

Regular Meeting
August 17, 2021
6:00 pm

Meiners Oaks Water District
202 W. El Roblar Drive
Ojai, CA 93023-2211

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Board President, Mike Etchart, at 6:04 pm via teleconference.

2. Roll Call

Present: Board President, Mike Etchart, Board Directors: James Kentosh, Diana Engle, Christian Oakland, and Loni Anderson. Staff Present: General Manager, Justin Martinez. Attorney Present: Stuart Nielson, and Jeanne Zolezzi, Greg Jones (closed session only).

Absent: None.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of July 16, 2021, Special Meeting Minutes

Approval of July 20, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes

Approval of July 28, 2021, Special Meeting Minutes

Approval of August 2, 2021, Special Meeting Minutes

Director Engle made the motion to approve the July 16, 2021, special meeting minutes; July 20, 2021, regular meeting minutes; July 28, 2021, special meeting minutes; and August 2, 2021, special meeting minutes. Director Kentosh seconded the motion.

No public comment.

Engle/Kentosh

Roll Call Vote:

Etchart - Y Engle- Abstain Kentosh - Y Oakland – Y

All Ayes – M/S/C

4. Public Comments

- Ms. Von Gunten was present, provided a statement of attendance.

5. **Elected Official – Oath of Office**

Director Etchart performed the Oath of Office with the newly appointed Director, Loni Anderson, via video conference. Director Anderson to sign the physical form at the District Office.

No public comment.

No motion.

****The Board went into closed session at 6:09 pm****

****J. Zolezzi & G. Jones joined the meeting at 6:10 pm****

6. **Closed Session:** The Board of Directors held a closed session to discuss litigation, pursuant to the attorney/client privilege, as authorized by Government Code Sections §54957 & 54956.8, 54956.9, and 54957.

- State Case: SBCK v. SWRCB, San Francisco Superior Court, Case # CPF-14-513875
- Meiners Oaks Water District v. Moll, Ostling and Ojai Vista Farms 56-2018-00515474-CU-OR-VTA/
- Personnel matters

****G. Jones left the meeting at 6:37 pm & J. Zolezzi left the meeting at 6:53 pm****

****The Board adjourned closed session at 6:58 pm****

Attorney S. Nielson stated that the Board discussed current ongoing litigation and personnel matters in closed session, and no actions were taken.

7. **Financial Matters**

Approval of Payroll and Payables from July 16 to August 15, 2021, in the amount of:

Payables:	\$ 80,317.17
Payroll:	<u>\$ 41,362.83</u>
Total:	\$121,680.00

Director Engle made the motion to the Payroll and Payables from July 16 to August 15, 2021. Director Kentosh seconded the motion.

No public comment.

Engle/Kentosh

Roll Call Vote:

Etchart - Y Engle- Y Kentosh - Y Oakland – Y Anderson - Y

All Ayes – M/S/C

8. **Board Discussion/Actions**

a. **Approval of agreement with MKN & Associates for preparation of a nitrate removal feasibility study. (Kentosh)**

Director Kentosh presented the (attorney reviewed) agreement with MKN & Associates for preparing our nitrate removal feasibility study. The agreement contains standard legal language, project team, scope, schedule, deliverables, and cost.

Director Kentosh made the motion to approve the MKN & Associates agreement for the preparation of a nitrate feasibility study not to exceed \$32,000. Director Anderson seconded the motion.

Public Comment:

Ms. Von Gunten stated that removing nitrates is a good idea.

Kentosh/Anderson

Roll Call Vote:

Etchart - Y Engle- Y Kentosh - Y Oakland – Y Anderson - Y

All Ayes – M/S/C

*****Director Etchart left the meeting at 7:05 pm – Director Kentosh to chair remainder of the meeting*****

b. **Discuss nitrate removal feasibility study goals. (Kentosh)**

Director Kentosh stated that he had prepared a white paper to summarize where the District is at and some short-term goals, not included in the agenda packet. The primary goal of the feasibility study is determine if it is beneficial to remove the nitrates from the groundwater as a backup supply of drinking water. Director Kentosh reported that there may be other potential benefits from removing the nitrates, as it relates to the aquatic environment. Director Engle shared that clear messaging is important, and focus on the supply of clean drinking water for MOWD customers. Additionally, it is important that MOWD discuss potential plans with the UVRGA.

Public Comment:

Ms. Von Gunten recommended addressing the ongoing source of the contamination. She recommended evaluation of the District's carbon footprint as it considers adding additional instruments and equipment. Ms. Von Gunten asked under what context the physical solution was discussed in closed session. Director Kentosh replied the physical solution, as part of the City of Ventura adjudication lawsuit.

