

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
the Board of Directors of the Aromas Water District
October 27, 2020**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER.** The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Aromas Water District was called to order by President Holman on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. online via Zoom.
- II. **ROLL CALL.** President Holman, Vice President Leap and Directors Dutra, Norton and Smith were present. Also in attendance were General Manager Robert Johnson, Counsel Bob Bosso, Board Secretary Louise Coombes and Director Elect Vicki Morris.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** President Holman led the pledge of allegiance.
- IV. **STATEMENTS OF DISQUALIFICATION.** There were no disqualification statements.
- V. **ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.** There were no additions to, or deletions from, the Agenda.
- VI. **MINUTES.** The minutes of the September 22, 2020 Board Meeting were presented for review and approval; Vice President Leap moved for approval of the minutes seconded by Director Smith. Minutes were unanimously approved, by roll-call vote, with all Directors present. Director Smith commented that the Minutes are always high quality.
- VII. **ORAL COMMUNICATION.** There were no public comments.

VIII. REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

- A. **Director's Reports.** There were no Director's reports.
- B. **Attorney's Report.** Counsel Bosso mentioned Assembly Bill 992 which is an amendment to the Brown Act, to provide that Board Directors are permitted to answer questions on social media, however, they must abstain from communication or commenting to, or with, one another on Board-related matters as that would constitute a meeting and would therefore violate the Brown Act.

C. Manager's Report

OPERATIONS

Production & Well Levels

GM Johnson reported total production in September 2020 was 11,084,570 gallons, with a daily average of 369,486 gallons per day; the majority was produced by San Juan Well. The overall production this year was on a par with the pre-drought year 2014.

There are 965 connected meters. All water testing continues to be both filed on time and represent satisfactory results. In September, the finished water from the treatment plant showed no trace of iron and manganese.

Reporting on operational well levels, all are currently recharging nicely; Carpenteria Well is up nine feet; San Juan Well was up six feet. Observational well levels; Marshall Well was up four feet; and Aimee Meadows Well was up two feet.

MAINTENANCE

Incidents

No incidents were reported at the time of writing the Manager's Report.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Staff & Board Recognition

ASO Coombes recently upgraded and transferred the emergency phones to a new service with CALNET in line with our existing service, as the old service was becoming obsolete.

AC Girōn completed the annual financial audit with Fedak & Brown and we are awaiting the Audit Report which should arrive before the end of October.

The Operations team continue to replace broken or under-reporting meters as their schedule allows.

GM Johnson thanked the Board for completing their Ethics Training in a timely manner.

The annexation application has been filed for the Cole Road request from Mr Bravo. LAFCo had some issues with certain parts of the application.

Since the Manager's Report was written, the PVWMA AdHoc SGMPC (Sustainable Groundwater Management Planning Committee) have met once and are planning to meet again in early November to devise ways to achieve sustainable groundwater. How this will affect the District's portion of this basin and what can be done to protect it, remains to be seen.

Conservation & Rainfall

October 1, 2020 marks the beginning of the new rainfall year. Since there has been no rainfall, the current total is zero. It looks likely to be a La Niña winter, and therefore less recharge and more pumping.

Projects

Response to COVID-19 Virus

The District continues not to charge late fees and not to implement shut-offs due to non-payment. In addition, there has been no charge levied for the backflow analysis this year, despite Board approval in May 2020.

Ad-Hoc Personnel Committee Meeting

GM Johnson reported that good progress was being made, however, an opportunity with a short deadline for a grant took precedence. The new handbook is tentatively scheduled to be presented at the December Board Meeting.

Technology Upgrade - SCADA

GM Johnson conveyed that the Oakridge portion of the technological upgrade has now been completed; both boosters and the tank are now included in the XiO system. Remaining installations are Carpenteria Well, Rea Tank (Rea and Seely Boosters) and finally San Juan Well.

Orchard Hill Road Proposed Annexation

GM Johnson revealed that the District had not heard from this group within the last six weeks, despite an emailed offer of assistance for a community meeting or reaching out to those who may wish to be included.

GM Johnson is planning to reach out to a few other property owners in that area in the first week of November.

Director Norton questioned if there was a time limit for the temporary water supply? GM Johnson indicated that should the annexation process be under way, the temporary supply would be available through summer 2021, but if there is no interest from the residents, then the supply will be withdrawn within a month.

- D. **Correspondence:** President Holman asked about the emails to and from *R Ely of Willis Construction* and GM Johnson explained that Cole main line runs right in front of Mr Ely's property and he wanted to be sure of clearance for the installation of other utilities.

