



Setting Standards of Excellence in Public Service

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Wednesday, May 19, 2021 – 3 p.m.
7811 University Avenue, La Mesa, CA 91942-0427
Virtual Meeting**

OPEN MEETING

1. Vice President Hedberg served as chair and called the May 19, 2021, regular board meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. The meeting was turned over to Board Secretary Sandra L. Janzen to verify all board members, staff and members of the public could hear one another and that everyone could identify the board members by voice recognition or video image.

The roll call showed a quorum of the board present via electronic conferencing software. Directors Hedberg, Scalzitti, McMillan, Gracyk and Verbeke were present.

Staff present: Lugo, Miller, Tomasulo, Olney, Bryant, Janzen, Schipper, Pope, Lundy, Curtis, MacMaster, Malkin, Valdez, Doubrava and Uhrhammer. General Counsel Elizabeth W. Hull of Best Best & Krieger was also present.

Others present: One unidentified attendee was present.

2. Director Gracyk led the Pledge of Allegiance. No invocation was provided.
3. General Manager Carlos V. Lugo reported there were no additions or deletions to the agenda. There were no public comments. The motion to approve carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion: Scalzitti
Second: Verbeke

PUBLIC COMMENTS

4. Chair Hedberg provided opportunity for members of the public to address the board on any item under the subject matter jurisdiction of the district. There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. The motion to approve the consent agenda carried unanimously by roll call vote. There were no public comments.

Motion: Verbeke

Second: Scalzitti

- a) Memorandum dated May 19, 2021, from the Secretary of the Board Sandra L. Janzen submitting expense and per diem claims was approved.
- b) The board approved the May 5, 2021, regular board meeting minutes.
- c) The operating account checks submitted for ratification were approved:
 - i. Checks dated May 7, 2021
 - ii. Checks dated May 14, 2021

Chair Hedberg referred to page 45 of the board package and verified that Consultant BPM LLP would be providing the board with a full report at a future board meeting regarding penetration testing.

- d) The board adopted Resolution 21-25 authorizing the execution of the quitclaim of a blanket easement over assessor parcel number 503-252-42, in the city of Lemon Grove, county of San Diego, state of California.

ACTION ITEMS

6. The board authorized staff to call for bids and set June 21, 2021 at 10 a.m. as the date and time of the bid opening for the R.M. Levy Water Treatment Plant sewer improvements project CIP19028; determined the project exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act; and approved the project. There were no public comments. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion: Scalzitti

Second: Verbeke

Associate Engineer Jeffrey J. MacMaster provided a PowerPoint presentation and answered all questions with the assistance of General Manager Carlos V. Lugo, Director of Water Quality/System Operations Brian M. Olney and Director of Engineering James A. Tomasulo regarding project scope, the evaluation process for setting the scope, the consultant's evaluation of the various sewer pipeline sections, compliance with the Department of Public Health, and the work schedule based on environmental contingencies.

7. The board adopted Resolution 21-28 awarding a two-year contract for as-needed asphaltic concrete and concrete repair services to the lowest responsible bidder, PAL General Engineering Inc. of San Diego, in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,595,000. There were no public comments. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion: McMillan
Second: Gracyk

Director Gracyk verified the start date of the as-needed contract. Director McMillan clarified that the 10 percent increase over the bid amount was added by staff due to the reported potential volatility of the required work.

8. The board adopted Resolution 21-29 amending the Helix Water District Conflict of Interest Code pursuant to the Political Reform Act of 1974. Board Secretary Sandra L. Janzen detailed that the update was due to modifications to the three job descriptions for the designated positions of field services coordinator, GIS analyst and senior accountant. There were no board or public comments. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion: Verbeke
Second: Scalzitti

REPORTS

9. The board received the reports for the month of April 2021:
 - a) Financial
 - b) Rainfall, Use and Storage
 - c) System Demand
 - d) Monthly Demand
 - e) Conservation Status

Director Gracyk verified there was no measurable rain in April. Chair Hedberg confirmed that the governor declared 41 counties are in a state of emergency due to drought. Director McMillan pointed out that the San Diego region is in excellent shape due to the investments in local water infrastructure.

DISCUSSION

10. President Scalzitti reported the San Diego County Water Authority Board of Directors will meet on May 27, 2021, and that Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is expected to appoint a general manager in June. Both Director Scalzitti and Chair

Hedberg welcomed Engineering Manager Luis Valdez back to the district after serving seven years at Sweetwater Authority. Director Scalzitti thanked Vice President Hedberg for serving as chair while Director Scalzitti is traveling and reported that she did an excellent job during the May 19, 2021 board meeting.

Board Secretary Sandra L. Janzen reported that the district received customer compliments from Mr. Partridge and Ms. O'Brien regarding Valve Maintenance Technician Lonny B. Dill and the Lake Jennings volunteer park hosts regarding their excellent customer service and dedicated hard work.

11. Chair Hedberg, Director McMillan and Director Verbeke provided written reports. Director McMillan reported that the San Diego County Water Authority is expected to focus on rates during the May 27, 2021 board meeting and reported that Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is expected to appoint an excellent general manager. Director McMillan highlighted the costs associated with the East County Advanced Water Purification Project and MWD's approval of a three-year extension for the project's completion. Director McMillan and Director Gracyk reported attending the La Mesa Environmental Sustainability Commission meeting on May 17, 2021 with a focus on decarbonization with a move toward electrification for all new construction due to the city of La Mesa's declaration of a climate emergency.

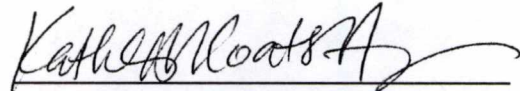
Director Verbeke reported that the Association of California Water Agencies membership meeting went well, that the San Diego River Conservancy is providing grants for projects within the river shed and that the Water Conservation Garden continues to work on finalizing the strategic plan and opportunities to implement an associated work plan. Director Verbeke also reported attending the East County Economic Development Council meeting on May 19, 2021.

Chair Hedberg reported attending the ACWA Joint Powers Insurance Authority meeting on May 10, 2021 and reviewed the impacts of COVID-19, the health insurance market and reviewed the catastrophic loss category. There were no public comments.

12. General Manager Carlos V. Lugo detailed upcoming agenda items for the board meetings scheduled on May 19, June 2 and 16, 2021. Mr. Lugo reported the Finance and Administration Committee will meet on June 9, 2021 at 9 a.m. Director Scalzitti and Mr. Lugo reported the May 25, 2021, East County Advanced Water Purification press event has been delayed due to a scheduling conflict for the Environmental Protection Agency. There were no public comments.
13. General Counsel Elizabeth W. Hull reported she will provide additional information to the board regarding the Kessner ruling. There were no public comments.

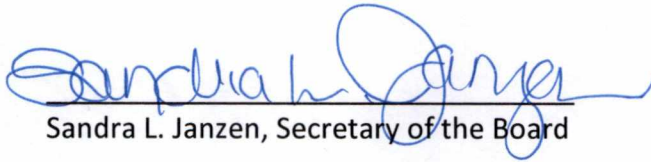
ADJOURNMENT

14. Chair Hedberg adjourned the regular board meeting at 4:05 p.m.



Kathleen Coates Hedberg, Chair

ATTEST:



Sandra L. Janzen, Secretary of the Board