

Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District
Board Meeting Held
September 14, 2011

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held September 14, 2011 at Casitas' Office, Oak View, California. Directors Kaiser, Baggerly, Word, Hicks, and Bergen were present. Also present were Steve Wickstrum, General Manager, Rebekah Vieira, Clerk of the Board, and Attorney, John Mathews. There were four staff members and two members of the public in attendance. President Kaiser led the group in the flag salute.

1. Public comments.

Gary Petrowski, a customer and witness of incident that occurred on Lake Casitas discussed his conversations with the reporter and Lake Administrator and the public affairs officer regarding what he witnessed regarding the boat that recently sunk. There does not seem to be anything being done to remove the boat. I have a boat docked at the lake and on the Sunday when the boat sank we were going around the lake on our sailboat. There were two high powered speed boats and from a distance they looked like they had put power in and were not going anywhere. I asked if there was any trouble and they said no, go away. I called the bait shop and said there is something strange going on in the lake regarding a boat towing something. I could see a couple of seat backs in the water and they were towing that. It didn't dawn on me that it may have been a boat until I read the article. I think I saw what happened. Then I talked to the park administrator and newspaper and no one seemed to care. This isn't right. The reporter did a poor job there are so many holes and someone should get it straight. They said they left the park and things were closed so they couldn't report it. When I saw it, it was 6:00 in the afternoon and there was plenty of time and people. Here today it would seem that you as a board should have some influence to find out what is going on. Has it been located? Is it necessary to find it? There is no body contact but they don't seem to care if a boat sinks. President Kaiser explained that there is an item on the agenda regarding the boat and further conversation will be held when that item is discussed.

2. General Manager comments.

Mr. Wickstrum introduced Cinnamon McIntosh as our Water Conservation Specialist. Ms. McIntosh addressed the board thanking them for their time and the opportunity to serve the district. Mr. Wickstrum added there is a lot of work already lining up and more calls for audits. We look forward to her employment begin successful and productive.

Mr. Wickstrum then shared the article in the Ventura County Star with a picture of Matilija Dam. The design oversight group is meeting. There is a key importance on water supply and water quality and we are part of the decision making process.

On Senior Canyon the bid proposals came in extremely high as there is a lot of risk associated with the replacement of that pipeline. We are about \$80,000 – \$100,000 over budget for the pipeline alone. We are seeking additional funds to be shifted to our project. Regarding the Recreation Agreement the Bureau of Reclamation still needs to obtain two signatures.

On the Safety of Dams a letter has been provided to Michael Jackson for review. There will be some inspections in the next week; one is for asbestos in their buildings. We had a good meeting yesterday at Casitas Dam.

Golden State Water Company presented a letter to City of Ojai last night. This is a topic we will be discussing at great length in future meetings. I do understand from an article that has been posted the City of Ojai attained the services of Jeffrey Oderman as special council as reported in the Star. I will be meeting with some city staff tomorrow to bring back to you and inform you so we can make an informed decision.

3. Board of Director comments.

Director Bergen reported that on August 30th she walked the recreation fence line with members of Ojai Wildlife League. The objective was to discuss the gaps, look at the terrain, vegetation and talk about it and see what we each thought about the ability of wildlife to get through the gaps. It was a beautiful day, late in the evening and there were a group of 23 deer across the road and a couple more along the way. A motorcyclist stopped and said he had seen a buck jump the gap a few days before. At two gaps the terrain is easy and there are clear deer tracks on both sides of the fence. Some of the other gaps are tougher with no evidence of deer. I came back from that visit acknowledging that we are not keeping deer from the lake.

4. Consent Agenda

ADOPTED

- a. Minutes of the August 24, 2011 Board Meeting.

On the motion of Director Word, seconded by Director Hicks and passed, the Consent Agenda was adopted.

5. Bills

APPROVED

Director Hicks questioned two meal tickets for the same day. Mr. Wickstrum explained that we had a large crew working overtime on a leak at Woodland. He then questioned the amounts paid on the Club carts. Park Services Manager Belser will provide further information at the Recreation Committee. Director Bergen asked about the payment to Swank motion pictures for movie rentals. Mr. Wickstrum explained that the Recreation Area rents movies and shows them on a screen. Director Baggerly asked about the check to Rock Long Automotive and asked if it was all for one vehicle. Mr. Wickstrum explained it covered three vehicles.

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

6. Committee/Manager Reports

APPROVED

a. Recreation Committee Minutes

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

7. Discussion regarding the status of the sunken vessel.

Direction provided to staff

Mr. Wickstrum reported that we did have a vessel sink, we have had thorough investigations with the owner and staff to alleviate the rumors and articles in the paper that have been developed around this and to work with the boat owner to determine if we can find the boat and get the boat out of the lake and this being the responsibility of the owner. We have also worked with Bait and tackle to communicate better to staff.

There are several different decision points. The exact location is from 80 feet to 150 feet of water. It does not appear that the boat owner has the financial ability to get it out. There is a small amount of oil and about 5 gal of fuel in the tank. It could cost up to \$15,000 to get the boat out and what opportunity would we have to recoup those fees. We have conducted water sampling and there are no hydrocarbons and no oil slick. Do we use public funding to remove the boat? Other boats have sunk over time. One popped up a couple of years ago and was brought to shore. This boat is about two miles from the intake.

The board discussed options for locating the boat including the use of divers or ROV's. The difficulty is the need for decompression. Director Word expressed his concern that by leaving the boat in the water we may be setting a precedent.

The boats owner, Lukas explained that there is probably less than 5 gal of gas, probably no gas, five qts oil and one battery. I owned that boat for 8 years. Put \$10,000 into that boat. I have talked with lots of diving outfits, lake water is denser then ocean water, the pressure is great. Lots of dangerous risks. If I could afford to get it out I would. I am devastated that it is gone. I can't afford it. I have done everything I can, paid \$1,200 to try to find it. I don't know what else to do.

Mr. Petrowski suggested contacting the Navy to see if they would want to provide assistance or use this as a training exercise.

Tracy Harrison spoke stating we have thought about the Navy. Recreational diving stops at 120 feet. We spent weeks searching and posting a requests. We have gone through scenarios. Many donated time to us and they

told us the risks of going down there, because of the density and not being able to see it is too high.

On the motion of Director Bergen, seconded by Director Hicks and passed with Director Word opposing, the decision was made that unless the Navy could take on the project, then we will leave the boat.

8. Recommend approval of a pilot program to allow bow fishing for carp on Lake Casitas. APPROVED

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

9. Information Items:

- a. Monthly Cost Analysis for operation of Robles, fisheries and fish passage.
- b. Recreation Area Report for July, 2011.
- c. Letter of appreciation from AWA.
- d. News Articles.
- e. Investment Report.

President Kaiser moved the meeting to closed session at 4:07 p.m.

10. Closed Session

- a. (Govt. Code Sec. 54957.6)
Conference with Labor Negotiators:
Agency Designated Representatives: Rebekah Vieira, Draza Mrvichin
Employee Organization: Supervisory & Professional, General Unit and Recreation Unit.

The meeting was moved out of closed session at 5:04 p.m. with Mr. Mathews reporting that the board met with labor negotiators and designated representatives provided an status update no action was taken.

11. Adjournment

President Kaiser adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Secretary