

Regular Meeting
September 17, 2024
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 Board President, Mike Etchart, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The meeting was also available via teleconference.

2. Roll Call

Present: Board President, Mike Etchart, Board Directors: Christian Oakland, James Kentosh, Joe Pangea, and Christy Cooper. Staff Present: General Manager, Justin Martinez, Summer Ward, Board Secretary. Attorney Present: Jeanne Zolezzi (closed session only)

Absent: Attorney, Stuart Nielson

3. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of August 20, 2024, Regular Board Meeting minutes.

Director Cooper made the motion to approve the August 20, 2024 meeting minutes. Director Pangea seconded the motion.

No Public Comment.

Cooper/Pangea

(5) Ayes- M/S/C

4. Public Comments

- D. Hill: Stated that it had been a while and wanted to revisit discussions regarding the easement on his property. He is evaluating some changes and would like to discuss options to address the pipes and electrical that run through the easement. Mr. Hill also noted the noise generated by the water pumps. Mr. Martinez will reach out to Mr. Hill to schedule a time to discuss.

****The Board went into closed session at 6:06 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.**

- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—EXISTING LITIGATION

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(Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Gov. Code § 54956.9)

Name of case: *Santa Barbara Channelkeeper v. State Water Resources Control Board, et al.*,
Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 19STCP01176

****The Board ended closed session at 6:59 pm.****

Director Etchart reported that the Board discussed pending litigation, and there are no actions to report.

6. Financial Matters

Approval of Payroll and Payables from August 16, 2024, to September 15, 2024, in the amount of:

Payables:	\$ 52,969.50
Payroll:	<u>\$ 54,974.47</u>
Total:	\$ 107,943.97

Director Oakland made the motion to approve the Payroll and Payables from August 16, 2024, to September 15, 2024. Director Pangea seconded the motion.

No Public Comment.

Oakland/Pangea

(5) Ayes – M/S/C

7. Board Discussion/Actions

a. **Discuss Well 4a Rehabilitation Project bid proposals.**

Mr. Martinez presented the bids received for the Well 4a Rehabilitation project. The original budget was set at \$60,000; however, that estimate did not account for prevailing wages. The District received four bids, including Layne Christiansen Co, General Pump Co, Cascade Well and Pump Co, and Barbour Well Inc. Hopkins Groundwater Consultants expressed the highest confidence in Cascade Well and Pump, \$149,800. Cascade has the specialty equipment to meet the project specifications and has successfully completed similar projects. Due to budgeted funds being less than all bids, the District would need to redistribute funds to complete this project. The total project cost, including the remaining expenses related to Hopkins Groundwater Consultants and Cascade Well and Pump, is \$172,560. Mr. Martinez is requesting discussion and direction from the Board.

Director Cooper asked where costs could be reduced within the project. Mr. Martinez will review expenses with Curtis Hopkins.

Director Kentosh asked why one bid (Barbour) was much lower than the other three. Mr. Martinez will review and report back.

Director Pangea requested clarification on whether the District will be allowed to continue using the well after the rehabilitation. Mr. Martinez stated that the SWRCB will allow continued use. Director Pangea asked Mr. Martinez to confirm the number of jetting days; some of the bids are unclear.

Mr. Martinez will discuss all questions and expenses with Curtis Hopkins and ask him to attend the October meeting.

No Public Comment.

No Motion.

- b. **Call for Nominations for Ventura LAFCo Special District Regular Member and possible adoption of nominating resolution 20240917, should the Board decide to nominate a board member to LAFCo.**

Director Etchart presented the call for nominations for the Ventura LAFCo Special District. No Directors were nominated; therefore, no resolution was adopted.

No Public Comment.

No Motion.

- c. **Receive and file County of Ventura Office of Elections notice of no election for the November 5, 2024 General Election.**

Director Etchart presented the Ventura County Elections Office notice stating that Director Cooper was the only candidate for the two open positions. MOWD will not appear on the November 5, 2024 General Election ballot. The Board will appoint a Director to the remaining open seat at the November meeting.