No Motion.

c. **Discuss and consider options for Director Compensation, provide direction to staff. (Etchart)**

Director Etchart requested this item be tabled to September 2021.

No motion.

d. Approval of new crane and installation for the new District service truck of \$14,848.56. (Martinez)

Mr. Martinez stated that when the new service truck was ordered last year it was designed for a crane. After evaluation the old crane was found to be unusable. The approved FY 2021-22 budget expenses included \$15,000 for the new crane purchase and installation. Scelzi Equipment quoted the new crane at \$14,848.56.

Director Engle made the motion to approve up to \$15,000 for the new crane purchase and installation. Director Oakland seconded the motion.

No Public Comment.

Engle/Oakland

Roll Call Vote:

Etchart - Y Engle- Y Kentosh - Y Oakland – Y Anderson - Y

All Ayes – M/S/C

e. Allocation Program: (1) Receive update on the billing system configuration progress; (2) Discuss the Artesian (203 E. El Roblar) new allocation and MWAC structure, provide direction to staff. (Ward/Engle)

Ms. Ward shared that the District has a new Tyler technician that is assisting with the required customizations for the annual allocation customers, which was causing the delay in implementation. Additionally, Ms. Ward met with Director Engle to discuss the Artesian account. They requested that the Allocation Committee meet to review and discuss the account allocation; and that the New Meters and Expansion of Services Committee meet to determine the account MWAC fee structure for the Artesian at 203 E. El Roblar. This is a new customer, unique to the District, and does not fit into any of the established categories in the new allocation program. Ms. Ward is to schedule the sub-committee meetings.

No Public Comment.

No motion.

f. Review and approve MOWD information update to include in the customer billing statement for August 31st. (Kentosh)

Director Kentosh presented a draft August bill stuffer to update customers on various topics, such as the ongoing drought, the status of the moratorium on water

disconnections for non-payment, the allocation program, budget and pandemic related matters.

Directors were in consensus that the draft customer update was appropriate and directed Ms. Ward to include with the August billing statements.

No Public Comment

No motion.

9. **General Manager's Report**

Mr. Martinez reported that the Casitas Lake level is down to 35.1%. The District began purchasing Casitas water on July 27, 2021 through the lower connection. Approximately one third of the customers in the District were served and helped to offset demand on the wells. The goal is to purchase less as a whole, fine tuning the zones. Mr. Martinez added that looking forward, it would be beneficial to explore a portable chloramination trailer or other means of blending Casitas and MOWD water. Mr. Martinez stated that the Earth Systems soils report for the Meiners Rd. antenna relocation project is due to arrive within a week, so that the engineering work for the footers can begin. The Field Operators will begin paperless monitoring, expanding the use of the tough pads currently only used for meter reading.

No Public Comment.

10. **Board Secretary's Report**

Ms. Ward presented the monthly Board Secretary report, highlighting that CA Executive Order N-29-20, modifying Brown Act meeting requirements during the pandemic is set to expire September 30, 2021, an update will be provided at the September meeting. The financial audit for FY 19-20 should be ready in draft by September. Delinquent accounts will be impacted by the September 30, 2021 expiration of the CA Executive Order 42-20. Once the order expires, the 2020 SB 998 timeline for customer disconnections due to non-payment will go into effect.

No Public Comment.

11. **Board Committee Reports**

- Executive Committee: No update.
- UVRGA: Director Engle reported that the Draft GSP is out for public review for 60 days. There will be two upcoming workshops hosted by the VC Watershed Council and UVRGA. Director Engle stated that the plan is available on the GSA website, comments can be made through the online comment form. Additionally, the GSA is looking at rates and fees moving forward.
- Budget/Rate Committee: No update.
- Emergency Management Committee: No update.
- Staff Procedures Committee: No update.

- New Meters & Expansion of Services Committee: No update.

12. **Old Business**

- State Water: No update.
- Matilija Dam Removal Update: Work at the Santa Ana bridge continues.
- Nitrate Removal: See Discussion Items 8a & 8b.

13. **Director Announcements/Reports**

- Director Engle: Presented a technical study on algae monitoring at a June 2021 meeting and has been asked to present to the LA Regional Control Board. Director Engle will share the presentation slides with Director Kentosh.
- Director Oakland: No report.
- Director Kentosh: Meeting with OV Sanitation District GM, Jim Palmer, to get information regarding nitrate removal.
- Director Anderson: No report.
- Director Etchart: Not present.

14. **Meeting Adjournment**

There being no further business to conduct at this time, Board Vice President, Jim Kentosh adjourned the meeting at 8:02 pm.

Board Secretary

Board President