

Regular Meeting
October 15, 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 6:01 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: Stuart Nielson, Jeanne Zolezzi (closed session only)

Absent: None.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Approval of September 17, 2024, Regular Board Meeting minutes.

Director Kentosh made the motion to approve the September 17, 2024 meeting minutes. Director Cooper seconded the motion.

No Public Comment.

Kentosh/Cooper

(5) Ayes- M/S/C

4. Public Comments

None

*****The Board went into closed session at 6:03 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
(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 6:35 pm.*****

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

6. Financial Matters

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

Payables: \$ 60,343.91

Payroll: \$ 56,986.54

Total: \$ 117,330.45

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

No Public Comment.

Oakland/Cooper

(5) Ayes – M/S/C

7. Board Discussion/Actions

a. **Review and approve Well 4a Rehabilitation Project bid proposals.**

Mr. Martinez presented the bids received for the Well 4a Rehabilitation project and introduced Curtis Hopkins, Hopkins Groundwater Consulting. Director Kentosh provided an overview of Well 4a's drilling history, the impact of the drought during well development, and the goal of rehabbing the well. Mr. Hopkins explained the specific methods that were designed for the Well 4a rehab, including a dual swab with a submersible.

Director Oakland asked Mr. Hopkins what the risks of the rehab are for MOWD.

Mr. Hopkins stated that the stainless steel casing is relatively new and unlikely to be damaged during the jetting; the risk is that MOWD spends the money and does not see an increase in water production. The risks for this project are very low.

Director Pangea asked if the screen down in bedrock would be jetted. Mr. Hopkins explained that the well was not designed the way he would have done it, and having the second screen so low down in bedrock would not help with production. The plan is to do one pass of jetting on that screen to clear out debris and organic materials, but not the targeted area for increasing production.

Mr. Martinez explained that MOWD will need to be on Casitas water before, during, and after work for a few weeks due to the chemicals being used. A discharge request was sent to the Ojai Land Conservancy, but Mr. Martinez has not received a response. He may need to create an alternative area on the District property for the good discharge.

Director Cooper requested clarification on the budgeted tasks. Mr. Martinez stated that Task 1 was already approved by the Board and paid to Hopkins Groundwater Consulting; the remaining Tasks 2-4 need to be approved and included in the total project cost. MOWD will contract directly with Hopkins Groundwater and directly with the approved contractor.

Director Kentosh made the motion to approve Cascade Well and Pump Co and authorize the General Manager to execute contracts for a total not to exceed the amount of \$180,000, with appropriate budget adjustments. Director Oakland seconded the motion.

No Public Comment.

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

b. Approve and adopt Resolution 20241015: Auditing Services Agreement with Nigro & Nigro for FYs ending June 30, 2024 – 2026.

Ms. Ward presented the Auditing Services Agreement, prepared by Nigro & Nigro and reviewed by Attorney Stuart Nielson. Additionally, Ms. Ward noted that this firm is California-based, has a working history with other local water agencies, and is within the budget allocation for auditing services. The agreement covers fiscal years ending June 30, 2024 – 2026, with the possibility of extending up to two years.

Staff recommends approving and adopting Resolution 20241015: Auditing Services Agreement with Nigro & Nigro, and authorizing the General Manager to execute the agreement.

Director Cooper made the motion to approve and adopt Resolution 20241015: Audit Service Agreement with Nigro & Nigro. Director Oakland seconded the motion.

No Public Comment.

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

8. General Manager's Report

Mr. Martinez reported that the Casitas Lake level is at 98.2%. Union Engineering continues work on the Hwy 33 slide, and they dug another bench about 40 feet below grade. It appears the tiebacks are done. Mr. Martinez requested an updated timeline for installing the mainline. The Treatment Plant Project grant application is still being processed. Mr. Martinez stated that he is preparing an RFP to clean the bolted water storage tanks. Mr. Martinez met with the property owner of the Meiners Rd easement. The noise was coming

from one of the pumps, which had been pulled and is being repaired. They discussed potential aesthetic blocking for the equipment, such as plants or screens. Mr. Martinez reported that the 2015 Dodge Ram will be listed on the GovDeals auction site this month. Two will-serve letters were issued. Staff reviews are in progress and will be reviewed by the Executive Committee.

Public Comment.

9. **Board Secretary's Report**

Ms. Ward presented the monthly Board Secretary report. The July – September 2024 SWRCB Drought reports will be submitted later this month. Ms. McCleary met with the Ventura County Surveyor Office to research some of the remaining historical grant deeds and easements. The Bureau of Automotive Repair now requires reporting of annual fleet vehicle smog checks. Ms. Ward worked with the Bureau to create a BAR profile and number for MOWD; vehicle's last digit of VINs determines the years each is due to be submitted, either even or odd. The 2009 Ford Ranger and 2013 Dodge Ram initial reports have been submitted; the 2015 Dodge Ram will be submitted prior to December 31 or sale. The annual Ventura County Environmental Health Division CERS (CA Environmental Reporting System) for hazardous materials submission is in progress, with on-site inspection pending and due by December 31, 2024. There were 162 service orders completed in September; 96 were meter re-reads due to abnormal consumption, 8 leak checks, and 29 AMI meter endpoint verifications. The District received a notice of no election; MOWD has two Director seats and one candidate, and MOWD will not appear on the November 5, 2024, ballot. Director Cooper is re-elected for a full 4-year term; the District will appoint the remaining open seat at the November regular meeting.

No Public Comment.

10. **Board Committee Reports**

- Executive & Personnel Committee: The committee has been conducting staff satisfaction interviews.
- UVRGA: Met, routine meeting.
- Budget/Rate Committee: No report.
- Emergency Management Committee: No report, schedule meeting to review procedures and emergency response plans.
- Allocations, New Meters & Expansion of Services Committee: No report, schedule meeting.
- Grants: Director Cooper & Ms. Ward to meet to review the financial package for the grant submission.
- Treatment Plant Design Ad Hoc Committee: No report.

11. **Old Business**

- State Water: No report.
- Matilija Dam Removal Update: No report.

12. **Director Announcements/Reports**

- Director Kentosh: No report
- 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 November 19, 2024, at 6:00 pm. Since there was no further business to conduct then, Board President Mike Etchart adjourned the meeting at 7:48 pm.

Board Secretary

Board President