

Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District
Board Meeting Held
January 7, 2012

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held January 7, 2012 at Casitas' Office, Oak View, California. 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 one staff members and two members of the public in attendance. President Baggerly led the group in the flag salute.

1. Public Comments.

None

2. General Manager Comments.

Mr. Wickstrum discussed the possible finding of New Zealand Mud Snails on a vessel trying to obtain entry to the lake yesterday. It was a good exercise for us to review how we follow up when we do find something.

Mr. Wickstrum then reported that the date for a meeting regarding the Safety of Dams repayment has not been scheduled yet.

3. Board of Director Comments.

Director Kaiser mentioned that the Bald Eagle is still being seen at the lake.

4. Board, Committee, and Meeting Approvals APPROVED

a. Election of Board Officers

On the motion of Director Bergen, seconded by Director Hicks and passed, the election of officers was approved as follows:

President	Russ Baggerly
Vice President	Jim Word
Secretary	Bill Hicks
Asst. Secretary	Mary Bergen

b. Discussion and approval of meetings that will be considered authorized meetings for the Board. APPROVED

President Baggerly explained that he had conflict with two board meeting dates and suggested moving the April 25th board meeting to Monday, April 23rd and the August 9th board meeting to Monday, August 6th.

On the motion of Director Word, seconded by Director Kaiser and passed the above recommendation plus the proposed changes were approved.

Regarding the affiliations there was discussion regarding cancelling our involvement in VCREA. President Baggerly stated there are meetings coming up regarding seeking a local ground water assistant grant and he will be attending those meetings.

c. Selection of Board Committee assignments and dates of meetings.

On the motion of Director Bergen, seconded by Director Hicks and passed, the Board Committees and dates of meetings were approved as follows:

Executive	Russ Baggerly/Jim Word	First Tuesday at 9 a.m.
Personnel	Pete Kaiser/Mary Bergen	Third Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.
Water Resources	Russ Baggerly/Bill Hicks	Third Monday at 3:00 p.m.
Recreation	Bill Hicks/Pete Kaiser	First Monday at 9:00 a.m.
Finance	Jim Word/Mary Bergen	Third Friday at 9:30 a.m.

d. Review Committee functions and set priorities for Committees.

This was reviewed.

5. Discussion Items:

a. Final Repayment – Ventura River Project

There was discussion regarding this being a historic event for this district and wanting to do something to commemorate the repayment for the Ventura River Project. Mr. Wickstrum added the public has paid for this project over 50 years. The board discussed various options and will have further discussions on this topic.

b. Safety of Dams Repayment

Mr. Wickstrum explained that we have waited for the Bureau to provide us with the actual costs and have tried to arrange a meeting with them. We met last year in January. We have some approximate numbers that have changed and the interest bearing M & I has continues to accrue unfairly. Since 2004 we have been ready and willing to negotiate this.

c. City of Ventura Water Service Agreement

This is another situation that needs to be resolved. We have cooperation with City of Ventura personnel. We are selling water to the city per the 1995 agreement which requires 6,000 minimum acre feet purchase by the city. The last five years in district water use in the city dropped below 6,000 acre feet.

There are options for the city. The first three years they claimed it was out of their control due to the loss of their water wells. The next three years they said they would take care of it. This year I applied the rental charge. They paid us \$65,000 for that water. That rental water still stands in existence. If it is not returned to the district \$65,000 will be charged again and the differential will carry on. Director Word added when the agreement was established it was not anticipated they could use less than 6,000 acre feet. They have lost large commercial customers and they are not coming back unless there is more development. The city wants 6,000 acre feet at least to blend with their other water. If we leave agreement they have a 6,000 af target in their mind. The operations employee has his schedule to pull 6,000 af.

Director Word added keeping the molecules in district is not the option they want. They want the extra water so they don't have to put another treatment plant in. Director Bergen added the rental charge is cumulative. Next year will be amount added on to the \$65,000. It will escalate. Mr. Wickstrum added that by using their urban water management plan I applied the differential they get to the last years and they are paying about a million a year. An option would be for them to have in district use equal purchased water. Mr. Wickstrum explained he is working through the Finance committee for review.

President Baggerly mentioned the drought contingency plan and urban water management plan statement that we do not have surplus water. If it goes out of district our safe yield may be unreliable. It may cause a shortage. Mr. Wickstrum added this is why we need to give them the incentive not to do that. President Baggerly added that if there is a water shortage, it creates pain for everyone within our district.

Director Word added from the city's perspective they may propose wanting to expand the district boundaries so they can prove they are using the 6,000 acre feet within the district. Current boundaries set 50 years ago.

Pat Baggerly, representing the Environmental Coalition spoke and explained that we have been looking at this topic for 21 years. In 1990 we submitted letters April 6, 1990 and a letter in March, 1990. I faxed some of these to Mary yesterday. This is a complex, difficult thing. Steve knows this. He is trying to solve this. I want to call this to your attention, a letter where John Johnson suggested how to solve these problems. The City was not certifying. To get them to certify, we requested they do so monthly. We have a lot of concerns about sending water out of the district. If the lake water drops, revenue at lake drops. I think there should be a date for this to stop. The City should agree to stop sending water out of the district. Monthly certification causes them to be responsible. If there is a problem they take care of it sooner. Would like to have a copy of the draft that went to the Finance Committee. I don't see how you can consider taking more people in the district. What does the City of Ventura want, expand the district? We haven't heard what the city will get. Mr. Wickstrum explained we are trying to resolve this situation of this offset that is driven by this agreement. The City has not asked us for anything else.

