

Regular Meeting
November 15, 2022
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 6:02 pm via teleconference.

2. Roll Call

Present: Board President, Mike Etchart, Board Directors: James Kentosh, Christian Oakland, Loni Anderson, and Christy Cooper. Staff Present: General Manager, Justin Martinez, and Board Secretary, Summer Ward. Attorneys Present: Stuart Nielson.

Absent: None

3. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of October 18, 2022, Regular Board Meeting minutes.

Director Cooper made the motion to approve the October 18, 2022, Regular meeting minutes. Director Oakland seconded the motion.

No public comment.

Cooper/Oakland

Roll Call Vote:

Etchart - Y Kentosh - Y Oakland – Y Anderson – Y Cooper - Y

(5) Ayes- M/S/C

4. Public Comments

- None

****The Board went into closed session at 6:04 pm****

5. 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 vs. SWRCB, San Francisco Supreme Court, Case# CPF-14-513875

****The Board adjourned closed session at 6:35 pm****

Attorney S. Nielson stated that the Board discussed pending litigation in a closed session, and no action was taken.

6. **Financial Matters**

Approval of Payroll and Payables from October 16, 2022, to November 15, 2022, in the amount of:

Payables: \$165,017.16

Payroll: \$ 50,208.03

Total: \$215,225.19

Director Oakland made the motion to the Payroll and Payables from October 16, 2022, to November 15, 2022. Director Cooper seconded the motion.

No public comment.

Oakland/Cooper

Roll Call Vote:

Etchart - Y Kentosh - Y Oakland – Y Anderson – Y Cooper- Y

(5) Ayes – M/S/C

7. **Board Discussion/Actions**

a. Approve Resolution 20221115: AB 361 – Brown Act: Remote Meetings During a State of Emergency, subsequent to Resolution 202201018. (Ward)

Ms. Ward presented Resolution 20221115: AB 361 - Brown Act: Remote Meetings During a State of Emergency, subsequent to Resolution 20221018. This resolution must be renewed every 30 days to cover the Committee and the next regular board meetings and will be sunseting in December.

Director Anderson made the motion to approve Resolution 20221115: AB 361 - Brown Act: Remote Meetings During a State of Emergency. Director Oakland seconded the motion.

No Public Comment.

Anderson/Oakland

Roll Call Vote:

Etchart – Y Kentosh – Y Oakland – Y Anderson – Y Cooper – Y

(5) Ayes – M/S/C

b. Notice of Limited Water Availability due to Casitas MWD planned repair on Wed, November 16, 2022, from 6:00 am – 10:00 pm. (Martinez)

Mr. Martinez explained the reason for the notice and its limitations. MOWD has adequate storage to last throughout the repair window. Casitas scheduled a repair of four valves and will need to de-water the main line. The Districts are requesting that customers not irrigate outside during the repair window. Door hanger notices were provided to all Agriculture and high users; the District also had a sign outside the office and as well as on the website,

No Public Comment.

No Motion.

c. Update on Customer request for Drought Surcharge relief of \$3,185.00 due to leak. (Kentosh/Martinez)

Director Kentosh presented a review of the customer request for relief of their \$3,185 drought surcharge, a total of 661 units, presented last month. Director Kentosh, Mr. Martinez, and Ms. Ward met with the customer to review the account's detailed consumption and billing history. It was determined that the leak occurred on the house meter and not the orchard meter. Historically, the orchard meter was classified as Ag; however, the property was not enrolled in VCAILG when implementing the new allocation program. It is recommended that the customer be allowed to enroll in VCAILG and reclassify back to Agriculture for the 8 acres of pixies. Director Kentosh does not recommend waiving or adjusting the drought surcharge. If the Board agrees to allow the customer to reclassify back to Agriculture, the allocation would be adjusted to an annual allocation retroactively to July 1, 2022.

Director Oakland made the motion that subject to enrollment in VCAILG, the customer account would reclassify from RES to AG, and the allocation would be based on the Allocation Program, retroactive to July 1, 2022. Director Cooper seconded the motion.

No Public Comment.

