

Meiners Oaks Water District

Minutes of MOWD Drought Committee Meeting Held 11/22/2016 and 12/7/2016

Committee: Drought Committee

Meeting Dates: November 22, 2016, at 1:00 pm
December 6, 2016 at 1:00 pm
December 7, 2016 at 9:00 am

Attendance: Mike Hollebrands - GM.
Jim Kentosh - Board President
Diana Engle - Director
Public – None

Topics: Casitas WEAP methodology and rationales, over-allocation fee change and allocations for trailer parks

At 1 pm on November 22, 2016, the Drought Committee met with Ron Merckling at Casitas MWD to discuss the different aspects of the Casitas WEAP. Some of the questions included:

- How was the residential allocation formulated along with lot size determination and why was it limited to 1.99 acres?
- Were multiple dwellings and trailer parks considered?
- Was the property survey done by a third party or in-house?
- What years were considered when developing their base allocation for customers and why were 10 units considered for non-discretionary use and not a lower number?
- With regard to resale agencies, will MOWD have to pay the new, higher (\$5/unit) over-allocation fee next August (2017) for water used starting July 1st, 2016 or would it be pro-rated to the CMWD Board approval date of October 2016 (or some other schedule)?

The meeting was very productive with Ron answering most of our questions except for the last one. Ron stated that allocations were a result the multi-year drought period 1987 -1991 as water demands during that period exceeded the annual safe yield of the lake. In response, Casitas MWD asked its customers for voluntary 20% reduction and allocations based on 80% 1989 -91 usage. The 1.99 acres was used a limit because it was felt that any customers irrigating anything over 1.99 acres were deemed commercial and would be considered a different class and billed at a different rate.

Multiple dwellings were not considered, nor did they consider the number people per household. However, trailer parks were given an allocation of 7 units/mo./trailer that was not susceptible to mandatory reductions.

When Ron was asked about the surveys, he said that it was all done in-house by himself and another staff member taking over a year to complete.

When asked further about the non-discretionary monthly allocations Ron said that their current billing system software could not accommodate the 7 units per month, so they used 10. That determined the non-discretionary portion of the monthly allocation that affects monthly bills.

Ron was not comfortable answering the last question and thought that might be better answered by Steve Wickstrum (GM for Casitas MWD).

On December 6, 2016, at 1 pm James Kentosh and Mike Hollebrands met with Steve Wickstrum at Casitas MWD to discuss the over-allocation fee with these questions; (1) how MOWD would be billed for the over-allocation fees (conservation penalty), (2) would adopting their WEAP be beneficial to MOWD with regard to allocation amount and, (3) if MOWD adopted the WEAP could/would Casitas increase our annual allocation amount?

After much discussion, it was expressed that MOWD has never been charged a conservation penalty and that the goal is that MOWD reduces its consumption by 30% (stage 3) in accordance with the WEAP. The overall thought was that if we adopted the WEAP, it would give the perception that the agencies were on the same page about conservation. Casitas also stated that they were open to an adjustment of our allocation amount using our 2010 – 2012 pumped + purchased numbers (970 AF) or 2013. (1030 AF) This would be our base allocation prior to any drought-stage-related reductions.

For example; if our allocation was 970 AF in stage 1 we would receive 70% of that number (679 AF) in Stage 3. Any amount in excess of that 679 AF we would pay the conservation penalty. With no rain, and if our demand stays at the level that was experienced during the previous 12 months, we would only pay for approximately 13 AF equaling about \$28,000. To date, we have collected over \$29,000 in over-allocation fees from our customers.

The overarching concern expressed by meeting attendees was that if allocations are increased, conservation levels may drop off. Diligence would be the word for the year.

On December 7th at 9 am, the Drought Committee met again to discuss the previous day's meeting with Casitas and other issues.

The committee was relieved for the most part that Casitas was amenable to an allocation adjustment and felt that the proposed above stated numbers would work much better for MOWD and its customers. Casitas asked that the amended allocation number be submitted to them before their January 24th Board meeting.

As part of an ongoing process of evaluation of different approaches for establishing allocations by the Drought Committee members, the committee decided that it would generate a coarse, preliminary comparison of the difference in individual meter allocations calculated using the Casitas WEAP methodology and the allocations we already have that are based on historic 2010-2012 usage. Toward this end, a few dozen properties were selected based on their representativeness of water-use classes within the District, and the Casitas WEAP methodology was applied to those test properties. This is a procedure involving starting with parcel square footage, omitting the dwelling footprint, to determine "irrigable area", and applying the permitted irrigated rates (which are values of gallons/square foot/year for different tiers of square footage) from the WEAP to derive allocations.

Diana also proposed a solution to address our mobile home park allocation issues that seemed to be fair and reasonable. The proposal will be presented as an amendment to the Drought Contingency Plan and included in your agenda packet for the December meeting.

Some language within the Drought Contingency Plan is also being altered to better clarify the Districts intent regarding default minimum allocations. These benign changes occur throughout the document. These edits will be also appear in the edited version of the Drought Contingency Plan that will be included in the agenda packet for the December general board meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 12:00 pm