

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 12, 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 2:05 p.m.)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Betsy Miller, General Manager
Milan Mitrovich, Land Resources Manager
Katelyn Scholte, Principal Engineer
Laura Torres, Assistant Engineer
Athena Laroche, Administrative Specialist
Angie Quiroga, Senior Administrative Analyst
David Cosgrove, District Counsel
Rebecca Martin, Administrative Assistant

GUESTS PRESENT:

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

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 to move Item B: Operations and Maintenance Manual Update from Committee Reports to Action Items.

3. GUEST RECOGNITION/SELF INTRODUCTION

Ms. Miller introduced staff present, and Board members introduced themselves. President McDonald introduced in-person guests, and guests via Zoom introduced themselves.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Raley requested Item B: Expenditure Report, September 2022, be pulled from the consent calendar for discussion.

It was moved by Vice President Corneille and seconded by Director Stewart to approve the Consent Calendar: Item A: Board Minutes, September 14, 2022, and Item C: Board Policy Manual Revisions Resolution No. 603. 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**

Director Raley requested additional information on the expenditure related to AECOM. Ms. Miller indicated that the AECOM contracts are for 1) state and water permits for the Wash Plan and 2) permits for the District's Mill Creek operations. She noted that a portion of the expenditures for Wash Plan permits are reimbursed by the Wash Plan Task Force. Vice President Corneille asked when the Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck tasks are anticipated to be concluded. Ms. Miller stated that they are expected to conclude following the execution of the Binding Exchange Agreement with the Bureau of Land Management and therefore is being evaluated on a month-to-month basis.

It was moved by Vice President Corneille and seconded by Director Raley to approve the Consent Calendar: Item B: Expenditure Report, September 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. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE VERBAL UPDATE

Vice President Corneille provided a verbal update on the Operations Committee held on October 4. He noted that the Committee received a detailed update on the Enhanced Recharge Project from Valley Municipal staff. Both project design and permitting are nearing completion. Vice President Corneille stated that the project's cost had increased substantially due to inflation and noted that part of the expected funding will be provided through WIFIA loans. Valley Municipal is preparing a draft Operations and Maintenance Manual for this project that will incorporate review and input from our staff. This item will be brought back to the Operations Committee prior to final approval by the Board. The District's Field Supervisor provided a detailed update to the Committee. The District's 2022 Operations and Management Manual was provided to the Committee for review and feedback. Vice President Corneille noted that aggregate is accumulating at the Mill Creek facility, and staff is evaluating solutions for removal of excess materials. Staff provided an update on the Mentone Shop, indicating that the project is underway. The dates of the 2023 Operations Committee meetings have been established.

B. OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT MANUAL UPDATE 2022

President McDonald noted that a link to this document is included on package page 29 and that the document is currently 365 pages in length, not including the appendices. Ms. Miller directed the Board's attention to a handout that outlined the significant revisions made in 2022. Ms. Scholte said that these updates were made to reflect completion of certain projects such as the Wash Plan HCP and Plunge Creek Conservation Project. Other updates included revisions to the descriptions of the Active Recharge Transfer Projects, policies for encampments on District properties, and inclusion of recent information in long-term datasets. Vice President Corneille thanked staff for the detailed update. Director Stewart indicated that he would provide some minor editorial corrections to staff.

It was moved by Director Stewart and seconded by Vice President Corneille to approve the 2022 Operations and Management Manual with non-substantive changes. 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. UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2022

Ms. Quiroga introduced this item for discussion, beginning on package page 30, and noted that Wash Plan members have been billed to reimburse their proportion of fees expended by the District for state permitting. She said that billing for Enhanced Recharge was mailed at the beginning of this month with payment expected to be received by next month. She noted that GL 7210-Computer Hardware budget has not yet to be updated to \$52,858.39 following Board action.

It was moved by Director Raley and seconded by Director Stewart to approve the Unaudited Financial Reports for September 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

D. COST RECOVERY AGREEMENT PAYMENT TO BLM FOR WASH PLAN LAND EXCHANGE

Ms. Miller introduced this item for discussion, noting its inclusion on package page 42. She reviewed the history of this agreement as noted within the memo and discussed the staff recommendation to approve \$35,000 of additional funds as well as ratify payments in the amount of \$51,762. Director Raley asked if the costs included the cleanup from the fuel spill. Mr. Cosgrove noted that BLM staff reimbursement does include review of potential hazards on the lands to be exchanged. President McDonald thanked staff for the detailed breakdown as shown on package page 41.

It was moved by Vice President Corneille and seconded by Director Stewart to ratify \$51,762 paid under the District's Cost Recovery Agreement with BLM from April 22, 2020, through April 21, 2021, and authorize the General Manager to execute a new payment of up to \$35,000 to the Bureau of Land Management under our existing Cost Recovery Agreement for fees associated with processing the Wash Plan land exchange. 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. ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

Mr. Mitrovich provided an update on this item, noting its inclusion on package page 42 to 44. He reviewed the Wash Plan implementation and management activities. Staff has applied for a 2081(a) permit for the Slender-horned Spineflower Restoration Program in order to allow seed bulking to begin this winter. President McDonald asked when we expect to have the permit. Mr. Mitrovich stated that staff is anticipating it will be received within a month. Director Stewart asked if this was a standard permit. Mr. Mitrovich said that this is an established permit for research science supporting and covering endangered plant species as recommended by the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW). The Preserve Management Committee meeting will hold its first meeting here at the District Office tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. with a remote option.

