



Setting Standards of Excellence in Public Service

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Wednesday, June 16, 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 June 16, 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, Curtis, Malkin, Doubrava, Ross, Lyford, Berens, Garuba, Dambrose and Uhrhammer. General Counsel Elizabeth W. Hull of Best Best & Krieger was also present.

Others present: Parents, teachers and family members of the poster contest winners attended the meeting.

2. Poster Contestant Stella Stackhouse led the Pledge of Allegiance as President Scalzitti had intermittent connection. 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: Verbeke
Second: Scalzitti

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: Scalzitti
Second: Verbeke

- a) Memorandum dated June 16, 2021, from the Secretary of the Board Sandra L. Janzen submitting expense and per diem claims was approved.
- b) The board approved the following sets of minutes:
 - i. June 2, 2021, regular board meeting
 - ii. June 9, 2021, special Finance & Administration committee meeting
- c) The operating account checks submitted for ratification were approved:
 - i. Checks dated June 4, 2021
 - ii. Checks dated June 11, 2021
- d) The board approved the following attendance consideration:
 - i. American Water Works Association
ACE21 Virtual Conference, June 14-17

PRESENTATION

6. The board recognized the winners of Helix Water District's annual Water is Life calendar poster contest. Public Affairs Supervisor Michelle M. Curtis provided a PowerPoint presentation, introduced all the participants and named the Kindergarten through third grade winners: first place, Sofia Cardenas Loera; second place, Tiffany An; third place, Stella Stackhouse; honorable mentions Lucas Regimbal and Sanora Atoe. Ms. Curtis announced the fourth through eighth grade winners as follows: first place, Kaylee Martin; second place, Valeria Ramirez; third place, Hannah Maass; honorable mention Sarah Cervantes. A board member individually congratulated each contest winner. On behalf of the board, Chair Hedberg congratulated all the participants and thanked the teachers and parents for serving as water conservation ambassadors. Chair Hedberg opened public comments. Miss Sarah Cervantes reported that her participation certificate had the wrong name. Staff assured Miss Cervantes that her winning certificate would include the correct name.

ACTION ITEMS

7. The board authorized General Manager Carlos V. Lugo to execute a sole source two-year professional services agreement with Water Quality and Treatment Solutions Inc. in the amount of \$200,000 for as-needed technical representative services for the East County Advanced Water Purification project. There were no public comments. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion: McMillan

Second: Verbeke

System Operations Manager Michelle P. Berens presented the item and answered all questions with the assistance of General Manager Carlos V. Lugo, Director of Water Quality/System Operations Brian M. Olney and District Counsel Elizabeth W. Hull regarding the firm's national awards, ability to work with other consultants, budget and project reimbursement terms, facts surrounding a sole source contract, the ability to monitor water quality with online instrumentation and dedicated SCADA screens with alarms and a fully vetted communications plan.

8. The board authorized General Manager Carlos V. Lugo to execute a professional services agreement with Rancho Land Company in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for land surveying consulting services on an as-needed basis. There were no public comments. The motion carried 4:0 by roll call vote.

Motion: McMillan

Second: Gracyk

Ayes: Hedberg, McMillan, Gracyk, Verbeke

Absent: Scalzitti

Assistant Director of Engineering Timothy J. Ross provided a PowerPoint presentation and answered all questions regarding company ownership and the compatibility of the software used by the survey company with district programs. Director Scalzitti momentarily lost his virtual connection to the meeting during the vote for action item 8.

9. The board authorized staff to call for bids and set July 15, 2021, at 10 a.m. as the date and time of the bid opening for the large valve replacement project CIP19019; determined the project exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act; and approved the project. There were no board or public comments. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion: Gracyk

Second: Verbeke

Engineering Manager Milica K. Schipper provided a PowerPoint presentation and

answered all questions regarding the two week period the pipeline will be out of service. Director Gracyk verified the project is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act due to the replacement of pipe in place.

10. The board adopted Resolution 21-34 awarding a two-year contract for as-needed janitorial services to the lowest responsible bidder, Stratus Building Solutions, in an amount not to exceed \$300,000. There were no board or public comments. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion: McMillan
Second: Scalzitti

Director of Operations Kevin D. Miller presented this item and answered all questions regarding the broadening of the scope of prevailing wage with the assistance of District Counsel Elizabeth W. Hull. Mr. Miller reminded the board that his item was pulled from the last board meeting agenda due to a recent court case ruling. Mr. Miller confirmed that staff worked with the contractor, confirmed the contract included prevailing wage estimates and that the contractor was comfortable moving forward. General Manager Carlos V. Lugo stated the price increase of 32 percent is greatly due to the length of the last contract and the higher level of service required of the new contractor. Director Gracyk verified that the district's receipt of only one bid was due to the current lack of staff available in the service industry.

