

Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District
Board Meeting Held
November 18, 2009

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held November 18, 2009 at Casitas' Office, Oak View, California. Directors Hicks, Handley, Kaiser, Word and Baggerly were present. Also present were Steve Wickstrum, General Manager, Rebekah Vieira, Clerk of the Board, and Attorney, John Mathews. There were three staff members and one member of the public in attendance. Director Hicks led the group in the flag salute.

1. Public comments.

None

2. General Manager comments.

Mr. Wickstrum reported that there was a good opportunity for the variety of water supplies in the county to be showcased at the AWA tour. The attendees were impressed with the view of the lake upon reaching the crest of the dam. We discussed watershed protection, lake management, treatment, local supply. The staff at the Treatment Plant enjoyed showing their pride and workmanship explaining what they did. He added that we should support this event should it occur again.

3. Board of Director comments.

Director Word mentioned that he and Director Kaiser participated in part of the AWA tour. The attendees were appreciative of the tour and were amazed we had water. It was a diverse group of Ag, Farm Bureau, engineers, attorneys, city, representatives from Capps office. They looked at state water, pumping water and our water. Director Kaiser added that staff and Steve did a great job with their presentations. President Hicks added that AWA was excited about that tour. There was another half bus load that wanted to attend. Director Word added that he heard from a couple involved in the real estate industry and there did not realize that Casitas dam was not on the Ventura River. There is still a lot of misunderstanding on where the water comes from.

4. Consent Agenda

ADOPTED

- a. Minutes of the October 28, 2009 Board Meeting.
- b. Recommend approval of the purchase of a trailer to accommodate the Patrol Boat from Pacific Trailer in the amount of \$6,072.

On the motion of Director Word, seconded by Director Handley and passed, the Consent Agenda was approved.

5. Bills

Director Word asked about #3654 for Casitas Dam Water Rights. Mr. Wickstrum explained that this is the annual fee for water rights that is paid to the state. There is another smaller fee for Matilija also.

On the motion of Director Kaiser, seconded by Director Handley and passed, the bills were approved.

6. Committee/Manager Reports APPROVED FOR FILING

- a. Recreation Committee Minutes
- b. Finance Committee Minutes
- c. Executive Committee Minutes

On the motion of Director Word, seconded by Director Baggerly and passed, the Committee/Manager reports were approved for filing.

7. Recommend appointing a voting delegate for the ACWA General Session on December 1 and if necessary, December 2.

APPROVED

On the motion of Director Word, seconded by Director Baggerly and passed, President Hicks was appointed the voting delegate.

8. Recommend approval of the letter of response to the Steelhead Recovery Plan. The Steelhead Recovery plan may be viewed at http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/recovery/So_Cal/Southern_California_Steelhead_Public_Draft_Recovery_Plan.pdf

APPROVED

Mr. Wickstrum explained that this letter needs to be submitted tomorrow. President Hicks added that it is well thought out and researched with the references to the report. He asked how big the report is. Mr. Wickstrum explained that it is 438 pages and was created over a period of six years. It is very in depth but there are some key critical flaws in that information. We suggest NMFS to focus on where they can get the biggest bang for the buck to recover steelhead. They talk about potential removal of impediments including Casitas Dam. There are socioeconomic impacts and we would like them to evaluate the cost benefit of Coyote versus the main stem of the Ventura River or Santa Clara River. There is not a lot of alternative thinking. They attack impediments which were laid out as Casitas, Matilija, and Cachuma etc. from the Mexican border to the Santa Maria river.

Director Word added that they made no acknowledgement that Robles seems to be working. Mr. Wickstrum added that maybe it was because it is took six years and it was developed before we had the results at Robles. Perhaps there is a bias that says there is a problem at Robles, and they want to remove

Casitas Dam. Director Word asked if there is any plan for where to move the people if the water supply went back to pre 1940's?

Director Baggerly informed the board that he had prepared his own comments and sent them in not as a board member.

On the motion of Director Word, seconded by Director Kaiser and passed, the above recommendation was approved.

9. Initial presentation of the proposed changes to the Rates and Regulations for Water Service.

Direction to Staff

Mr. Wickstrum explained that this is the initial presentation for changes to the Rates and Regulations. We will bring this back at the December meeting for adoption. Many of the changes are a result of things we have run into in the last five years regarding the way we do things. As I went through the document there is a lot of dysfunctionality that needed to be cleaned up. Section 15 is a big hurdle that will have changes at a later date. We do have our functional operations in Rates and Regs. We tried to clean it up and address some critical points that hit us in the last few years such as leak relief. Last year a customer came in for large leak relief. In past we would split the relief but the Rates and Regs did not say it would be split. Lets put down the way we function so a customer coming up would read this and it is how we would handle it. Director Baggerly commented that before John left he tried to put together all the changes together and it was a nightmare to make sense of it. He applauded Steve and Staff for the revision.

On the motion of Director Baggerly, seconded by Director Kaiser and passed, the Rates and Regulations will be presented for adoption at the next meeting.

10. Discussion regarding the Supplemental Ag Rate and consideration for continuance.

Direction to Staff

Mr. Wickstrum explained the Supplemental Ag Rate has 8 customers. It was developed in 1994 through the work of Bob Davis and Mr. Johnson. The idea was to help people with water wells and what encouragement they have to use their wells but not be hit with high meter standby charges on a monthly basis. The contracts are for a five year term. To cancel, we must notify 90 days before the anniversary date of contract. It is time to consider if we want to continue on this rate. The rate has not been looked at since 2002 and has not seen rate increases. The difference in rate for Ag full cost from \$218 af to \$371 af. Power costs have declined. In 2002 was in era of deregulation. 98-09 power costs are less. Don't think that will stay that way. Have to look at it annually. It is time to consider if we continue this or terminate this contract.

Director Word explained that it is an equitability issue of what we are charging everyone else. I can't see how we can do anything other than start action to terminate these contracts and not perpetuate the problem. It is not treating everyone the same.

Director Baggerly added these contracts started in 1995, did they receive allocations? Mr. Wickstrum explained they are all current Ag customers and are part of the 8800 allocation.

On the motion of Director Word, seconded by Director Kaiser and passed, the decision to discontinue the Supplemental Ag rate was approved and authorized for changes to be reflected in the Rates and Regulations document that will be coming back to the board at the next meeting.

11. Information Items:

- a. Monthly Cost Analysis for operation of Robles, fisheries and fish passage.
- b. Recreation Area Monthly Report.
- c. Letter from Ojai Valley Museum regarding the donation to the Native Plant Sale.
- d. Investment Report

12. Adjournment

President Hicks adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Secretary