

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
the Board of Directors of the Aromas Water District  
November 26, 2019**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER.** The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Aromas Water District was called to order by President Smith on Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at 7:05 p.m. at the District office located at 388 Blohm Ave, Aromas, California.
- II. **ROLL CALL.** President Smith, Vice President Holman and Directors Dutra, Leap and Norton were present. Also in attendance were General Manager Robert Johnson, Counsel Bob Bosso, Board Secretary Louise Coombes and Management Consultant Morris.
- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Vice President Holman led the pledge of allegiance.
- IV. **STATEMENTS OF DISQUALIFICATION.** There were no disqualification statements.
- V. **ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.** There were no additions or deletions to the Agenda.
- VI. **MINUTES.** The minutes of the October 22, 2019 Board Meeting were presented for review and approval; there was one minor correction, but no comments from the Board. Vice President Holman moved for approval of the minutes and Director Leap seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved by all Directors present.
- VII. **ORAL COMMUNICATION.** There were no public comments.

**VIII. REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS**

- A. **Director's Reports.** Director Leap reported that he and President Smith met with GM Johnson and ASO Coombes to review the new Director's Policy Manual. Once this process is complete it will be passed to Counsel Bosso for legal review before the final version is developed and approved by the Board.
- B. **Attorney's Report.** Counsel Bosso reported on the Ramona Woods case in the Supreme Court from last May, the result of which may set a precedent for attacking rate increases despite a lack of protest at the time Proposition 218 was presented.
- C. **Manager's Report**

***OPERATIONS***

One new connection was established in October at the newly annexed Eilert property, bringing the total number of connections to 964.

All water testing continues to be both, filed on time and represent satisfactory results. The finished water from the treatment plant showed no trace of iron and manganese in October, indicating the treatment plant is working correctly.

***Production & Well Levels***

GM Johnson reported total production, in October 2019 was similar to the previous two months of production at around 11 million gallons production, averaging out to a little over an acre foot per day, with the bulk of production from San Juan and Carpenteria Wells; Pleasant Acres was used for five days in October. Total annual production to date is 83,892,315 gallons, with system wide production loss remaining below five percent.

Reporting Operational well levels; Carpenteria Well, San Juan Well were both down one foot. Observation well levels; Marshall Well was also down one foot but Aimee Meadows Well was the same as October.

***MAINTENANCE***

***Incidents***

Three line breaks occurred during October. One on the customer side, although GM Johnson talked the customer through how to turn off the water on their side to minimize water loss. On Chateau Drive, someone had driven into a backflow device. Again, water loss was minimal, although it was discovered that the meters in that box were non-operational, so further investigation is ongoing. The break on Holly Lane was due to the failing of a PVC main line joint. Due to the timing, terrain and lack of leak severity, the repair was scheduled for the following morning and was complete within four hours. The Public Alert system was utilized to inform the majority of the customers affected; once repaired GM Johnson personally called every customer with further advice.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

### ***Staff & Board Recognition***

Office staff are working on the office to increase efficiency and effectiveness with new (used) filing cabinets and new computers, without affecting productivity or the usual office schedule. One PC was non-operational on arrival and took a week for the supplier to correct the situation.

CO DeAlba and GM Johnson continued the Sanitary Survey with the (SWRCB) Engineers; answering questions and researching several items to the SWRCB's satisfaction. The subject of the alterations to the intake of two of the tanks was raised as the original Engineer attended the second visit. A resolution to this issue has now been reached in order to avoid possible external contamination of the water in the tanks.

CO DeAlba and Op Smith neatly completed the Eilert connection with some assistance from West Valley.

### ***Conservation & Rainfall***

Since October 1, 2019, zero precipitation has been recorded.

### ***Projects***

#### **Technology Upgrade for the Office**

GM Johnson commented that with the installation of the new office computers, there is already a noticeable increase in efficiency.

#### **Technology Upgrade for SCADA**

XiO Phase III hardware recently arrived; Operations Staff are working the installation into their schedule. This includes communication with Carr Booster and Tank, a special antenna on Oakridge Tank which picks up the signal on Cole and Carr Tanks and thereby avoids having to install modems on both tanks and the consequent monthly charges.

Vice President Holman queried how the office operated during the recent Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) power outage. GM Johnson outlined that a 7000W generator had been obtained by CO DeAlba with heavy duty cabling providing power to everything except the printer/copier; staff saved documents to PDF for printing later. The generator rental fee was most effective for a week, which meant the generator remained in place in case the PSPS event lasted longer.

