

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES OF JUNE 8, 2022  
1:30 p.m.

President McDonald called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. by in-person, teleconference, and Zoom meeting. All those in attendance stood for the pledge of allegiance led by President McDonald.

ROLL CALL:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Melody McDonald, President  
Richard Corneille, Vice President  
David E. Raley, Director  
Robert Stewart, Director  
John Longville, Director (Arrival 1:44 p.m.)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Betsy Miller, General Manager  
Milan Mitrovich, Land Resources Manager  
Erwin Fogerson, Senior Engineer/Project Manager  
David Cosgrove, District Counsel  
Athena Laroche, Administrative Specialist  
Angie Quiroga, Administrative Analyst  
Katelyn Scholte, Principal Engineer  
Jazmin Serrato, Intern

GUESTS PRESENT:

David E. Smith, East Valley Water District  
Willow Green, Tetra Tech  
June Hayes, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District  
Paul Kielhold, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District  
Adekunle Ojo, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

President McDonald announced that any person present, who so desired, may make an oral presentation to the Board of Directors. There being none, the meeting continued with the posted agenda items.

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Ms. Miller requested Action Item C: Statement of Investment Policy for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 be pulled from the agenda due to the previous Board action in January 2022. It was the consensus of the Board to remove the item from the agenda.

3. GUEST RECOGNITION/SELF INTRODUCTION

Ms. Miller introduced staff present and President McDonald introduced Board members present. Guests present via Zoom performed self-introductions.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

**It was moved by Vice President Corneille and seconded by Director Stewart to approve the Consent Calendar: Item A: Board Minutes, May 11, 2022 and Item B: Expenditure Report, May 2022. The motion carried 4-0, with all Board members present voting in the affirmative. Director Longville was noted absent from the vote.**

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

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

A. UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT, MAY 2022

Ms. Miller introduced this item for discussion, noting its inclusion on package page 22. She noted that interest income increased, and property tax income and mining royalties income are coming in over budget. Some of the expenses from the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration are also being paid, primarily from GL-5120: Miscellaneous Professional Services and GL-6001: General Administration Other. Director Stewart asked why the property tax income increased. Ms. Quiroga said that the District generally receives slightly more than the County estimates. Mr. Cosgrove indicated that it may be due to the current market being higher than normal. Vice President Corneille asked on item GL-6006: Permits, why it was overbudget. Ms. Quiroga said that it was the Districts costs for state permitting fees for the Wash Plan and is a one time cost. She noted that the single remaining tenant with deferred COVID rent had made their last payment yesterday.

**It was moved by Director Stewart and seconded by Director Raley to approve the Unaudited Financial Reports for May 2022. The motion carried 4-0, with all Board members present voting in the affirmative. Director Longville was noted absent from the vote.**

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

**Director Stewart: Yes**

**B. GENERAL MANAGER RETIREMENT DATE APPROVAL**

Mr. Cosgrove introduced this item for discussion, noting its inclusion beginning on package page 28. It was noted that this action will formally recognize and accept Mr. Cozad's resignation from the District, effective May 18, 2022.

**It was moved by Director Raley and seconded by Vice President Corneille to accept the resignation of the District's retiring General Manager, Daniel Cozad, effective May 18, 2022. The motion carried 4-0, with all Board members present voting in the affirmative. Director Longville was noted absent from the vote.**

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

**C. STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT POLICY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023**

This item was removed from the agenda.

**D. CSDA BOARD ELECTIONS OFFICIAL VOTE**

Ms. Miller noted this item's inclusion beginning packet page 41. She said that staff is requesting direction from the Board on the District's vote for CSDA Board, Seat B, Southern Network. President McDonald recommended voting for Don Bartz of Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District, and provided brief background on him.

**It was moved by Vice President Corneille and seconded by Director Stewart to direct staff to vote for Don Bartz for the CSDA Board, Seat B, Southern Network. The motion carried 5-0, with all Board members present voting in the affirmative.**

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

**E. BIG BEAR WATERMASTER APPOINTMENT OF KATELYN SCHOLTE**

Mr. Cosgrove introduced this item for discussion, noting its inclusion beginning on package page 48. He stated that typically the appointment to the Big Bear Watermaster Committee has been filled by the General Manager, but recommended that Ms. Scholte be appointed to this Committee due to her expertise and experience. He noted the value of her knowledge of water rights, the Watermaster and her instrumental role in the Groudwater Council's development and implementation of the equitable allocation model. Mr. Cosgrove stated that this is a Committee derived from the 1977 North Fork Judgement, which has a multi-agency membership to its Committee. This was created by the court, so

if the District desires to change the staffing it will be required to file a motion with the court to do so. He requests that Ms. Scholte be nominated and approved for the position by the Board, and direct District Counsel to file the motion with the court to have her appointed to the Committee.

