

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
the Aromas Water District Board of Directors
October 26, 2021**

- I. CALL TO ORDER.** The regular meeting of the Aromas Water District Board of Directors was called to order by President Leap on Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in a hybrid setting; attendees were both present in the Board Room and online via Zoom.
- II. ROLL CALL.** President Leap, Vice President Morris and Directors Dutra, Holman and Smith were present. Also in attendance were General Manager Johnson and Board Secretary Coombes. Counsel Bosso attended via Zoom.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** President Leap 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 28, 2021, Board Meeting were presented for review and approval. Director Smith moved for approval of the minutes as presented; Vice President Morris seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved with all Directors present.
- VII. ORAL COMMUNICATION.** There were no public comments.

VIII. REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

- A. Director's Report(s).** Vice President Morris mentioned that she and Director Smith, with GM Johnson, had attended another Ad-Hoc Infrastructure & Finance Committee Meeting to be discussed later in the Manager's Report. President Leap and Director Smith attended the Cole Road Outreach Public Meeting held by GM Johnson, with Bill Nicholson of LAFCo, in the Aromas Community Grange on October 20, 2021, again, more information in the Manager's Report later in this meeting.
- B. Attorney's Report.** Counsel Bosso reported on a class he recently attended regarding an emerging concern of chemical water contaminants polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). Once baseline levels have been established, additional testing will be mandated in the future.

On October 23, SB 323 was passed. This will likely affect future adoption of rate changes for the District, in that for the next Proposition 218, the period in which rates can be challenged has been reduced from one year to 120 days. The next time the Proposition 218 is distributed, a notification should be included to indicate this shortened statute of limitations.

SB 427 recently passed; this is an ordinance which allows the imposition of direct administrative penalties for water theft resulting from meter adjustment by a customer. Counsel Bosso advises putting an Ordinance in place for this eventuality.

AB 36 has also recently passed. Although this specifically refers to the town of Paradise being able to use Design/Build, which is the selection of an Engineer and Contractor at the outset of a project to run the whole project through to completion. The Design/Build concept may become broader with future legislation.

C. Manager's Report

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

Production & Well Levels

GM Johnson reported total production in September 2021 was 11,376,319 gallons, with a daily average of 379,211 gallons, representing about 16% of total production so far this year. Pleasant Acres was used for seven days, San Juan Well and Carpenteria Wells were both used for the entire month.

Customers are still conserving; compared with current production, there is 14% less than 2013 and 19% less than 2009 production – considering there are now more customers, this is significant.

There were no new meters installed, so the current total is 969 meters connected. All water testing continues to be both filed on time and represent satisfactory results.

Reporting on well levels; Carpenteria Well is up two feet and San Juan Well is up three feet despite the lack of rain so far. The levels for observational wells, Marshall and Aimee Meadows, are up two feet.

INCIDENTS

None to report for September.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Staff & Board Recognition

WUSp Girōn and ASO Coombes helped with the preparations and location setup for the Cole Road Outreach Project Public Meeting on October 20, 2021, discussed later in this report.

CO DeAlba continues on medical leave, although available by phone for consultation if there is an emergency situation; likely to continue until January 2022. Operator Smith continues to work hard to maintain the system alone now that the part-time coverage from Operator Sanchez has come to an end as he has moved out of the area.

Bob Agee and his son assisted the District with the communication issues experienced with Ballantree tanks recently. They have loaned the District equipment to circumvent the issue until a more permanent solution is in place with the XiO equipment.

As mentioned earlier by Vice President Morris, the Ad-Hoc Infrastructure and Finance Committee met recently to discuss the timing and progress of the infrastructure projects; the previously set timeline was condensed as Mr. Feeney's future availability may be reduced; GM Johnson will be speaking with him tomorrow. Once a well design plan is established, that information can be included in a grant application.

The towable generator has been ordered but may take between two weeks to six months to arrive. Two different entities are working on sourcing the Kubota for the District; in the meantime, a Kubota vehicle had to be rented to work on the issues at the Ballantree tanks.

Conservation & Rainfall

The new rainfall year began on October 1, 2021. Up to and including October 19, there was no rainfall recorded at Chittenden pass.

Projects

Orchard Hill Road Proposed Annexation

The Technical Memorandum has been completed by MNS Engineering and was released to the two spokespeople for Orchard Hill, one of which is concerned that the cost for the project (\$1.2 million) may be too prohibitive for many of the other residents. GM Johnson explained that the more people that join the project, the cost per parcel will be reduced. He offered to hold a public meeting to resolve any questions from the local residents.