No Public Comment.

No Motion.

- d. **Approve selling the 2015 Dodge Ram 2500 via GovDeals auction and allocate the funds to the AMI meter budget.**

Mr. Martinez reported that the District's 2015 Dodge Ram 2500 requires another major repair. The transmission is slipping so severely that the vehicle is undrivable. Three mechanics have diagnosed the truck, and all agree that the transmission must be rebuilt or replaced. In 2022, the District replaced the camshaft and lifters, which cost \$6,000. The estimated cost of transmission will be between \$5,265 - \$8,310. The current JD Power average condition value of the truck is \$13,725. With Mr. Maxwell's upcoming one-year leave of absence, his field truck will be available for use, making this repair less urgent. It is recommended that the GM not repair the 2015 Dodge Ram but instead sell the truck as is through GovDeals online auction. The funds from the sale can be applied to the AMI meter budget and hold off on the replacement truck until FY25/26.

Director Kentosh made the motion to approve the sale of the 2015 Dodge Ram 2500 via GovDeals auction and allocate the funds to the AMI budget. Director Oakland seconded the motion.

No Public Comment.

Kentosh/Oakland
(5) Ayes- M/S/C

8. **General Manager's Report**

Mr. Martinez reported that the Casitas Lake level is at 98.5%. The District was challenged to keep the tank levels up during the extreme heat, when temperatures were 110-115 degrees, and the wells did not turn off for ten days straight. The Ventura River is dry under the Hwy 150 bridge, and staff are back to monitoring the leading edge of the river weekly. Red Cross First Aid & CPR training was completed for all staff on 9/11/2024. DDW provided a list of requirements to reactive Well 8; Pete Zepeiro, CIT, is finalizing the proposal to tie Well 8 instruments into SCADA; HACH instrumentation is \$37,567.79. Union Engineers continues work on the Hwy 33 slide. The Treatment Plant Project grant application is still being processed. The Well 4a Rehabilitation Project bids have been received and were presented tonight. Levi Maxwell will be on military leave from 10/11/2024 -10/12/2025. The District had paving work done by Wingate Earthworks on Felix following a service line repair. Staff replaced a leaking AMS valve and service line on S. Lomita, and Gruber Grading completed the paving. Another AMS valve was replaced by staff on S. Rice Rd.

Public Comment.

9. **Board Secretary's Report**

Ms. Ward presented the monthly Board Secretary report. There were no state or local agency reports due in August. Ms. Ward has been working with Nigro & Nigro to prepare the Auditing Services Agreement. 149 service orders were completed in August, within the normal range. Ms. Ward noted that the Director appointment for the open seat will occur at the November regular board meeting.

No Public Comment.

10. **Board Committee Reports**

- Executive & Personnel Committee: Mr. Martinez noted the employee surveys are done and ready to move forward with meetings.
- UVRGA: The September meeting was canceled at the time of the meeting due to illnesses.
- Budget/Rate Committee: No report.
- Emergency Management Committee: No report.
- Allocations, New Meters & Expansion of Services Committee: No report.
- Grants: No report.
- Treatment Plant Design Ad Hoc Committee: No report.

11. **Old Business**

- State Water: No report.
- Matilija Dam Removal Update: GM is waiting on a letter from Ventura County to include with the Treatment Plant grant application.

12. **Director Announcements/Reports**

- Director Kentosh: The OVSD is considering implementing 20% salary increases to help improve recruitment efforts.
- Director Oakland: No report
- Director Pangea: No report
- Director Cooper: No report
- Director Etchart: No report

13. **Meeting Adjournment**

The next meeting will be held on October 15, 2024, at 6:00 pm. There being no further business to conduct at this time, Board President Mike Etchart adjourned the meeting at 7:53 pm.

Board Secretary

Board President