

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

DECEMBER 11, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District was called to order by President Boyd at 4:30 p.m. in the Board of Directors Hearing Room, 500 West Ridgecrest Boulevard, Ridgecrest, California. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mallory Boyd. **PLEDGE**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** President Mallory J. Boyd  
Vice President Ronald R. Kicinski  
Director Charles D. Griffin  
Director Stan G. Rajtora  
Director David C.H. Saint-Amand **ROLL CALL**

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF PRESENT:** George Croll, General Manager  
Jim Worth, Attorney  
Jason Lillion, Operations Manager  
Renée Morquecho, Chief Engineer  
Tyrell Staheli, Chief Financial Officer  
Lauren Smith, Recording Secretary

**AGENDA DECLARATION** **AGENDA DECLARATION**  
Recording Secretary, Lauren Smith, reported that the agenda for today's Regular Board Meeting was posted on Thursday, December 7, 2023.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION** **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**  
Director Griffin commented that due to a personal conflict, he will abstain from voting on agenda item 9.B.1.

Director Saint-Amand stated his opinions shared during this meeting are his own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of his employer, nor the Board.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION** **PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
None.

With no further Board or Public comments, President Boyd recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 4:33 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION** **CLOSED SESSION**  
The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 4:40 p.m.  
Closed Session was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 6:07 p.m.

No action was taken which would require disclosure under the Brown Act.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

**PUBLIC  
COMMENTS**

The Board heard public comment from Mike Neel and Renee Westa-lusk.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**CONSENT  
CALENDAR**

MOTION: was made by Director Saint-Amand and seconded by Vice President Kicinski approving the Minutes of the November 13, 2023, Regular Board Meeting, December 4, 2023, Special Board Meeting, and Payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$1,145,350.53. Motion was carried, unanimously by the following vote: (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

**PLANT & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE**

**P&E CM:  
DEDICATION OF  
FACILITIES:  
COFFEE SHOP  
AND EV CHARGE  
STATION**

Staff presented dedication paperwork for this new coffee shop and EV charging station at the corner of French Street and China Lake Blvd. The value of the facilities installed is \$40,779.00. The new pipeline/facilities were installed in a new easement being dedicated to the District. All facilities are complete and the pipeline has been tied in.

MOTION: was made by Director Saint-Amand and seconded by Vice President Kicinski to approve and accept Dedication of Facilities for Coffee Shop and EV Charging Station by way of Resolution No. 23-06. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

President Boyd:	Aye
Vice President Kicinski:	Aye
Director Griffin:	Abstain
Director Rajtora:	Aye
Director Saint-Amand:	Aye

**INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)**

**IWVGA**

The Board discussed agenda items for the upcoming IWVGA meeting scheduled for December 13<sup>th</sup>, including:

- > Resolution 08-23 Regarding the 2024 Board Rotation
- > Amendment 7 to Agreement with Capitol Core Group - 2023 Budget Adjustment and 2024 Scope of Work
- > 2023 Budget Amendments

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**ELECTION OF  
OFFICERS  
PRESIDENT**

President Boyd opened nominations for Board President and Vice-President. Director Saint-Amand nominated Vice President Kicinski for President for the 2024 calendar year.

With no other nomination for President, the nomination for the position of President was closed.

MOTION: was made by Director Saint-Amand and seconded by Director Rajtora, appointing Vice President Kicinski as Board President for the 2024 calendar year. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

President Boyd opened nominations for Board Vice-President. Vice President Kicinski nominated Director Saint-Amand for Vice-President for the 2024 calendar year. VICE

MOTION: was made by Vice President Kicinski and seconded by President Boyd, appointing Director Saint-Amand as Vice-President for the 2024 calendar year. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

#### 2024 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

President Boyd asked the Directors to notify incoming President Kicinski, George Croll, and Lauren Smith of their Committee preferences before the Christmas holiday.

#### 2024 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

#### COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION

Jim Worth commented on the recent press release regarding the new analyses that suggests the Indian Wells Valley (IWV) has more groundwater than previously estimated.

#### COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION

The IWVWD and six professional groundwater science and engineering consulting firms appointed by entities who accounted for more than 80% of the valley's total groundwater production in Water Year 2022 developed a Technical Working Group. The goal of this Group was to accurately estimate the "safe-yield" of the IWV and the total amount of groundwater and potable groundwater in storage using a comprehensive analysis of the most complete up-to-date data sets available and state-of-the-art analytical technology.

The Board and public asked clarifying questions regarding the analyses.

The IWVGA's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) estimates the sustainable yield at 7,650 acre-feet per year, meaning that any pumping over this amount per year is subject to the IWVGA's Replenishment Fee. For comparison, the Technical Working Group experts opine that the safe yield is closer to 13,400 acre-feet.

Due to the ongoing litigation, the data supporting this analyses will not be released yet.

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk, Mike Neel, Donna Hocker, and Mr. Christopher.

#### GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE

As of today, employees at the Water District have worked 352 days since the last recordable injury.

Mr. Croll commented on the November 2023 Well Production.

#### GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE SAFETY

Mr. Croll was invited by the Chamber of Commerce to speak at the Annual Economic Development Conference in February. PUBLIC OUTREACH

No update available at this time. STATE REG. UPDATES

The Board discussed and unanimously agreed to schedule the 2024 Annual Board Workshop for January 12, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. The Board was asked to submit items they wish to have on the agenda to incoming President Kicinski, George Croll, and Lauren Smith for review as soon as possible. 2024 ANNUAL BOARD WORKSHOP

The following updates were given on items assigned at the July 25, 2023, Special Board Workshop: BOARD WORKSHOP UPDATES

- **Potential Strategic Planning Efforts**

This item to be added to the January Workshop for further discussion and updates.

CSE has successfully disinfected the booster station piping and has received passing bacteriological test results. They have also completed the connections with the C-zone boosters and D-zone boosters. Contractors were working on backfill and compaction today. A specialist in asbestos and lead will be visiting the site this week to complete a survey, which is required for the demolition of the old buildings. The estimated completion date is January 24<sup>th</sup>. BOOSTER STATIONS

The estimated year-to-date revenues as of November 30, 2023, are \$6,493,362 and expenses are \$7,014,563. Expenditures exceeded revenues by \$521,201, which is less than budget by \$60,780. A caveat to net revenue is that the District has to-date exceeded its Calendar GA Replenishment payments due to current pumping to the amount of over \$700,000, which will be credited to next calendar year's payments. To date, the District has paid \$13,182,000 in GA Fees to the Groundwater Authority. FINANCIAL STATUS

Mr. Staheli reported on the following conservation items: CONSERVATION  
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Waster Report - Thus far in 2023, there have been a total of 62 water waste reports received with 62 contacts made. There has been 24 formal Second Notices and seven penalties issued.

The notice inviting bids went out on Friday December 1<sup>st</sup>. To date 2 contractors have received a packet, with a possible 4 other contractors who may have interest. The District along with Krieger and Stewart will be performing a mandatory job walk this Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup>. The initial draft report for the proforma has been completed. Everything continues to be on schedule to authorize pre-issuance of bonds at the January Board meeting and award pipeline construction at the February Board meeting. INYOKERN RD TRANSM. MAIN

Plants are off for the season. Staff continues to sift media and is currently making calculations with the anticipation of purchasing new media before the summer pumping season. ARSENIC TREATMENT

Mr. Lillion reported for the month of November, 11 services were repaired and 37 were replaced. The NO-DES truck made six runs in November, filtering 62,460 gallons. Since inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 9,099,655 gallons. 40 Valves were exercised. OPERATIONS

**BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**BOARD  
COMMENTS**

The Board collectively wished the public and staff Happy Holidays.

Director Griffin thanked the Board and staff for working on the recent Press Release and analyses.

Director Saint-Amand thanked President Boyd for his service at Board President this year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Smith

Recording Secretary

**APPROVED: January 8, 2024**