

Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District
Board Meeting Held
January 13, 2010

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held January 13, 2010 at Casitas' Office, Oak View, California. Directors Handley, Kaiser, Word, Baggerly and Hicks were present. Also present were Steve Wickstrum, General Manager, Rebekah Vieira, Clerk of the Board, and Attorney, John Mathews. There were six staff members and two members of the public in attendance. President Handley led the group in the flag salute.

1. Public comments.

Brian Dickenson spoke to the board regarding the bass at the lake and concerns about their small size. He asked for direction for what he and others can do to restore this lake. We need to address these issues and find solutions to be a well rounded fishery. He referenced the Casitas Fisheries Management Plan and asked if it is being used and followed. He added that there is not enough forage and habitat in the lake and the lake is not receiving very many trout from the Department of Fish & Game. He also asked about enforcement of regulations and mentioned that people were fishing with crawdads last year and suggested that coves were not closed for spawning last year.

Director Hicks replied that we have discussed this very issue and we want to get the lake back to a good fishery. Director Baggerly reminded the board that we had that delivery of trout that might have had whirling disease and that was when the trout plants were stopped for two to three years. We may also be seeing diminished trout plants as a result of our Quagga inspection program. Director Baggerly encouraged Mr. Dickenson to attend the recreation committee

2. General Manager comments.

Mr. Wickstrum thanked Mr. Dickenson for his comments and provided an update on the upcoming storms stating there could be from 6 – 12 inches of rain in the mountains and we are hoping for some diversions next week. It will provide Neil Cole an opportunity to test the brushes after some significant modifications were made.

3. Board of Director comments.

Director Hicks suggested the Directors review their information on the website to ensure it is kept up to date.

Director Baggerly commented on the design oversight group meeting tomorrow where the Corp of Engineers and the Watershed Protection District will be discussing the possibility of stabilizing the material behind Matilija Dam. He expressed concern over who the owner is of that property and who would have liability and operating and maintenance of the structure. He added that this

option was not reviewed in the original EIR for the project. Mr. Wickstrum added that this stems from County recognition that this project is spiraling in cost. It was estimated at \$120 million and now is exceeding \$180 million.

4. Consent Agenda ADOPTED minus item a

- a. Minutes of the December 16, 2009 Board Meeting.
- b. Resolution approving memberships.
- c. Resolution setting the policy on Board Meetings.

The Consent Agenda minus item a was offered by Director Baggerly, seconded by Director Word and passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Resolutions are numbered 10-01 and 10-02.

5. Bills APPROVED

Director Kaiser questioned #3935 to McCarty Concrete. Mr. Wickstrum explained this was for a break in the Rincon area that was directly underneath a residential driveway which we had to restore. Director Kaiser then questioned #3947 for pump check asking if that is typical and customary? Mr. Wickstrum replied it is checking pumps on our distribution system and is not just one pump. Mr. Kaiser questioned #3969 for repairs to the damaged electrical cart in recreation. Mr. Wickstrum explained this was for repairs to the cart that was removed from its location and got into an accident and destroyed the front end of it. Director Kaiser also questioned #3970 for an aquatic permit. Mr. Wickstrum explained this is an annual permit so we can spray weed control on the face of the dam. Director Kaiser questioned #4002 for stream gauge maintenance fee. Mr. Wickstrum explained this was previously brought to the board for approval and we have done this every year since 1988 or 1989. This is for the one station at Foster Park Bridge. We pay one third and the rest is paid for by The City and County. Director Hicks asked about #3862 to Capmark Financial. Mr. Wickstrum explained he would look into that one and report back. Director Hicks then questioned the payment for Government code updates. Mr. Wickstrum explained these are annual updates to Government Codes including Water and Labor Codes.

On the motion of Director Word, seconded by Director Kaiser and passed, the bills were approved.

6. Website Redesign and implementation.

- a. Presentation from Sostre & Associates.

Mr. Merckling reported that over the last couple of years there have been dramatic changes in web communications. Our current site is lacking in technologies that have been available for many years. The current site is not ADA compliant. The project will integrate both of our current web sites and will combine branding for the District and Recreation. A request for proposal was sent in October. We received three proposals and we went through a thorough vetting process and recommend awarding a contract with Sostre & Associates for our web site redesign.

Lisa Ramos with Sostre provided a presentation on what the web site redesign project would entail.

