

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES OF January 14, 2015
1:30 P.M.

President Corneille called the Board Meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 1:30 p.m. All present stood for the pledge of allegiance, led by President Corneille.

ROLL CALL:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard Corneille, President
Melody McDonald, Vice President
David E. Raley, Director
Manuel Aranda, Director
John Longville, Director (Arrival 1:33 p.m./Depart 2:48 p.m.)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

GENERAL COUNSEL PRESENT:

David Cosgrove, Rutan & Tucker, LLP

STAFF PRESENT:

Daniel Cozad, General Manager
Jeff Beehler, Land Resources Manager
Athena Monge, Administrative Services Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT:

Michelle Diamond, Tetra Tech
Christine Goeyvarts, Robertson's
Socorro Pantuleon, Assemblyman Steinorth's Representative

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

President Corneille announced this as the time for any persons present, who so desire, to make an oral presentation to the Board of Directors. Hearing none, the meeting continued with published agenda items.

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There were none.

3. DISTRICT STANDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

This item was taken out of order.

President Corneille introduced this item for discussion. He reviewed the current Committee assignments as found in Appendix B of the Board Policy Manual:

- Finance & Administration: Vice President McDonald, Chair; Director Raley, Member ; and Director Longville, Alternate
- Operations: President Corneille, Chair; Director Aranda, Member; and Director Raley, Alternate
- Outreach & Communications: Director Aranda, Chair; John Longville, Member; and Vice President McDonald, Alternate

President Corneille said he would like to keep the current Committee assignments, unless anyone would like to request a change. The Board concurred with the current Committee assignments remaining the same for 2015.

President Corneille indicated that Appendix C of Board Policy Manual is included in the package for review and did not see any necessary revisions, but asked for Board feedback. Director Aranda inquired about his appointment to the CSDA Professional Development Committee. Ms. Monge indicated that appointment was already approved and that the name is the only thing that will change in Appendix C since it is currently listed under its old name "*CSDA Education Committee*". There were no additional changes suggested. This item is approved by consensus of the Board.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Director Aranda and seconded by Vice President McDonald to approve Consent Calendar Item A: Board Minutes, December 10, 2014 and Item B: Expenditure Report, December 2014. The motion carried 4-0 with all Directors present voting in the affirmative and Director Longville noted absent from the vote.

**President Corneille: Yes
Vice President McDonald: Yes
Director Longville: Absent
Director Raley: Yes
Director Aranda: Yes**

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

A. UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORTS, DECEMBER 2014

It was moved by Director Aranda and seconded by Vice President McDonald to approve the Unaudited Financials for December 2014. The motion carried 4-0 with all Directors present voting in the affirmative and Director Longville noted absent from the vote.

**President Corneille: Yes
Vice President McDonald: Yes**

Director Longville: Absent
Director Raley: Yes
Director Aranda: Yes

B. UPPER SANTA ANA INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL

Mr. Cozad gave a brief overview and noted this item was noticed in local newspapers for two consecutive weeks as required by statute and that Resolution No. 518 is included in the package for adoption and approval. Mr. Beehler presented a PowerPoint presentation. The Executive Summary of the IRWMP was sent out via email and has also been posted with Draft document on the District's website. Mr. Beehler said that the first planning effort for the IRWMP was in 2007 and that within the approved plan it is stipulated that there will be an update to the plan every 5 years. This is a living document and it is changed as required by the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Act (SB 834). The IRWMP gives agencies the opportunity to collaborate and primarily consists of agencies in the upper watershed. The document has been organized to meet DWR 2012 Plan Standards. Mr. Beehler presented a map of the IRWMP boundary which identifies that the collaborative efforts cross county boundaries into the SAR Narrows and City of Riverside. He reviewed the planning process which includes: setting goals, determining needs, develop strategies, implement strategies and obtain results. The specific goals of the IRWMP update are: 1) Improve Water Supply Reliability, 2) Balance Flood Management and Increase Stormwater Recharge, 3) Improve Water Quality and 4) Improve Habitat and Open Space.

