

Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District  
Board Meeting Held  
February 8, 2017

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held February 8, 2017 at the Casitas Municipal Water District located at 1055 Ventura Ave. in Oak View, California. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. Directors Baggerly, Word, Hicks, Bergen and Kaiser 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 three members of the public in attendance. President Baggerly led the group in the flag salute.

1. Public Comments (items not on the agenda – three minute limit).

Angelo Spandrio asked for an update to be provided on the HoBo project as it had been about eight weeks since the project was awarded. Mr. Wickstrum explained that an update could be provided at a future meeting.

2. General Manager comments.

Mr. Wickstrum reported that we have been busy keeping everybody informed on what is happening at Robles Diversion Dam. We hope to have a good and thorough article in the Ojai Valley News on Friday. Since January 23rd to date we have gathered approximately 10,000 acre feet of water. We have about 95,000 AF of storage. The rains right now have been very gentle and we have had about 18.5 inches so far. We have not seen high intensity as we have seen in many other years but are hopeful we will see that. He expressed thanks to Mr. Merckling for working with NOAA who is in the process of updating the drought monitor. They wanted to move everyone out of extreme drought. Ron provided evidence that we are still in extreme drought up through Santa Barbara. It would have sent the wrong signals. We don't want what happened in 1991/1992 where everyone forgot about the drought. We did move from exception to extreme. Additionally, Mr. Merckling and Mr. Cole have fielded many calls on diversions. There has been a lot of excitement and tomorrow we have an employee meeting for our staff to understand what we have to proceed through. Director Word expressed gratitude to staff for the effort they go through and decisions they make on the weekends to make the diversions happen. Mr. Wickstrum added they are out there 24/7. We have automation on controls that allows us to set up Robles and automatically fall into a diversion mode. If you have any questions when we are in diversions let me know. Neil has also been informing the BO committee on a daily basis. Bert Rapp with Ventura River Water District has reported that their wells are recovering but not as fast as I would have thought. They are not on Casitas any more.

Mr. Wickstrum then mentioned the status of Lake Orville and yesterday's inflows were 130,000 cfs. In one day they put as much water in as the entire Lake Casitas is in volume. They blew out their spillway and will require major repairs.

Mr. Wickstrum then asked who was interested in attending the Ojai Chamber of Commerce Gala. Director Bergen indicated she would attend and Director Kaiser will let know.

Director Hicks asked about what we release downstream for downstream users. Mr. Wickstrum explained that our water rights license states that it does not interfere with downstream users, called the 1959 criteria, if 20 cfs is seen at Santa Ana Blvd, it would reach the city, then we could slow down on the releases. Now the BO sets other flow regimes. There have been a lot of questions lately.

### 3. Board of Director comments.

Director Kaiser expressed appreciation to the recreation staff that took care of the staircase safety issue.

Director Hicks provided a document from 2003 from NOAA to the state fisheries department talking about a group that when less than 100,000 AF this group would meet to analyze data and make temporary adjustments fish flows etc. Are these people meeting? Mr. Wickstrum explained this will be discussed on agenda item 8 and this is in the Biological Opinion.

Director Word told Ron that he did a good interview this morning. He then mentioned a meeting with John Krist as the speaker talking about Ag in Ventura county and water etc. He had a chart showing as of February 6, 2016 about 80% of the state in extreme drought and this year only Ventura and Santa Barbara and little of Kern County are still in drought.

President Baggerly stated at the last OBGMA meeting a number of actions were taken. They will update the 2007 groundwater management plan. We now understand through a section of water code that we can update our existing plan and base that on our primary act the OBGMA act of 1991. We had the first ad hoc committee meeting today and are moving ahead very quickly. We switched to the alternative plan and developed it showing we had not been in overdraft for the last ten years and no undesirable results had occurred. That analysis was submitted to Department of Water Resources on Dec 27<sup>th</sup> and a 60 day period of public comments have started on that. People were shocked, it is not a plan, it is data and science showing two things, one that we have not been in overdraft for over ten years and two, there are no undesirable results taking place. We received three comment letters, one from Ian Miller and looking at it as inadequate with no management actions in it. Larry Yee wrote a letter. And there is a nine page letter from Mark Capelli and cover letter from Anthony Spina which will be more challenging to respond to. My preliminary read is they talked about what can happen or speculate, did not show any undesirable results occurring. We will respond to that letter shortly and it will probably be on our Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> agenda. A lot of work is being done in a timely fashion.