Oakland/Cooper

Roll Call Vote:

Etchart – Y Kentosh – Y Oakland – Y Anderson – Y Cooper – Y

(5) Ayes – M/S/C

d. Approve Will-Serve Letter requests for (1) 235 N. La Luna; (2) 143 S. Padre Juan; (3) 221 N. Poli; (4) 649 S. La Luna. (Kentosh/Martinez) – TABLED

e. Discussion of 50% Treatment Plant Design Plans submitted by MKN Associates. (Kentosh/Martinez)

Director Kentosh provided a summary of the MKN 50% Treatment Plant design plans, specifically cost concerns. The total estimated project cost is \$5,445,000. The focus has been completing the design plans and seeking funding for shovel-ready projects. There was a brief discussion on the requirements for a water treatment plant and the related surface water treatment rule. The Board recommended creating an Ad Hoc Committee for design options and funding. Director Etchart requested that any interested Directors let him know before the next meeting.

No Public Comment.

No Motion.

f. Discussion of draft New Meters & Expansion of Services Policy. (Kentosh/Anderson) – TABLED

g. Ventura LAFCo Ballot for two positions: (1) Regular Special District Member 4 yr term, (2) Special District Alternate Member 4 yr term. (Ward)

Director Etchart introduced the Ventura LAFCo ballots for two positions. Director Kentosh stated that he is familiar with some candidates and would like to make motions for each position.

Director Kentosh made the motion to vote for Raul Avila for the Regular Special District member position. Director Oakland seconded the motion.

No Public Comment.

Kentosh/Oakland

Roll Call Vote:

Etchart – Y Kentosh – Y Oakland – Y Anderson – Y Cooper – Y

(5) Ayes – M/S/C

Director Kentosh made the motion to vote for Mohammad Hasan for the Alternate Regular Special District member position. Director Oakland seconded the motion.

No Public Comment.

Kentosh/Oakland

Roll Call Vote:

Etchart – Y Kentosh – Y Oakland – Y Anderson – Y Cooper – Y

(5) Ayes – M/S/C

h. Discuss MOWD Annual Holiday Dinner, proposed date 12/16/2022 at Agave Maria's Restaurant. (Kentosh/Martinez)

Director Etchart announced it was time to plan the MOWD annual holiday dinner. Staff proposed an initial date of Friday, December 16th, at Agave Maria's. After some Board discussion regarding availability, a new proposed date of Wednesday, December 21st, was given. Ms. Ward will check with staff regarding the new date to ensure the selected date works for most of the Board and Staff.

No Public Comment.

No Motion.

8. General Manager's Report

Mr. Martinez reported that the Casitas Lake level has dropped to 30%, although Casitas is holding off on the decision regarding Stage 4 drought until the new year. The 3rd party should mail out the Income Survey for DAC status any day. GIS mapping data has been processed and is being uploaded to Ziptility. Additionally, Field Operator Michael Neary passed his Treatment 2 certification. Unscheduled work this past month included a water main break on Meyer Rd due to poor bedding.

No Public Comment.

9. Board Secretary's Report

Ms. Ward presented the monthly Board Secretary report highlighting that the UVRGA well registration packets and quarterly data reporting have been submitted. The 2022 SWRCB Water Use reporting is in progress, due by February 1, 2023. The FY 21-22 Financial Audit is in progress. Ms. Ward noted that the increased water rates and penalties are shown in the September and October data lines on the billing table. November 8, 2022, election information is still pending; the current results show Mike Etchart (28.68%), Joe Pangea (25.82%), Jim Kentosh (24.41%), and Helena Pasquarella (21.09%).

No Public Comment.

10. **Board Committee Reports**

- Executive & Personnel Committee: No report.
- UVRGA: Director Etchart stated the GSA met last week, stated it was a short meeting, and there is no update to report.
- Budget/Rate Committee: No report.
- Emergency Management Committee: No report.
- Allocations, New Meters & Expansion of Services Committee: No report.
- Grants: No report.

11. **Old Business**

- State Water: No update.
- Matilija Dam Removal Update: No update.
- Collaboration on drought response measures: Director Kentosh reported that Mr. Martinez met with Mike Flood, and no decision will be made on Stage 4 until January. VRWD will be discussing this with their Board this week.

12. **Director Announcements/Reports**

- Director Kentosh: No report.
- Director Oakland: No report.
- Director Anderson: No report. She stated that it had been a pleasure serving on the Board and working with everyone.
- Director Cooper: No report. She hopes that Director Anderson will attend the Holiday dinner.
- Director Etchart: No report.

13. **Meeting Adjournment**

There being no further business to conduct at this time, Board President Mike Etchart adjourned the meeting at 7:58 pm.

Board Secretary

Board President