addressed the Board regarding the list of potential locations and wants Copperopolis removed.

Mr. Minkler commented that there is no official list of potential locations, and a developer could not get a permit from the County on District property without permission from the CCWD Board of Directors. He added that CCWD has no interest in pushing a project that is harmful to the community.

Director Thomas expressed his appreciation for the public attending the meeting and wants to support the community. He also clarified that a spill at the treatment plant cannot get into Lake Tulloch.

This item was for information only; no action was taken.

RECESS was called at 2:05 p.m. **SESSION RESUMED** at 2:15 p.m.

- 4b Discussion/Action to approve the application for grant funds for South Fork Mokelumne River Watershed Vegetation Management (Jessica Self, External Affairs Manager) **RES 2022-106**

MOTION: Directors Davidson/Ratterman--Adopted Resolution No. 2022-106 Approving the application for grant funds for South Fork Mokelumne River Watershed Vegetation Management

DISCUSSION: Jessica Self stated that the proposed project would reduce hazardous fuels on 438 acres to create a landscape scale fuel break. The project will masticate 31 private parcels (326 acres) and four CCWD properties (112 acres). This project would provide wildfire protection for CCWD's critical infrastructure in the West Point service area as well as the communities of West Point, Sandy Gulch, Wilseyville, Bummerville and Rail Road Flat. The proposed project is an important addition to the Hwy 26 Wildfire Defense System that starts at Lily Gap in the upcountry, runs southwest through Bummerville, and ends in Glencoe. In total, the project would reduce hazardous fuels to increase the span of the Wildfire Defense System to 7.5 air miles. If the Sierra Nevada Conservancy awards CCWD funds for this project, the District would be the fiscal agent. Pat McGreevy from Cal-Am Forestry discussed the terms and timing of the grant.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

AYES: Directors Davidson, Ratterman, Underhill, Thomas, and Secada
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

- 4b Discussion/Action regarding Maintenance and Warehouse Building Project CIP 11101
- Awarding the Construction Contract for Maintenance and Warehouse Building for Tenant Improvements, Project CIP #11101 (Kevin Williams, Sr. Civil Engineer) **RES 2022-107**

MOTION: Directors Davidson/Thomas--Adopted Resolution No. 2022-107 Awarding a Construction Contract for Maintenance and Warehouse Building for Tenant Improvements, Project CIP #11101

DISCUSSION: Kevin Williams presented the next steps on the construction on the Maintenance and Warehouse building. The project finishes the inside of the building to enable staff to move in and work in the building. He reviewed the bid from Plummerbuilt who originally constructed the building. Mr. Williams stated that this design had been previously presented to the Engineering

Committee and explained the budget adjustment needed to move funds from the next fiscal year to the current fiscal year in order to complete the building and prepare for move in. There was discussion about what was included in the bid and the budget amendment. Jeff Meyer, Director of Administrative services addressed the Board regarding the budget amendment and the funds that would be used to pay for it.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

AYES: Directors Davidson, Thomas, Ratterman, Underhill, and Secada
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

- Amending the FY 2022-23 CIP Budget Funding for the Maintenance and Warehouse Building Project, CIP 11101
(Kevin Williams, Sr. Civil Engineer) **RES 2022-108**

MOTION: Directors Ratterman/Underhill–Adopted Resolution No. 2022-108
Amending the FY 2022-23 CIP Budget Funding for the Maintenance and Warehouse Building Project, CIP 11101

DISCUSSION: There was no additional discussion on this item.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

AYES: Directors Ratterman, Underhill, Thomas, Davidson, and Secada
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business

6. **REPORTS**

- 6a Customer Service Report
(Kelly Richards, Customer Service Supervisor)

DISCUSSION: Kelly Richards presented the first Customer Service report out. She reviewed the number of calls, emails, and work orders for the past three months. She spoke about the projects and programs the customer service department is involved in and answered questions from the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ralph Copeland asked about auto pay customers still getting a bill in the mail.

- 6b General Manager's Report
(Michael Minkler)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Minkler reported on the following activities: 1) the MCWRA Water, Wildfire, and Wine event was fantastic and well attended; 2) he gave a presentation about CCWD to the MCWRA Board; 3) the Finance Committee meeting on Monday; 4) the upcoming Engineering Committee meeting; 5) the management team attended a two day writing seminar; 6) a meeting in West Point about the Biomass power plant; 7) UPUD meeting regarding the Slurry Line; 8) the ACWA JPIA Leadership Seminar he is attending; 9) a water outage tomorrow in Copperopolis between 9pm-12am due to a repair; 10) the CPPA rates are going up another 30% in January on top of the 60% it has already gone up; and 11) a meeting with the Valley Springs irrigators.

7. BOARD REPORTS / INFORMATION / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Thomas reported that he thought the MCWRA WWW Event was great.

Director Davidson had nothing to report.

Director Ratterman had nothing to report.

Director Underhill reported the MCWRA WWW Event was terrific. She discussed a fact sheet about the Calaveras Consolidated Fire Protection District.

Director Secada reported she also thought the MCWRA WWW Event was great.

8. NEXT BOARD MEETINGS

- Wednesday, November 9, 2022, 1:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting
- Wednesday, November 23, 2022, 1:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting-**Cancelled**

9. CLOSED SESSION

The meeting adjourned into Closed Session at approximately 3:19 p.m. Those present were Board Members: Cindy Secada, Russ Thomas, Bertha Underhill, Scott Ratterman, and Jeff Davidson; staff members Michael Minkler, General Manager; and General Counsel, Matt Weber.

- 9a Conference with Legal Counsel – Potential Litigation
Government Code §54956.9(b)(1) – 1 case

10. REPORTABLE ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION

The Board reconvened into Open Session at approximately 3:38 p.m. There was no reportable action.

11. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Michael Minkler
General Manager

ATTEST:


Rebecca Hitchcock
Clerk to the Board