GM Johnson noted the *Water System Worksheet* for CALFIRE which had been brought up-to-date from the previous version in 2002.

Director Norton queried the *Anzar Bridge Replacement*. GM Johnson needs to do further research to establish whether this bridge is within our sphere of influence. During the meeting, Counsel Bosso checked and the bridge is out of the District's Sphere of Influence.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

- A. **Consider receiving a report regarding the application for grant funds from the CalOES "Community Power Resiliency Allocation for Special Districts Program"**

GM Johnson presented a synopsis of this recent grant offering, due on October 30. GM Johnson has written the grant application to request \$198,500 of the \$300,000 available to obtain a towable generator with custom made cabling to connect to facilities such as wells and booster stations. Updated two-way radio devices and install solar panels with battery backup for the District office. The grant prioritizes disadvantaged communities (DAC), but Aromas is not categorized as such, however, at least 6% of our community (according to 2018 data) live below the poverty level, and they also need to be considered during power outages.

Director Norton moved to receive the report, and the motion was seconded by Director Dutra. With all Directors present, the motion was unanimously passed by roll-call vote.

B. Consider receiving a report regarding the possible provision of a fire suppression connection from the Aromas Water District system to the Red Barn.

GM Johnson made a presentation regarding the provision of fire suppression for the Red Barn. As the Red Barn is already annexed, they are entitled to a 1" residential connection, however, they are requesting a 6" connection to supply the fire suppression sprinkler system. An engineer has been hired, by the Red Barn owner, to assess the feasibility. Underlying the issue is the fact that the only time water would be in demand would be in the event of a fire, and even then, only for around 5-10 minutes before the Fire Department responds.

Director Norton suggested, and Counsel Bosso agreed, that if this project begins to move forward, the Red Barn owner should notify his nearby neighbors. Secondly the engineering cost would also be borne by the Red Barn owner. Mr Sepulvado, the fire suppression contractor representing the Red Barn, was invited to comment. He clarified that the flow rate is double what is required for the fire suppressant system and throughout California such a connection is specifically for fire suppression and never for domestic use. Typically, a quarterly fee is levied in the region of \$75-\$200 depending on the district. The 1" line is not currently needed for fire purposes as there is sufficient supply through current reserves; this may change in the future.

Director Smith raised the point that once the 6" line is granted, is there any opportunity for the owner to use this water for other purposes, but Counsel Bosso asserted that this type of connection is specifically granted to provide for a standby fire suppressant service only.

Director Dutra moved to receive the report, and the motion was seconded by Director Leap. The motion was unanimously passed by roll-call vote with all Directors present.

C. Financial Reports for the Month of September 2020

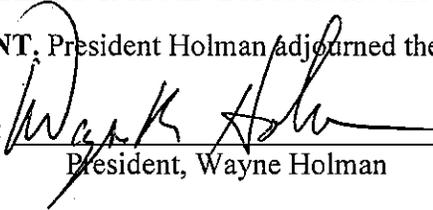
On the **Balance Sheet**, *Total Assets / Liabilities & Equity* are \$11,115,947.90, of which *Total Current Assets* are \$4,585,013.71, and *Total Fixed Assets* are \$6,392,565.19. In *Liabilities*, the *Total Current Liabilities* are \$239,994.35 and *Long-Term Liabilities* are \$4,260,236.84.

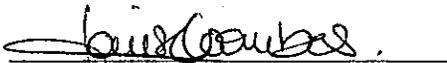
In the **P&L Report**, *Water Revenue* for September was \$144,946.06. The total revenue for July to September exceeded the year to date budget by \$61,578.75. Total **Expenditures** were \$209,700.26 between September 16 and October 20, 2020. A new tool for the Kamstrup meters was purchased to register water usage on a daily basis. The Expenditures this month are higher than usual largely due to the PVWMA quarterly charge plus the invoice for the Carpenteria Well rehabilitation coming out of the same month.

Director Dutra moved to approve the Financial Reports as presented; seconded by Vice President Leap. The Financial Reports were unanimously approved by roll-call vote with all Directors present.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS & AGENDA ITEMS. The next meeting will be on Tuesday November 24, 2020.

XI. ADJOURNMENT. President Holman adjourned the meeting at 8:19pm until Tuesday, November 24, 2020.

Read and approved by: 
President, Wayne Holman

Attest: 
Board Secretary, Louise Coombes

Date: 25 NOV 2020

Date: November 25, 2020

