

HELIX WATER DISTRICT

Setting standards of excellence in public service

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 – 2 p.m.

7811 University Avenue, La Mesa, CA 91942-0427

1. President Verbeke called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. The roll call showed Directors Verbeke, Muse, Hedberg, Linden and Scalzitti present. Director Hedberg left the meeting at 3 p.m.

Staff present: Lugo, Stoia, Hayman, Tomasulo, Umphres, Janzen, Bryant, Olney, Ross, Salois, Masterson, Curtis, Lawler, Schipper, Fox, Uhrhammer and Annett. General Counsel Elizabeth Hull was also present.

At 3 p.m. the boardroom was filled with Helix Water District employees, retirees and the family of James A. Tomasulo in honor of his 15 year service award.

Others present: Customers John L. Wood, Gordon Place, Richard and Donna Bartlett-May, Chaldean American Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Jessica Deddeh and Vista Irrigation District/ California Special District Association Representative Jo MacKenzie.

2. Director Hedberg gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. General Manager Carlos Lugo presented President DeAna R. Verbeke with her 10 year service award. President Verbeke thanked the employees for the work they do.
4. President Verbeke reported there were no additions or deletions to the agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Motion:	Linden
Second:	Hedberg
Vote:	5 ayes

5. President Verbeke provided opportunity for members of the public to address the board on any item under the subject matter jurisdiction of the district. Customer John L. Wood mentioned a councilmember from the city of Lemon Grove is excited to attend the Southern and Northern California Tour sponsored by Helix Water District.

President Verbeke adjourned the meeting to closed session at 2:08 p.m.

President Verbeke adjourned closed session and reconvened open session at 2:24 p.m. stating there was no reportable action taken during closed session.

6. The consent agenda was approved unanimously, with the exception of item 6 e.

Motion:	Linden
Second:	Scalzitti
Vote:	5 ayes

- a) The following operating account checks submitted for ratification were approved:
 - i. list dated March 3, 2015
 - ii. list dated March 10, 2015
- b) Memorandum dated March 18, 2015, from the board secretary submitting expense and per diem claims was approved.
- c) The following minutes were approved:
 - i. regular board meeting of March 4, 2015
 - ii. Lake Jennings Committee/special board meeting of March 11, 2015
- d) The board adopted the following resolutions:
 - i. 15-20 declaring construction complete and authorize filing a notice of completion for Grossmont High School, Humanities Building, Work Order 3067
 - ii. 15-21 declaring construction complete and authorize filing a notice of completion for Grossmont High School, District Offices, Work Order 3732
 - iii. 15-22 declaring the third week of April each year as Native Plant Week in celebration of California's natural heritage of native plants
- e) President Verbeke pulled the attendance consideration for discussion.
- f) The board approved the reports for the month of February 2015:
 - i) Claims report
 - ii) Treasurer's report
 - iii) Budget summary
 - iv) Rainfall, Use and Storage report
 - v) System Demand report
 - vi) Conservation Status report
 - vii) Monthly Demand report

- g) The board rejected a claim submitted by Avocado Homeowners Association in the amount of \$69,664 for the cost of repair to a community pond located in the Avocado Estates on Timberpond Lane in El Cajon.

The board approved the following attendance consideration after a discussion directing staff to provide the Committee of the Board with draft language for review to be included in the policies and procedures manual in regards to compensation for webinar participation. General Manager Lugo verified the policy language was not to increase the total number of allowable meetings per month. The motion passed unanimously.

Save Our Water Campaign
Association of California Water Agencies
March 5, 2015 at 11 a.m.
WebEx Meeting

Motion: Scalzitti
Second: Muse
Vote: 5 ayes

7. The board received an informational PowerPoint presentation from Ambassador Jessica Deddeh of the Chaldean American Chamber of Commerce. Chamber President Ben J. Kalasho was unable to attend the meeting.
8. The board unanimously directed staff to apply for the Special District Leadership Foundation District Transparency Certificate of Excellence. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Hedberg
Second: Scalzitti
Vote: 5 ayes

9. The board received a presentation from Ms. Jo MacKenzie of Vista Irrigation District regarding state membership in the California Special Districts Association. The motion to join CSDA for one year passed 4:1.