President Corneille had requested that Goal 1B) Increase utilization of local supplies by 23,000 AFY be reviewed in further detail. He noted that the total consists of 20,000 AFY of stormwater and 3,000 AFY of recycled water. This would involve projects that could potentially increase storage and recharge primarily along the foothills, and additional utilization of our basins. Additionally discussed was Goal 1C) Increase storage by 10,000 AF; which would increase groundwater storage. The consultant reviewed the projects and came up with the acre feet based on his analysis of the proposed projects that could be implemented over the next five years. President Corneille stated that the plan requires more recharge of both State Water Project and local surface water in wet years and extraction in dry years utilizing the capabilities of our groundwater basin as well as the expanded recharge basins. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Beehler reviewed Goal 4 which consists of the District and its partners implementing the Wash Plan and the invasive work that the District has already performed. He continued review of the plan and noted that the BTAC) has been actively involved in the plan as well as the disbursing of information and keeping watershed agencies up to date on the plan. Mr. Beehler said that the Notice of Availability in addition to being published has been posted at the District and the Draft Plan has been posted on the District website. The District has not received any comments. President Corneille asked if it was appropriate to take action at this meeting since it has only been published for two weeks. Mr. Cosgrove stated that it is permissible to adopt the IRWMP at this meeting since the plan has been well circulated. Mr. Beehler said that every step of the process has been noticed and everyone has had an opportunity to comment throughout the whole update process. It is a well implemented plan and vetted by the stakeholders. President Corneille has read the plan in detail and it was presented in December 2014 to the SBVMWD Advisory Commission on Water Policy. He referred to a handout of a letter written to the Valley District Board of Directors by him as the Commission Chairperson of recommending approval of the plan with two additions. The Commission letter noted that the

draft of the plan did not have recycled water as a specific goal, but now several agencies have proposed the use of recycled water. It also suggested bi-annual status updates to the Commission as a review mechanism to determine if the approved IRWMP is on-track to meet the goals and projects adopted into the plan. President Corneille noted that under the storage program it estimates 62,000 AF of imported water is required by 2030 to meet the average regional demands. Of that 37,000 AF will be stored in our basin making the District a key player in order to have the capability to recharge SWP and local water. The District is listed in the plan and has the largest groundwater facilities in the plan. President Corneille encouraged the Board to review the Executive Summary and report. He asked staff to confirm whether the proper date for the IRWMP update is 2014 or 2015 as indicated in Resolution No. 518. Staff will confirm with the consultant for the plan.

It was moved by Vice President McDonald and seconded by Director Longville to approve the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and related Resolution No. 518 and allow staff to amend resolution to indicate 2014 if necessary. The motion carried 5-0 with all Directors present voting in the affirmative.

**President Corneille: Yes
Vice President McDonald: Yes
Director Longville: Yes
Director Raley: Yes
Director Aranda: Yes**

C. DISTRICT BOARD PRIORITIES

Mr. Cozad introduced this item for discussion. He noted the status of the Board Priorities for 2014 as indicated on package page 36. They are as follows:

- ✓ Item 2: Municipal Service Review has been combined with Item 1
- ✓ Item 11: District of Distinction/Transparency Certificate have been obtained
- ✓ Item 12: Invasive Plant Removal Project are completed and will continue to perform as need therefore this has become a standard process and will not need to remain on the priorities list
- ✓ Item 14: Leasing of Redlands Plaza units are all leased
- ✓ Item 18: Greenspot Road Coordination has been completed
- ✓ Item 20: Support Regional Update has been completed based on today's adoption of the plan

The revised District Board Priorities list for 2015 is shown on package page 35. Mr. Cozad noted that target completion dates have not been completely updated. He stated that staff believes the top priorities are:

- Item 1: Sphere of Influence Reinstatement and MSR
- Item 2, 3, 4: Wash Plan-items
- Plunge Creek Planning and Implementation
- Mill Creek Improvement Design and Construction
- Item 6: Regional Groundwater Sustainability Council

These items are anticipated to take up the majority of staff time and efforts. Staff requested feedback from the Board. Vice President McDonald asked when Item 8: Enhanced Recharge Support SBVMWD/WMWD will break ground. Mr. Cozad stated that SBVMWD is taking a modified delivery approach in which it's split up into two phases. Phase 1 is for items outside the Wash Plan and Phase II cannot begin until the Wash Plan is completed in November. Mr. Cozad said that SBVMWD would like to mobilize for construction as soon as possible. Mr. Beehler said that by redesigning their approach they have taken most of the endangered species out of their plan and will be building in disturbed area; this means less to mitigate. Vice President McDonald indicated that groundbreaking will be a monumental day and should be celebrated publicly. Discussion ensued.

Director Raley indicated that the priorities missing from the list are 1) spreading water and 2) managing our properties. President Corneille indicated that those are priorities but are routine and part of the District's mission and policy principals. The District Board Priorities list contains special projects which have a specific term or date of completion. Director Raley said that the title of the list could be misleading. President Corneille stated that staff should add a mission statement to the document or an introduction. Mr. Cozad said that the District has a mission, vision and priority principles which highlight what we do. He was in agreement with adding a mission statement or introduction to the document to clarify the purpose of the priorities list.