11. The board adopted Resolution 21-37 supporting the nomination of Orange County Water District First Vice President Cathy Green as a candidate for the office of Association of California Water Agencies Vice President. There were no public comments. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion: Verbeke
Second: McMillan

Board Secretary Sandra L. Janzen presented the resolution. Director Verbeke and Vice President Hedberg recommended Ms. Green for the office of ACWA Vice President.

12. The board cast its ballot for Incumbent Jo MacKenzie of Vista Irrigation District for the California Special Districts Association Board of Directors 2021 election. There were no public comments. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Motion: McMillan
Second: Hedberg

Board Secretary Sandra L. Janzen presented the ballot. Director McMillan recommended Ms. MacKenzie. Director Gracyk suggested Ms. Green and Ms. MacKenzie join a future

district meeting to introduce themselves and their plans for the new term should they both be elected.

REPORTS

13. The board received the reports for the month of May 2021:

- a) Financial
- b) Rainfall, Use and Storage
- c) System Demand
- d) Monthly Demand
- e) Conservation Status

Chair Hedberg recognized the warmer temperatures with higher water demands.

DISCUSSION

14. Chair Hedberg reported attending the June 9, 2021, Association of California Water Agencies Communications Committee focused on drought, mulch and leak detection. In addition, Chair Hedberg reported attending the June 9, 2021, special Finance and Administration committee meeting with Director Verbeke to meet the district auditor. Chair Hedberg reported attending the East County Advanced Water Purification press conference for President Scalzitti where the ECAWP Joint Powers Authority was awarded a \$388 million Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loan by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Chair Hedberg mentioned attending a members only event at the Water Conservation Garden with membership continuing to increase through the pandemic.

Board Secretary Sandra L. Janzen reported that the district received a customer compliment from Mr. David Canon regarding Valve Maintenance Technicians Morgan K. Blake and Geoffrey M. Menta honoring their detailed and thorough customer service.

15. Chair Hedberg, Directors McMillan, Gracyk and Verbeke provided written reports. Director McMillan reported that he attended three Finance Committee meetings at San Diego County Water Authority with a focus on rates, sales, contracts, new construction and repairs, fixed and variable costs and the financing of capital improvement projects with a vote on the budget expected June 24, 2021. Director McMillan suggested that Director of Administrative Services Jennifer C. Bryant provide a board presentation regarding the potential impact of member agencies leaving the SDCWA. Director McMillan reported attending the June 14-17, 2021, American Water Works Association ACE21 Virtual Conference.

Directors McMillan, Gracyk and Verbeke all reported receiving a presentation by City of Oceanside Director of Water Utilities Cari Dale regarding the Pure Water Oceanside advanced water purification project during the June 15, 2021, Council of Water Utilities meeting. There were no public comments.


16. General Manager Carlos V. Lugo detailed upcoming agenda items for the board meetings scheduled on June 23 and July 7, 21, and 28, 2021. Mr. Lugo reported the Parks, Land, Lakes and Garden Committee will meet on July 1, 2021 at 9 a.m. and the Engineering and Operations Committee will meet on July 14, 2021 at 4 p.m. Mr. Lugo detailed the responses to requests for Water Infrastructure and Innovation Act and American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funding. Mr. Lugo provided an oral report regarding the San Diego County Water Authority budget workshops, confusion over SDCWA's water rate for specific agencies and capital improvement funding. Director of Water Quality/System Operations Brian M. Olney and General Manager Carlos V. Lugo provided an update regarding the recent chlorine shortage, adjusting operations and working regionally with chlorine suppliers and repackagers. Mr. Lugo detailed the options and associated costs with using hypochlorite. Discussion ensued. Mr. Lugo informed the board that the district lobbies will be reopened on June 21, 2021, employees will continue to follow the current pandemic protocols until the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health can be vetted through district counsel and staff. Chair Hedberg verified the district will not require customers to show their vaccination cards. Mr. Lugo reported the new regulations will be implemented by district staff on July 6, 2021. There were no public comments.
17. General Counsel Elizabeth W. Hull reported working closely with staff as the district navigates through the new regulations surrounding the pandemic. There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

18. Chair Hedberg adjourned the regular board meeting at 5:25 p.m.


Kathleen Coates Hedberg, Chair

ATTEST:


Sandra L. Janzen, Secretary of the Board