Pat Baggerly stated she hopes this board will put into the agreement to stop putting water out of district. She complimented John Johnson on his letter. It was an agreement that would benefit the district. You should have it in the file. In 1990 it was handed to board of directors. It is the March letter to John Baker.

John Mathews added that today is a planning session. We are not here to negotiate specific decisions at this time.

President Baggerly then stated it is the chairs prerogative to move this issue to the Executive Committee.

d. Matilija Dam Decommissioning and Fine Sediment Studies

Mr. Wickstrum reported that this is moving into the next phase. The costs are continuing to climb and they don't feel the slurry answer is the only answer. They have formulated a technical advisory committee consisting of myself and 14 others to further review this.

e. Water Supply and Demand Planning

Mr. Wickstrum explained there is a lot of work that has to be done on this. It took about three years in the 90s. We need get our game plan for drought going before we get in to stage 2 – 5. We want to look at allocations, appropriateness and fee structures for the stages. The Ag community is currently allocated in one allocation and that should be addressed. Giving them an allocation and letting them deal with it in their own system. We will work through the scenarios. Ron and I have talked about this and will try to focus efforts this year. Ron has already done a bit of work on this. It needs to be done. We are going to have a dry year this year. If we have multiple dry years we could go to stage 2 in three years. Section 15 has not been updated and needs to be.

Director Word asked where that is on the priority scale. Mr. Wickstrum stated all of these are high on the scale. President Baggerly added he hopes Water Resources will be working through this with you and suggested that there may be some segments that could be outsourced. We want to become the official and necessary backup for other water users in our district. Allocations for those resale people have to be fair and equitable and make sure we meet their demands when they need to be met without hurting the district.

President Baggerly called for a five minute break at 11:00. The meeting was brought back into session following the break at 11:05 a.m.

f. State Water

Mr. Wickstrum explained that we are working to come up with potential options. We usually do the turn back pool or help United Water Conservation District. We are trying to find methods to put that water out there other than the

turn back pool. There was a meeting in September with various entities in the county and we tried to find other entities in the county to get the water first. The ways of getting water into the county are difficult or not available.

g. Recreation Financing, USBR Grants, and improvements

President Baggerly made the suggestion of having an archeological study because when you have projects you have to tell them about archeological impacts. If you have a study in hand it can remain confidential but refer to it for documents you sent to Fresno. If the study is done you can use it as valid information for the environmental documents and it gets the documents approved faster. Mr. Wickstrum added it is a good idea but there may be some things we can do also. The Bureau has that expertise in house and we have the RMP to that degree. I have documents from the 1950's that went through that. We might be able to look at the Bureau to help fund that.

Director Word asked what projects we have that we would need that for. Mr. Wickstrum explained that it could be needed anytime you would excavate. Director Word added it sounds like a good idea but might be expensive. Does the Bureau already have something? President Baggerly added it may be something you may want to try to fund in a few years as it may help streamline the process.

h. Watershed Open Space Management

We have a good representative with Dave Woolley. They are trying to decide what to do with the Teague Memorial Watershed. They rely on Forest Service for law enforcement and fire protection. Potentially they could transfer responsibilities south of 150 over to Casitas. We would have to decide how we want to handle that. They are trying to decide a good direction for them. We still agree with protection of that watershed for protection of water at Lake Casitas. One of the issues is that the Forrest Service has been experience cutbacks and Director Word added that we don't have the staff to do it. President Baggerly added funding is short. There was brief discussion regarding the removal of meters to the Voyce and Selby house and the potential for decommissioning the roads. President Baggerly suggested the electric poles could be used for raptor perches. Mr. Wickstrum said he will continue to work with Dave to try to get some finality with watershed agreement.

i. Other items

Mr. Wickstrum explained that Jim Weber is retiring on February 10th and suggested that the Board show their appreciation at the February 8th Board meeting. The temporary Safety Officer position will be evaluated. We have made good progress. We will continue to see transitions of personnel over the next few years and may need to shift things around.

Mr. Wickstrum asked the board if they had any considerations regarding changes to the board room or moving it upstairs. Director Kaiser expressed that he would like to see an estimate of the costs. There are a couple of issues such as restrooms that would need to be considered.

There will be additional policy revisions that we will try to move through this year such as the vehicle policy, uniforms and equipment. President Baggerly suggested looking at the Per Diem reimbursement policy and have the Personnel Committee review that.

President Baggerly asked for additional exit signage at Santa Ana ramp. He then suggested raptor poles and kestrel boxes be installed. Mr. Wickstrum informed the board that we are still working on the pest management plan with Dave Woolley.

President Baggerly informed the board that he would be sending out the General Manager's evaluation form and asked that it be provided back to him by February 1st for the February 8th board meeting.

6. Adjournment

President Baggerly adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Bill Hicks, Secretary