President Corneille asked what Item 12: Support Outreach/Conservation QWEL training is related to. Mr. Cozad provided a handout on the QWEL program selected by the BTAC Conservation Subcommittee. QWEL stands for Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper; these programs were developed to educate landscapers on conserving water. There have been five individuals trained including Mr. Cozad. The QWEL program is a 20 hour program for professional landscapers to become certified in ways to better design, plant and irrigate. The District is the focus agency for QWEL and has submitted the application to be able to teach the course. The partner agencies such as: East Valley Water District, Eastern Municipal Water District, Western Municipal Water District, and City of Loma Linda will be working together to teach the course. A certificate of completion will be given to those participants who successfully pass the QWEL exam. The BTAC Conservation Subcommittee is asking that local agencies request/require their landscapers to be QWEL certified. Director Longville thanked Mr. Cozad for his efforts and expressed appreciation for his successful completion of the training program. He said that most residents do not realize that landscaping is the where most of their water usage comes from; 2/3 of water usage is landscaping. He is appreciative of this program and the focus on conservation sensitivity. President Corneille suggested that we add to the Goals the effort to plan a Community Garden to the priority list as a priority 2 item. This would be to support planning with IERCD for a community garden located on the District's Mentone property. President Corneille also stated that he would like to see the District become more involved in outreach; including its participation in the Highland Citrus Harvest Festival. He indicated that we have a groundwater recharge model that can be utilized at these events and the potential to have a booth at various venues. President Corneille asked Director Aranda if the Outreach & Communications Committee would meet and develop outreach program. However, President Corneille indicated that the District has limited staff; so he is requesting that

Directors participate. Mr. Cozad noted that the District has already committed to support Highland Trails Day in April 2015.

Director Raley requested that a plan be developed for permanent indoor bathroom facilities at the Mentone Shop for field staff. Mr. Cozad said that currently the Mentone house is empty and they are utilizing those facilities for the time being. Field Staff is working on developing a plan for long term. Discussion ensued. Mr. Cozad said that the District will be working on removal of grass from the Mentone house and developing a plan for drought tolerant landscaping before we rent it out. This item will be updated and brought back at the February Board meeting for approval.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS-WITHOUT ACTION

There were no committee meetings held during the past month.

B. WASH PLAN REPORT

Mr. Beehler introduced this item for discussion. The written Wash Plan Report is included in the Board package on page 37 along with maps of proposed invasive grass treatment methods. Staff has met with FWS and finalized the Geodatabase. The first map consists of thinning and has been reduced since it is the most expensive method of treatment. The thinning will be spread over seven years. The materials will be grinded up and utilized on our work areas. For the past few months staff has been working with FWS. Prescribed burning is allowed virtually everywhere and costs 3-4 times less than herbicide treatment. All treatment methods are now being divided up into pieces so that we can budget these costs. There has been a tremendous amount of work performed to complete and identify the methods and areas of treatment. The entire habitat identified within maps has to be burned or flooded regularly as a way of managing habitat. Mr. Cozad stated it's the invasive grasses that cause an issue for the native habitat. The protected native habitats are adapted for fire, but invasive grass is not. Burning will occur in phases and the Wash Plan Task Force and Technical Committee will review and approve final maps. Mr. Cozad indicated that staff is working on scheduling discussions with partners and phasing is still being developed. Mr. Beehler said that we are almost done and ready for FWS to endorse. Discussion ensued. The updated schedule has been handed out to the Board for review and discussion. Mr. Beehler stated that the only unknown is the land transfer. The difficulty in this is that congressional action is needed to move that forward. The Wash Plan can continue and be implemented, up to a point, but at some point the land transfer has to be approved. President Corneille requested staff work on developing the Implementation Agreement in a timely manner for Task Force review. Staff is trying to set up a meeting with Cook and Aguilar's staff to discuss the land transfer and gain authorship support. Congressional action is an uncertainty that can delay the land transfer. This item was received and filed.

C. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Cozad indicated that the written General Manager's Report is included in the Board package on page 43. A copy of the USAWRA charter is included in the package; this item will be discussed at the USAWRA meeting tomorrow and will change the structure of the organization. In regards to the Engineering Investigation Report for 2015, there have been 6 out of 15 producers that have submitted data to date; an update will be provided at the February 11th Board meeting.

Mr. Cozad handed out information on the Regional Groundwater Sustainability Council (GSC). He said that water agencies are expected to participate, however joining is voluntary. The purpose of the committee *"To develop and implement a representative organization to adequately fund basin management to create a sustainable regional groundwater basin in the most fair and equitable manner possible. And to provide a more beneficial alternative to consolidation of the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District."* The GSC participants are listed on the back of handout and include primarily public agencies and independent large producers. Mr. Cozad briefly reviewed the implementation steps: develop concept and options, gain initial feedback and support from Watermaster Collaborative, seek support for new direction, satisfy LAFCO process and document and implement. The GSC is in the early stages of development and staff will answer any questions the Board may have. The overall concept is that each producer pays proportionate to their usage.