Motion: Scalzitti
Second: Hedberg
Vote: Ayes: Verbeke, Hedberg, Linden, Scalzitti. Noes: Muse

Vice President Muse stated CSDA classes can be taken by non-members. Director Linden stated there is duplication in the offerings of the Association of California Water Agencies, CSDA and the information provided by the San Diego County Water Authority. Director Scalzitti stated CSDA offered classes that were beneficial to him when he first started with the district. Director Hedberg stated the CSDA bylaws do not allow agencies to serve on the regional CSDA board of directors unless they are state members of CSDA.

Director Hedberg left the meeting at 3 p.m.

10. The board adopted Resolution 15-23 approving the Memorandum of Understanding with Helix Water District Middle Management Employees' Association, adopted Resolution 15-24 approving the Memorandum of Understanding with Helix Water District Employees' Association and adopted Resolution 15-25 approving the amendments to the policies and procedures manual, Section 8.1, related to said MOUs. The motion passed 4:0.

Motion: Linden

Second: Muse

Vote: Ayes: Verbeke, Muse, Linden, Scalzitti. Absent: Hedberg.

General Manager Lugo stated Customer Gordon Place will be submitting his comments in writing regarding this item. Mr. Place had to leave the meeting prior to board discussion regarding the MOUs.

11. The board authorized staff to utilize Helix Water District's procurement provision (Section 3.2-2 of the Policies and Procedures Manual) to standardize the district's water meters as Badger and Sensus and to procure meters from Badger Meter, Inc. and Sensus authorized distributors. The motion passed 4:0.

Motion: Linden

Second: Scalzitti

Vote: Ayes: Verbeke, Muse, Linden, Scalzitti. Absent: Hedberg.

12. The board authorized staff to amend the as-needed agreement for trucking, hauling and soil separation with McLeod Trucking, of El Cajon for a two-year period, beginning April 3, 2015. The motion passed 4:0.

Motion: Linden

Second: Scalzitti

Vote: Ayes: Verbeke, Muse, Linden, Scalzitti. Absent: Hedberg.

13. The board adopted Resolution 15-26 declaring construction complete and authorized filing a notice of completion for large valve replacement project, Work Order 3998. The motion passed 4:0.

Motion: Linden

Second: Muse

Vote: Ayes: Verbeke, Muse, Linden, Scalzitti. Absent: Hedberg.

President Verbeke adjourned the meeting at 3 p.m. to prepare for the service award.

President Verbeke reconvened the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

14. Director of Engineering James A. Tomasulo received a service award for 15 years of service with the district. He was joined by his family, retirees and co-workers. General Manager Carlos V. Lugo introduced Mr. Tomasulo and provided background information; Mr. Tomasulo introduced his family and thanked the board of directors, Mr. Lugo and employees for the work environment. Director Linden presented the award.

DISCUSSION:

- A. President Verbeke provided a brief drought report.
- B. Director Hedberg provided a written report. Vice President Muse stated the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Authority will be providing a rate adjustment of \$124,177. Director Linden provided a brief drought report.
- C. General Manager Carlos Lugo asked Water Conservation Specialist Michelle Curtis and Finance Manager Jennifer Bryant to provide a drought update. Mr. Lugo provided a report regarding the San Diego County Water Authority General Managers' meeting. Mr. Lugo reported rainfall is 81 percent of average; snowfall is 10 percent of average; Metropolitan Water District will provide a 10 percent water allocation restriction; and desalination softens the restriction to Helix Water District as it is on time and within budget.
- D. General Counsel Elizabeth Hull provided a written report covering the following topics: the Center for Biological Diversity filed a lawsuit alleging United States Department of Interior violated federal law when it issued permits for offshore fracking; the Center for Environmental Science, Accuracy and Reliability filed a lawsuit alleging water treatment plant's ammonia discharges violate the Endangered Species Act; a water briefing is planned for April 9, 2015; Metropolitan Water District's board of directors approved \$5.5 million for drought – related advertising and \$71 million to secure additional supplies of water; Court of Appeals case City of Buenaventura v. United Water Conservation District; State Water Board expanded/extended emergency water conservation regulations; Governor Brown announced appointments to California Water Commission; a homeowners' association sued Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District for improper levying of more than \$6 million in taxes; Metropolitan Water District announced closure of the boat ramp at Diamond Valley Lake.
- E. Board Secretary Sandra L. Janzen reviewed future agenda items stating the Committee of the Board meets on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, at 3 p.m. to review the capital improvement program master plan.

President Verbeke adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.

ATTEST:

Sandra L. Janzen, Board Secretary

DeAna R. Verbeke, President