- b. Resolution approving a contract with Sostre & Associates for Web Site Redesign.

ADOPTED

The resolution was offered by Director Hicks, seconded by Director Word and passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Resolution is numbered 10-03.

- 7. Presentation of the Hydrology Report for water year 2008-2009.

APPROVED FOR FILING

Todd Evans presented the Hydrology Report for 2009 Water Year. Last year there was only 14 inches of rain. We diverted 485 acre feet at Robles which was a result of downloading water from Matilija. We delivered 17,500 acre feet to the system which is down 1,600 acre feet from the previous year. We are looking for more rainfall in the next months.

On the motion of Director Kaiser, seconded by Director Baggerly and passed, the Hydrology Report was approved for filing.

- 8. Discussion regarding sponsorship at the spring 2010 ACWA Centennial Conference.

Direction was provided to staff not to participate in sponsorship.

- 9. Presentation and discussion of current fisheries activities.

Director Baggerly asked Scott Lewis how comfortable he is with a warm water fishery. Mr. Lewis stated he is comfortable with that. The utility company he worked for had a reservoir with small mouth bass. Mr. Lewis reviewed what he had provided previously regarding Lake Casitas Fishery and still has the

same conclusions. First, we need to develop some management objective. If we have an agreed upon, realistic objective, it is easier to make some decisions. There is some old historic data. We need to gather all available data, some creel data collected, collect data and analyze and see what can be learned from historic data. We could start with basic simplistic monitoring, voluntary creel station. This is about the simplest way to start to collect data from year to year to understand the trends. You can have this simple or elaborate. It depends on how much money you want to spend and what data you need to get the answers you want. If the district wants to do something it needs to be a systematic approach rather than reactionary. Take some basic steps to look into the problem and do something about it.

Mr. Wickstrum added that when the growth occurred in the late 80's early 90's there was a lot of vegetation that time. The lake rose in one year because of the major March miracle. There was a lot of good habitat for the fish to grow in that area and for the large bass to feed off that. Now, we are in the down side compared to 87/88. Growth has not occurred in lower sections. If the lake goes back to full it will have the current vegetation that you see at the shoreline. He added it is a resource issue and a cost issue. Mr. Lewis recommended to go back to square one and start the process there and determine how far you want to take it and how quickly. Mr. Wickstrum explained that Mr. Lewis' current focus has been the steelhead and documentation on the Ventura River. That is our primary focus with fisheries. That is the assignment that was developed six or seven years ago. Director Baggerly suggested that Mr. Lewis develop a proposal and bring it back to the board. Mr. Wickstrum asked what the objectives are. Mr. Wickstrum explained that when we had the possibility of whirling disease we introduced other species. We have continued to stock the lake but could not get the trout. Some of our fishermen think we have stopped stocking. We spend \$45,000 per year stocking the lake. Director Hicks suggested planting more trout for a couple of years. Mr. Wickstrum explained that we will talk with Rob and see what we can do with trout plants and what we get for our purchases.

Director Baggerly mentioned that when we closed the lake, people were saying the fishing was great. The spawning coves need to be closed. Mr. Wickstrum added they were supposed to be closed and it was his understanding that they were. Mr. Dickenson felt they were not marked up last year.

Director Baggerly asked how long it would take to develop this proposal to get the information. Mr. Lewis replied that the steelhead program is running at capacity right now. He would need some time before he could answer that question. It also depends on the level of specificity and what the goals are.

Carol Belser stated she had e-mailed and made a call to DFG and left a message for Dr. Maxwell. At the last stocking we only received a few scoops. It could not have been more than 300 trout.

Mr. Wickstrum informed the board that Mr. Lewis was going to provide a presentation on steelhead but that would be postponed to a future meeting.

10. Information Items:

- a. Monthly Cost Analysis for operation of Robles, fisheries and fish passage.
- b. Casitas Reservoir Water Inventory Summary
- c. Memo from Treatment Plant Manager regarding commendation for energy efficiency.
- d. Letter from ACWA regarding committee appointment.
- e. California Water Issues: Past, Present and Future being held January 26th at California Lutheran University.
- f. Ventura County Special Districts Association Annual Dinner Meeting being held Tuesday, February 2, 2010.
- g. Investment Report

Directors Kaiser and Baggerly will be attending the VCSDA meeting.

11. Adjournment

President Handley adjourned the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

Secretary