President Baggerly then informed the board that Jordan Kear had been out reading the data loggers today of a number of different wells overlying the basin and he said the basin is recovering so fast that the data he is receiving is

outdated as they are recovering so fast. Data has also been gathered for the San Antonio spreading grounds.

4. Board of Director Verbal Reports on Meetings Attended.

Director Bergen attended the Upper Ventura River GSA meeting held in Ojai. Staggered terms were set for directors and the environmental director Larry Rose of the Ojai Land Conservancy, and Ag representative Emily Ayala were chosen. The meeting locations have changed to here at Casitas. We had to continue our meeting and having a continuation to tomorrow here. Meetings start at 1:00 p.m. the second Thursday of the month here. We had to figure out where to do the public hearing to apply to be a GSA and at Ojai Community Center. Date is not set yet. The next meeting is March 9.

5. Consent Agenda ADOPTED

- a. Minutes from January 11, 2017.
- b. Minutes from January 25, 2017.

The consent agenda was offered by Director Hicks, seconded by Director Word and adopted by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Kaiser, Bergen, Hicks, Word, Baggerly
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	None

6. Review of District Accounts Payable Report for the Period of 1/23/17 – 2/01/17. APPROVED

The accounts payable report was approved on the motion of Director Word, seconded by Director Bergen and adopted by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Kaiser, Bergen, Hicks, Word, Baggerly
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	None

7. Recommend approval of a letter of support for the Senior Canyon Mutual Water Company's grant application. APPROVED

On the motion of Director Word, seconded by Director Hicks, the above recommendation was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Kaiser, Bergen, Hicks, Word, Baggerly
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	None

8. Discussion regarding the critical drought protection measures for Robles Diversion facility.

Mr. Wickstrum informed the board that critical drought protection measures are mentioned on page 12 of the Biological Opinion and that there is an evaluation of Casitas effectiveness of conservation measures which occurred in October of 2015. Numbers were produced with conservation and the way the population is responding was presented to understand if we head that direction. We hit 100,000 AF late last spring. The BO committees meet in Oct, 2016 and our staff brought forward the data on conservation and recommendations to share and have equity between people and fish and releases at Robles. We offered four recommendations and it is now at nine. It is apparent to me this group had discussed this about once a month but we are not seeing a recommendation being brought forward to the management committee. I called and sent a letter on January 26<sup>th</sup> requesting that the management committee be convened and requested the BO committee to move on this. The BO committee would formulate the options and make a recommendation to the management committee. Options will be discussed with staff on Monday and to management committee on February 28<sup>th</sup>. In federal government terms that is light speed.

9. Recommend setting the reserves of the district.

Directed back to Committee

The board discussed the recommended action and discussed the possibility of an additional reserve for water source discovery and decided to move this back to committee for further review.

10. Information Items:

- a. Letter from Forest Watch regarding the hobo project.
- b. Fiscal year 2017-2018 budget preparation and water rates schedule.
- c. Issuance of Permit Amendment 2017PA Schools – Requirement for Lead Sampling at K-12 Schools.
- d. Water Consumption Report.
- e. CFD No. 2013-1 (Ojai) Monthly Cost Analysis.
- f. Investment Report.

The information items were approved on the motion of Director Kaiser, seconded by Director Hicks and passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Kaiser, Bergen, Hicks, Word, Baggerly
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	None

11. Adjournment

President Baggerly adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

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Bill Hicks, Secretary