

Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District
Board Meeting Held
November 12, 2008

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held November 12, 2008 at Casitas' Office, Oak View, California. Directors Word, Hicks, Handley, Kaiser and Baggerly were present. Also present were Steve Wickstrum, General Manager, Carole Iles substituting for Rebekah Vieira, Clerk of the Board, and Attorney, John Mathews. There were two staff members in attendance. President Word led the group in the flag salute.

1. Public Comments.

None

2. Board of Director Comments.

Director Word pointed out that there were only two more Board meetings before the end of the year and suggested that some thought be given to topics for the first of the year organization meeting. He said that Director Hicks and Ron Merckling had given a presentation on Casitas and the Quagga Mussels to his Rotary Club which had been received with interest. Director Hicks observed that it was amazing how many people did not know about the lake turning over.

Director Word reminded everyone about the United Steelhead Public Meeting on Thursday, November 20 starting at 7:15 a.m.

Director Baggerly said he had received an envelope from ACWA on the Washington DC Conference on January 30, 2009. Since no appropriations have been made for Quagga mitigation he suggested making an appointment with some of the legislators for discussion of the matter. Mr. Wickstrum suggested it would be a good point to bring up at December's meeting and to bring it to the attention of Senator Feinstein's office for reinforcement in January

Director Handley expressed his congratulations to the three returning Board Members.

3. General Manager Comments.

Mr. Wickstrum reported that a meeting has been arranged with the Ventura County Grand Jury on Friday, November 21 at 10:30 a.m., directly after the Finance Committee Meeting. He requested that the Finance Committee Meeting start at 8:30 a.m. instead of 9:00 a.m. There will be approximately 14-19 jurors in attendance for information gathering and possibly a tour. He said a Matilija Conduit Agreement was getting closer and hoped to be able to present it to the Board at the next meeting. There had been a proposal to bifurcate the agreement to simplify it and remove the Matilija Restoration Project. The agreement would cover the transfer of the conduit to Casitas and the transfer of Matilija Dam back to the County of Ventura together with the water rights, as stated in the original agreement. The Letter of Intent will state that the parties will follow the intent of the prior

draft agreement in development and negotiation but it will be between Casitas and Ventura County without the City of Ventura being involved.

Mr. Wickstrum said he had not received anything other than a letter from the EPA on the Resource Management Plan regarding their determination that the draft EIS was insufficient in a lot of areas. Recent circumstances indicated that the Forest Service is not acting appropriately and the Bureau will be contacted. It appears that the Forest Service is interpreting clauses in the RMP as if it is existing policy.

4. Consent Agenda

ADOPTED

- a. Minutes of the October 22, 2008 Board Meeting.
- b. Recommendation to designate the President of the Board as the ACWA Voting Delegate.
- c. Recommend approval of a Purchase Order to A.J. Fistes Corp in the amount of \$42,679 for recoating Rincon Main various Underground Vault Appurtenances.

The consent agenda was offered by Director Handley, seconded by Director Kaiser and passed unanimously.

5. Bills

APPROVED

Director Word referenced #09065 to Eric Behrendt, congratulating him on obtaining his Grade 3 certification. Mr. Wickstrum said Ken Grinnell also had completed a Water Treatment Course. Jerry Herrera and Mike Werber had attended an AWWA Conference in Reno, which had never happened in the past, and were excited to obtain a great deal of information. Also, Aaron Wall and Justin Klein had traveled to Las Vegas for a World Waterpark Association Conference. Reports on each will be submitted and it was suggested that certifications be included in the newsletter. Director Word also asked about #0797 to Baron Brothers. Mr. Wickstrum explained that the expenditure was for numerous trees for Campground I and other areas where trees had been lost. Check #00062 to Consolidated Electrical was a budgeted item for the Rincon Pump Plant Variable Frequency Drives. Mr. Wickstrum reported that Casitas is pursuing VFDs and improvements at Rincon Pump Plant with Edison to make them a more stable and efficient operation. Electrical updates are being done as well as taking care of the headers. VFDs with soft starts will eliminate control valves that cause very violent starts. Good improvements are being made.

Mr. Wickstrum confirmed that no copper sulphate was purchased. He reported on a visit from representatives from Clean Lake with a very nice boat, giving some ideas for the \$80,000 boat Casitas will be looking at.

On the motion of Director Hicks, seconded by Director Baggerly and passed, the bills were approved.

6. Committee/Manager Reports

APPROVED FOR FILING

- a. Finance Committee Minutes

- b. Recreation Committee Minutes
- c. Personnel Committee Minutes

Mr. Wickstrum said that the Recreation Committee Minutes for November 3 will be presented at the next Board Meeting. He indicated that items included the Shoreline Cleanup on Saturday, November 22 and discussion of the status of the Concession Agreements. It is likely that the agreements will have to be extended due to scheduling and the RMP. He said a letter has been received from the Center for Earth Concerns indicating that they would like to donate their boat to the Lake Casitas Improvement Foundation, which will be discussed at the LCIF meeting on December 10. He said that staff was interested in using LCIF funds to boost the Family Fun Fishing Day since some of the donations were intended for that purpose.

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

7. Recommendation to adjust salary levels for Distribution positions. APPROVED.

Mr. Wickstrum said that in 2002, Distribution staff were put in parity with Maintenance staff. He said that the responsibilities and liability of the Distribution crew when large pipeline breaks and repairs were involved, including looking for leaks at La Conchita every year, were disproportionate with those of Maintenance. It was proposed that an adjustment be made effective the start of the next pay period. Director Word asked about the indication in the report that there was a comparison with comparable agencies but it was not included. Mr. Wickstrum said that one of the areas looked at with comparable pipelines running through wild territory was East Bay Municipal Water District. Casitas pay scale is actually below theirs. Other Districts such as the City of Oxnard and the City of Ventura, which Casitas is in competition with for employees, are not really comparable. Mr. Wickstrum indicated the increase is approximately 4% on each move. The staff at the top of Distribution 4 will go to middle of the next range and the Distribution 5 will go to the bottom of the next range. Previously, a lateral transfer had received an "oddball" title. That will now be a regular title with the ability to move up. He felt that the new scale was keeping pace with other agencies but noted that different retirement schemes were being offered such as United with 3% at 55.

On the motion of Director Handley, seconded by Director Hicks and passed, the recommendation was approved.

8. Information Items:

- a. Lake Casitas Storage Volume Comparison
- b. Recreation Report for October.
- c. Notice from State Water Project Contractors regarding notification of water allocation for 2009.
- d. Shoreline Clean Up for Lake Casitas Recreation Area scheduled for November 22, 2008.
- e. AWA Holiday event and sponsorship request.
- f. News Articles of Interest
- g. Investment Report.

Mr. Wickstrum asked if there was any interest in a sponsor level for Corporate Night on the Harbor on Thursday, December 11. Director Word said the Board had considered it at the first of the year and it was not included in its commitment. Mr. Wickstrum also reported he had seen a “Thumbs Up” regarding Cathy, a part time employee at the Recreation Area who will be leaving for 4 months after 4 years continuous employment.

9. Closed Session

Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
(Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9)
Name of Case: Casitas Municipal Water District v. United States

President Word moved the meeting to closed session at 5:05 p.m.

10. Reconvene Open Session

President Word reconvened the meeting to open session at 5:20 p.m. Counsel gave a status update on the case and was directed to contact Appeals Counsel to work out an agreement for legal fees.

11. Adjournment

President Word adjourned the meeting at 5:21 p.m.

Secretary