GM Johnson reported that during the PSPS, the SCADA computer had difficulties, but CO DeAlba managed to resolve this problem. The Generac generator at Carpenteria Well was in operation during the event, but the San Juan and Pleasant Acres Wells did not lose power due to their location.

#### **Annexation Update for Cole Road**

GM Johnson recently attended the LAFCo meeting to follow the Cole Road annexation process. Mr. Capron and Ms. Rekedal were also in attendance; Ms Rekedal made a statement about their situation at the meeting and the annexation passed. Mr Capron already met with GM Johnson to discuss the timing of the connection. Of the four parcels, one already has a meter but their billing will change now that they are annexed; two are planning to connect soon and the fourth parcel owner is currently using their own well.

- D. **Correspondence:** GM Johnson drew the Board's attention to a number of items regarding the Cole Road annexation; letters of the District's support for groundwater sustainability agency formation grants for San Benito County District Agency and Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency. Follow up correspondence between GM Johnson and K Graff of the SWRCB DDW regarding questions from the recent system sanitary inspection.

Vice President Holman queried the content of the email from J Sweigert, SWRCB regarding Searle Road and Hwy 101; GM Johnson remarked Ms Sweigert had been approached by a property developer, but the details of the inquiry were somewhat vague, so could not really provide answers, however it is likely that the developer is potentially seeking water from the District in the absence of water being obtained from Searle Well due to zone/boundary issues. Director Norton commented that this is likely to be part of the node development plan.

**IX. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Consider receiving a report regarding the proposed rehabilitation strategy for the Carpenteria Well**  
GM Johnson reminded the Board of the issues previously discussed regarding the performance of Carpenteria Well. At the Board Meeting in October, an analysis of the bacterial type was presented; the presence of iron reducing bacteria only indicates no chemical treatment is necessary, only mechanical cleaning.

GM Johnson outlined the steps involved in cleaning the well; removal of pump motor, insert device to brush the well column and perforations; surge pumping; super chlorination; test pump to remove the chlorine prior to reinstalling the District's pump. This was followed by video footage of a similar well cleaning; video will also be taken in the Carpenteria Well prior to, and after, cleaning with a summary.

GM Johnson presented four estimated bids with price differences between the lowest and each of the other contractors recommended by the Consultant Hydrogeologist. The main reasons for the difference in pricing is that the least expensive bid was presented by Maggiora because they own, as opposed to renting, the cleaning equipment, as well as being local to the District.

GM Johnson expressed the urgency of this project due to lower usage in the winter months.

After lengthy discussion amongst all Board members, President Smith directed GM Johnson to move forward in preparing a bid packet from all contractors currently on the list, based on specific parameters to possibly be presented in December or January.

**B. Financial Reports for the Month of October 2019**

On the **Balance Sheet**, *Total Assets / Liabilities & Equity* are \$11,208,272.54, of which *Total Current Assets* are \$4,380,886.99, and *Total Fixed Assets* are \$6,686,935.75. In *Liabilities*, the *Total Current Liabilities* are \$358,004.98 and *Long-Term Liabilities* are \$4,724,423.08.

The total revenue for October was \$122,334.15. Total expenditures were \$158,768.00 between October 16 and November 18, 2019.

In the **P&L Report**, *Water Revenue* for October was \$122,334.15; around 3% less than budgeted.

GM Johnson drew the Board's attention to the connection fee from Mr Eilert, who is now connected.

In Operations, GM Johnson explained that the cost of chlorine has risen by 25% since 2018. Although there are several local chlorine suppliers, their delivery schedule and methods often makes their vendorship untenable. Water Treatment costs will need to be amended at the mid-year budget review.

The power costs for San Juan Well are still high; if Carpenteria Well's production was improved, San Juan Well would be utilized less to reduce the power cost. Alternatively, the ability to have solar power generated elsewhere, but utilized at San Juan Well may be a possibility; GM Johnson will be researching this matter.

In the **Monthly Expenditures**, GM Johnson drew the Board's attention to the purchase cost of the new computers, and the payment of the City National Loan.

Director Leap moved to accept the Financial Reports as presented; seconded by Vice President Holman. The Financial Reports were unanimously approved with all Directors present.

**X. FUTURE MEETINGS & AGENDA ITEMS**

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 7:00pm** at the District Office; 388 Blohm Ave.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT.** President Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:31pm until Wednesday, December 18, 2019.

Read and approved by:   
President, Richard Smith

Attest:   
Board Secretary, Louise Coombes

Date: 12/18/19

Date: December 18, 2019.