**It was moved by Vice President Corneille and seconded by Director Longville to approve the appointment of the District's Principal Engineer, Katelyn Scholte, to serve as the replacement on the Big Bear Watermaster Committee for the District's recently retired General Manager, Daniel Cozad, and direct District Counsel to file necessary paperwork with the court. The motion carried 5-0, with all Board members present voting in the affirmative.**

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

## 6. INFORMATION ITEMS

### A. WASH PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Mr. Mitrovich provided a verbal update on this item. He indicated Spring 2022 fieldwork, performed by District staff and consultants, is completed as of last week. The main focus was conducting San Bernardino kangaroo rat (SBKR) habitat condition surveys and taking soil samples at 100 plots, which took approximately 100 hours over six weeks. Mr. Mitrovich spoke highly of the work performed by the Environmental Biology/GIS interns. He brought soil samples to show the Board and explained the process and purpose. In addition, he said that slender horned spineflower surveys were performed along with assistance of our contractor, Dudek, utilizing a new protocol developed by the District specifically for the Wash Plan. The team counted over 1400 individuals. The results of these surveys will allow us to effectively manage these species and plan appropriate restoration projects. The District will work with the California Botanic Garden to collect spineflower seed for restoration purposes. This item was received and filed.

### B. WASH PLAN TRAILS STATUS REPORT

This item is included on package page 52. Ms. Miller said that there is no progress to report and that staff is awaiting next steps from the City of Redlands. Director Stewart suggested that the District pick the trail with the least species impact for implementation first to expedite the process. This item was received and filed.

### C. ENGINEERING UPDATE

Ms. Scholte introduced this item for discussion, it was included on package page 53. The Mentone Shop kick-off meeting was held on May 10. Staff is still working with the contractor to obtain required bonds so that the architect can begin the design process. The bonds are anticipated to be received this week. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (COE) has requested signed plans for the Mill Creek Diversion Project. Discussion with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) were concluded last week on the Biological Opinion so that portion of the environmental permitting is complete. Staff is waiting for the issuance of the 404/408 permits and working with the Regional Board for the reissuance of the 401 permit. The

Active Recharge Transfer Projects (ARTP) permitting has been obtained with the help of Joanna Gibson of Valley Municipal. There are additional permits required to be obtained from San Bernardino County. A detailed overview is included on package page 53. Vice President Corneille spoke in support of the new written format for the engineering update summary. Director Stewart asked if the geotechnical work was the same permitting process for the fault study. Ms. Scholte indicated that it is. The Board thanked engineering staff for their detailed update. This item was received and filed.

#### D. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT AND MONTHLY RECHARGE REPORT

Ms. Miller reviewed this item shown on package page 54. Staff recently reviewed the current COVID-19 OSHA regulations and have adopted the new provisions and advised staff and the Board that masks are not required at this time. The District will work to update its COVID policies and procedures. Staff reposted the Assistant Engineer position and the recruitment process is ongoing. Ms. Scholte is attending training for wetlands delineation recommended by Mr. Fogerson. Mr. Fogerson said it is a helpful tool to assist in streamlining design. Ms. Miller said that the Groundwater Council met to discuss renewal that is coming up next year. She noted that a trails walk was done with staff, Board members, and the Redlands Conservancy. She thanked Vice President Corneille and Director Stewart for attending. The monthly recharge report is included on package page 59.

#### E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & STAFF TASKS

Vice President Corneille requested that the Operations Committee review the Enhanced Recharge engineering design. He asked for the impact of the Exchange Plan agreement update to be presented to the Board at a future meeting. President McDonald asked for a copy of the aphorisms presented to the Board by Mr. Cozad. She also requested a placeholder on the agenda to review them. Vice President Corneille requested an update on the series of water levels monitoring graph from 2019. Director Stewart asked for an estimate of how many attendees there were at the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

### 7. MONTHLY BOARD MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Director Stewart attended the Groundwater Public Hearing/Board meeting on April 27, Board Meeting and 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on May 11 and Valley Municipal Policy Workshop on May 12 and today's Board meeting.

Director Raley attended the Redlands Rise N Shine on May 6, Board Meeting and 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on May 11, Valley Municipal Policy Workshop on May 12 and Valley Municipal Resources Workshop on May 19. He attended the Redlands Rise N Shine on June 3 and Valley Municipal Board meeting on June 7.

Vice President Corneille attended the Redlands Rise N Shine on June 3 and the Basin Technical Advisory Committee (BTAC) on June 6.

Director Longville attended Valley Municipal Board meeting on June 7.

President McDonald attended today's Board meeting, Valley Municipal Board meeting on June 7 and BTAC. She attended the tour of Shasta Dam June 1-2, ACWA Women in Water on May 26 and Highland Area Chamber of Commerce Luncheon on May 24. She attended the ACWA State Legislative Committee on May 20, Valley Municipal Resources Workshop on May 19, Valley Municipal Board meeting on May 17. She attended the Valley Municipal Policy Workshop on May 12 and Board Meeting and 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on May 11.

8. UPCOMING MEETINGS

There were none discussed.

9. CLOSED SESSION

**It was moved by Director Longville and seconded by Director Stewart to enter into Closed Session. The motion carried 5-0, with all Directors present voting in the affirmative.**

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

Mr. Cogrove announced that the meeting would adjourn to a closed session to discuss all posted agenda items.

At 2:52 p.m. the meeting reconvened into open session. Mr. Cosgrove noted reported that while in Closed Session the Board unanimously authorized staff to acquire equalization parcels one and two from Bureau of Land Management as described in the Wash Plan Land Exchange for a total payment of \$70,0000.

10. ADJOURN MEETING

**It was moved by Director Longville and seconded by Director Stewart to adjourn. The motion carried 5-0, with all Directors present voting in the affirmative.**

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

At 3:45 p.m., the meeting adjourned to the regular Board of Directors meeting scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on July 13, 2022, via Zoom and in-person.

  
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Betsy Miller  
General Manager