Mr. Mitrovich reviewed the Community Mitigation Program stating that staff has submitted a Long-term Management Plan (LTMP) and property analysis record for the SBCTA project to CDFW as of September 22. He indicated that the LTMP is relatively new; additional information is found on package page 44. President McDonald thanked staff for their extensive work as mentioned within this detailed update. This item was received and filed.

B. WASH PLAN TRAILS STATUS REPORT

Ms. Miller introduced this item for discussion, noting its inclusion on package page 45. She said that we have reached out to both the Cities of Redlands and Highland and are awaiting comments on the five-party agreement. Staff will continue to follow up with our contacts at both cities.

C. ENGINEERING UPDATE

This item is included on package page 46. Ms. Scholte said that the Mentone Shop drawings are in preparation. She indicated that staff met with COE to discuss the original construction of the Mill Creek Diversion. She reviewed the ARTP projects as noted on package page 46. District staff met with new staff at FCD to provide a review of the existing MOU as well as updates on individual projects. The lag time analysis has been reviewed by Flood Control. Oak Creek has completed additional biological surveys and geotechnical testing is scheduled to begin in November. The grain-on-grid model is being developed for Mill, Bledsoe, and Cook Creeks. President McDonald asked if the only area where seismic refraction is occurring in Cook Creek. Ms. Scholte spoke in the affirmative. The Board thanked Ms. Scholte for her detailed report.

D. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT AND MONTHLY RECHARGE REPORT

Ms. Miller reviewed this item starting on package page 47. She said that the new part-time Administrative Assistant, Rebecca Martin, began on October 3. The District will be conducting interviews for the Assistant Biologist position on October 11 and October 13. Ms. Miller thanked the Board for authorizing the ACWA JPIA Essential Leadership Training that she began last week. She stated that Mr. Mitrovich represented our District at the Save Our Water Roundtable. Vice President Corneille and Ms. Miller presented Water Supply and Climate Change: Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future to the Kiwanis Club on September 27. She believes the presentation was well received. President McDonald, Director Longville, and Ms. Miller attended the California H2O Women Conference in Santa Barbara on September 29-30. She has been invited to meet with the habitat ecology team, tour sustainable development projects, and present best practices for partnering with water agencies to the Google infrastructure team in November; final dates are pending. Ms. Miller thanked Mr. Mitrovich for all his hard work completing the LTMP. President McDonald complimented Mr. Mitrovich on the representation he provided at the roundtable discussion. She asked for additional information on the Groundwater Council. Mr. Cosgrove reviewed the formation and purpose in brief. Director Harrison stated that Mr. Cosgrove provided a good update. He said that it is a valuable agreement and a great way to balance the needs of our area and protect everyone's interests. Director Hayes spoke in support of the Groundwater Council.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & STAFF TASKS

The Board requested an overview of the Groundwater Council and the associated Equitable Allocation Model. The Board requested an Outreach Committee meeting and Ad Hoc Trails Committee meeting to be scheduled for the first quarter of 2023.

7. MONTHLY BOARD MEMBER MEETING REPORTS

Director Stewart attended the Finance & Administration Committee on August 3, the Exchange Plan meeting on September 7, and State of the County on October 5. He attended the Operations Committee on October 4.

Vice President Corneille attended ACWA Region 8 on September 12, presented to the Kiwanis Club on September 27, and attended the Operations Committee on October 4. He attended the State of the County on October 5, and Redlands Rise N Shine on October 7.

Director Raley attended the Valley Municipal Board meeting on October 4, Redlands Rise N Shine on October 7, and State of the County on October 5.

Director Longville attended the Valley Municipal Engineering Workshop on October 11, Valley Municipal Resources Workshop on October 6, and Valley Municipal Board meeting on October 4. He attended the California H2O Women Conference in Santa Barbara on September 29-30.

President McDonald attended the California H2O Women Conference in Santa Barbara on September 29-30, Valley Municipal Engineering Workshop on October 11, and the Valley Municipal Resources Workshop on October 6. She attended the Valley Municipal Board meeting on October 4, the Valley Municipal Board meeting on September 20, and the Association of San Bernardino Special Districts Board on September 12. She attended the Valley Municipal Branding Workshop on September 15.

8. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The Valley Municipal Quarterly Forum will be held on October 20 at 9:00 a.m. at the Bear Springs Conference Center, and the first Preserve Management Committee will be held at the District Office on October 13 at 10:30 a.m.

9. CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Vice President Corneille and seconded by Director Longville 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. Cosgrove announced that the meeting would adjourn to a closed session to discuss all items on the posted agenda.

At 4:16 p.m. the meeting reconvened into open session. Mr. Cosgrove noted reported that while in Closed Session, the Board made no reportable action.

10. ADJOURN MEETING

It was moved by Director Raley and seconded by Vice President Corneille 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 4:17 p.m., the meeting adjourned to the regular Board meeting scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on November 9, 2022, via Zoom and in-person.



Betsy Miller
General Manager