

Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District
Board Meeting Held
February 22, 2017

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held February 22, 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, Robert Kwong. There were four staff members and six 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 on the HoBo project and asked that there be consideration to postpone the bathymetric study until after the rainy season to let the sediment settle down.

2. General Manager comments.

Mr. Wickstrum reported that on the HoBo project we are waiting for a schedule to be put together and will move forward with Ceqa. We are looking to put together something concise and complete to present to the Forest Service for their consideration of permitting. Mr. Wickstrum said we will look at the bathymetric study information and will work it out with the consultant.

Mr. Wickstrum then discussed the recent storm. Matilija Dam received over seven inches of rain and we had nice flows with a little over 10,000 cfs entering the facility that night. The canal was running and around 4:00 it was getting to be too muddy and we shut down the canal and opened it up at a slower pace. Our screens plugged almost instantly as there was higher sediment load in the water at that point. They cleaned up over the weekend meeting downstream flows and putting water in the canal. The turbidity is getting better. Director Kaiser said there were calls from the public as to why we were not diverting. Mr. Wickstrum explained that debris flow and stuff that clogs up the entire system and it would be shut down and cleaned up and then reopened. Trees were moving downstream on Friday. We increased Lake Casitas by about 10,000 acre feet. Approximately 30% is from the Robles Diversion. Coyote and Santa Ana are flowing nicely. We have risen about 8.5 feet in depth and gone up about 12,000 af since Thursday with 109,000 af of water in storage right now. Our crews worked 24/7 and we had no other issues except for one leak to the forest service. Director Kaiser asked that the board's appreciation be conveyed to staff. Mr. Wickstrum added that they performed very well and given it has been 10 years since we had this type of storm new personnel were instructed by long term personnel.

Mr. Wickstrum informed the board that there is a hearing on the Golden State Water Company acquisition case on Monday regarding the CEQA issue in room 41 and on Tuesday there is mediation in Los Angeles. April 17th there is another hearing.

3. Board of Director comments.

Director Bergen mentioned the Upper Ventura River GSA public hearing on March 9th at 6:30 at the community center. The regular meeting is at 1:00 that same day.

Director Word formally welcomed Michael Flood to our staff.

President Baggerly mentioned that the OBGMA Alternative Demonstration comment period was extended to April 1, 2017. To date they have received seven comment letters. There is a lot of work to do to answer the comments.

4. Board of Director Verbal Reports on Meetings Attended.

Director Hicks mentioned a speaker at Water Issues from storm water resources for Ventura County and they are looking for funding for the run off mandate.

Director Word attended AWA on Thursday and heard a report from United on where they are and what they do and the service area. Director Hicks added the other bad news in that meeting they said they are letting water out of Piru and it is going into the creek and it is contaminated with mussels.

5. Consent Agenda

ADOPTED

- a. Minutes from February 8, 2017.
- b. Recommend approval of a purchase order to Multi W Systems Inc. in the amount of \$21,000 to repair pump #3 at Avenue 2 Pump Plant.

The consent agenda was offered by Director Kaiser, 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 2/02/17 – 2/15/17.

APPROVED

On the motion of Director Hicks, seconded by Director Bergen, the Accounts Payable report was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

7. Presentation of the preliminary draft Water Rate Study by Hawksley Consulting.

Direction provided to Staff and Consultant

Mark Hildebrand provided his presentation on the preliminary draft Water Rate Study with the intent to bring this back in about a month with finally recommendations for consideration and scheduling of a Proposition 218 rate hearing. This was a workshop and not an approval of rates at this point.

Bert Rapp with Ventura River Water District stated that Casitas is one of the lowest rates and even with an increase you will still be competitive. He then mentioned that some customers do not use water except for three years out of ten and you are not collecting usage charges. He felt their fair share should be accounted for in the base charges. He added that healthy meter charge provides stable revenues. When stabilized that put costs off large customers and on the smaller customers when you increase base charges it increases costs to smaller users.

It was determined that the Finance Committee would hold a special meeting to further review the report and recommendations.

8. Recommend approval of a letter of support for the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency – Alternative Demonstration. APPROVED

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

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

9. Recommend approval of a change in the sponsorship paid to Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County to total \$2,500 for the Annual Water Symposium. APPROVED

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

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

10. Recommend the Board of Directors consider being a candidate for the Association of California Water Agencies Board Member vacancy.

The board did not express any interest in filling this vacancy.

11. Information Items:

- a. Recreation Area Report for November, 2016.
- b. Recreation Area Report for December, 2016.
- c. Recreation Committee Minutes.
- d. Executive Committee Minutes.
- e. Personnel Committee Minutes.

- f. Water Conservation January, 2017 Update.
- g. Lake Casitas Monthly Status Report for January, 2017.
- h. Investment Report.

On the motion of Director Word, seconded by Director Hicks the information items were approved for filing by the following roll call vote:

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

12. Adjournment

President Baggerly adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Bill Hicks, Secretary