Mr. Cozad gave an update on the iEfficient program and provided handout for discussion. The results of the latest survey are that 19.3% of public have heard of iEfficient and 17.5% have heard of Inland Empire Garden Friendly Program. They are putting together a budget for next year and have asked the District to contribute roughly \$500 per month for the interim. Mr. Cozad indicated the program has been successful in raising public awareness on drought and conservation issues. He noted that it is Form 700 time again and requested that everyone have their forms turned into the District by the end of February if possible to allow staff time to do their part prior to final submittal. This item was received and filed.

D. MONTHLY RECHARGE REPORT

The monthly recharge report is included in package page 49. The BTAC Max number is incorrect and will be updated on next month's report. Mr. Cozad indicated that the District has recharged only 1,209 AF since the beginning of the new water year and Mill Creek currently has a flow of 8 CFS. There was a leak in the new levee build by DWR and water had to be rerouted to allow them to rebuild it, but repairs have been completed. Culverts were provided and the contractors have put in an all-weather road across the main canal of Mill Creek west of Garnet.. The total BTAC Max is 123,000 AF in Santa Ana and 73,800 AF in Mill Creek. This report was received and filed.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & STAFF TASKS

Director Raley asked if there are any significant costs for maintaining unutilized basins. He requested that staff factor those costs and bring to the Operations Committee. Vice President

McDonald noted that concurring nominations requests for ACWA should be coming out soon and should be brought to the Board for approval.

7. MONTHLY BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE ACTIVITY REPORTS, AND/OR COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Director Raley attended the Redlands Rise N Shine where they discussed concerns about the rising costs of the annual City inspection fee. He encouraged the District to provide feedback.

Director Aranda attended the CSDA Professional Development Committee in Sacramento. He attended the USAWRA Restructuring Committee meeting at East Valley Water District. Director Aranda feels confident this change in structure will be beneficial to the Association. USAWRA will meet on a quarterly basis, however if any member has a specific item that needs addressed they may request a meeting. Director Aranda attended the SBACC. Additional reports are included in the Board package.

Vice President McDonald attended the BTAC meeting and SBVMWD Board meeting. Additional reports are included in the Board package.

President Corneille attended the SBVMWD Board meeting to provide Advisory Commission IRWMP recommendations. A detailed presentation was made on the Clean Water Factory project by City of San Bernardino Municipal Water Department. President Corneille noted that the District sent out letters to newly elected officials last Friday.

8. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Mr. Cozad said that the State of the County is planned for April 15th and requested Board feedback. The Board expressed interest in attending and full Board and Executive Staff will be rsvp'd. Vice President McDonald noted that March 4th is ACWA Legislative Symposium in Sacramento and said that interested parties should have their travel request in by February for approval. She stated that she will be attending as authorized by her appointment to the ACWA State Legislative Committee.

9. CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Director Aranda and seconded by Vice President McDonald to adjourn to Closed Session. The motion carried 4-0 with all Directors present voting in the affirmative and Director Longville noted absent.

**President Corneille: Yes
Vice President McDonald: Yes
Director Longville: Absent
Director Raley: Yes
Director Aranda: Yes**

General Counsel announced that the meeting will adjourn to closed session under all items posted on the published agenda.

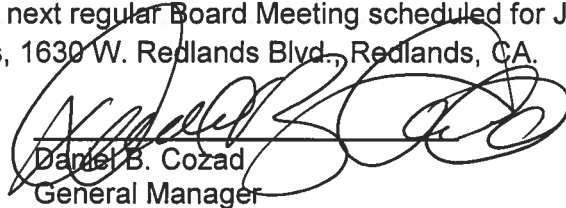
At 4:13 p.m., the meeting reconvened into Open Session. Mr. Cosgrove noted while in Closed Session under Government Code section 54957.1 there was no reportable action taken.

10. ADJOURN MEETING

It was moved by Director Aranda and seconded by Director Raley to adjourn. The motion carried 4-0 with all Directors present voting in the affirmative and Director Longville noted absent.

**President Corneille: Yes
Vice President McDonald: Yes
Director Longville: Absent
Director Raley: Yes
Director Aranda: Yes**

At 4:14 p.m. the meeting adjourned to the next regular Board Meeting scheduled for January 14, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. at District Headquarters, 1630 W. Redlands Blvd., Redlands, CA.


Daniel B. Cozad
General Manager