Cole Road Outreach Project

Approximately 12 residents of Cole Road attended the public meeting at the Grange, as well as Director Smith and President Leap, ASO Coombes and WUSp Girōn. The attendees were positive about moving forward with the annexation. Mr. Nicolson fielded questions related to the LAFCo aspect of the process. Director Smith thought the meeting went well and the multitude of questions were answered satisfactorily. Information regarding an eleven-parcel mutual water system was revealed by one of the attendees. Three of these eleven are adjacent to Cole Road and the remaining eight are along Dorothy Road; the residents were invited to contact GM Johnson with more details. The next step in the annexation process is to get onto the PVWMA Agenda, but this is unlikely to occur until December or even January due to SGMA discussions on their Agenda. If PVWMA agree to allow the District to move forward, a survey and the LAFCo application will ensue.

President Leap expressed some thoughts regarding the potential of a subdivision of three of the parcels, owned by the same resident, which total over 100 acres. The previous owner of these parcels petitioned to develop these parcels for some time in the past, but without water this was not possible.

New Water Source

GM Johnson and Mr. Feeney are to discuss the timeline of this project. An approximate calculation, including the land purchase, the new well, a solar field and a maintenance shop is likely to total at least \$6 million.

Correspondence: GM Johnson explained that to help with the Backflow testing this year, Aldridge Backflow Specialists were employed to test all ninety backflow devices. WUSp Girōn joined Mr. Aldridge to put her recently acquired Backflow certification into practice. GM Johnson also pointed out the request to connect from a property owner on Rocks Road; GM Johnson will be contacting them to discuss possibilities. There was also correspondence regarding the failure of the solar field inverters. Director Dutra expressed concern that the solar panels are not operating at full capacity with the hard water residue and requested staff prioritize cleaning the solar panels.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Consider receiving a report on the status of AB 361 and the requirements for hybrid meetings and adopting Resolution 2021-11.

AB 361 allows a local agency to continue to use teleconferencing under the same basic rules as provided in the previous Executive Order (N-29-20) during the state of emergency induced by the pandemic. It waives certain provisions of the Brown Act related to teleconferencing/remote meetings of a legislative body. Adopting a Resolution to authorize continued hybrid/remote meetings must be done every 30 days until the state of emergency is declared over; currently this is anticipated at the end of the current calendar year.

Director Dutra moved to adopt Resolution 2021-11 as presented; seconded by Director Smith. The Resolution was unanimously adopted, by roll-call vote, with all Directors present.

B. Consider receiving an update on the Board Member Training Plan

Based on the Board Training Plan established in 2018-2019, GM Johnson presented two directions for future training for the Board Members; 1) to continue with the quarterly training schedule that was occurring prior to the pandemic, 2) to take a minor detour on training to attain the qualifying training necessary to achieve the District of Distinction Award awarded by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) through the California Special Districts Association (CSDA). For the latter, the District is already close to having all the requirements to achieve the accreditation; only a few training certificates are needed to fulfill all the requirements.

Vice President Morris moved to receive the report as presented stating that she felt the District of Distinction accreditation to be an important achievement for the District, so to take the second training path to achieve the District of Distinction Award; seconded by Director Smith. The decision was unanimously agreed, with all Directors present.

C. Financial Reports for the Month of September 2021

Total Assets / Liabilities & Equity are \$11,065,443.44, of which Total Current Assets are \$4,941,556.44, and Total Fixed Assets are \$5,982,948.00. In Liabilities, the Total Current Liabilities are \$335,904.84 and Total Liabilities are \$4,432,546.52.

In the P&L Report, Water Revenue for August was \$165,893.89. Total Expenditures were \$141,046.96 between September 23 to October 20, 2021.

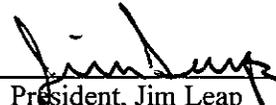
On the graphical representation of the Financials, there is a +14.1% difference for YTD Revenue and -4.7% difference for YTD Expenditures.

Director Dutra moved to approve the Financial Reports as presented; seconded by Vice President Morris. The Financial Reports were unanimously approved, with all Directors present.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS & AGENDA ITEMS. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 23, 2021. The next meeting will be the same hybrid format as this meeting. Topics will include the Teleconferencing Resolution.

It was agreed by all to hold the upcoming regular meetings on the current scheduled dates of November 23 and December 28th, 2021.

XI. ADJOURNMENT. President Leap adjourned the meeting at 8:40pm until Tuesday, November 23, 2021.

Read and approved by: 
President, Jim Leap

Attest: 
Board Secretary, Louise Coombes

Date: 11-23-21

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