MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

JULY 8, 2024

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tim Parker.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: President Ronald R. Kicinski

Vice President David C.H. Saint-Amand

Director Charles D. Griffin

Director Stan G. Rajtora

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Director Mallory J. Boyd

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**

Recording Secretary, Lauren Smith, reported that the agenda for today’s Regular Board Meeting was posted on Wednesday, July 3, 2024.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

Vice President Saint-Amand stated he has retired from the Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) China Lake Base as of June 30, 2024.

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION**

None.

With no further Board or Public comments, President Kicinski recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 4:31 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 4:34 p.m.

Closed Session was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 6:06 p.m.

No action was taken that requires disclosure under the Brown Act.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE**

**ROLL CALL**

**AGENDA DECLARATION**

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**CLOSED SESSION**

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

The Board heard public comment from Judie Decker and Renee Westa-Lusk.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

MOTION: was made by Vice President Saint-Amand and seconded by Director Griffin approving the Minutes of the June 10, 2024, Regular Board Meeting, and Payment of Accounts Payable totaling $857,379.03. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: Boyd.)

**ADMINISTRATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The amendment would allow employees to rollover governmental, pre-tax, voluntary funding from previous 457 Plans of a past eligible employer. Amendment to be approved by way of Resolution No. 24-04.

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Director Rajtora approving the amendment to the District’s 457(b) Eligible Deferred Compensation Plan through Mutual of America. Motion was carried, unanimously by the following roll call vote:

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

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

The Board discussed action items from the June 12th meeting, including:

* Public workshop on the period review of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

George Croll reviewed slides from the June 12th IWVGA meeting and statements made, as well as pumping scenarios. (Included in PowerPoint for tonight’s meeting available on IWVWD website.)

The next IWVGA meeting is scheduled for July 10th.

The Board heard public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk and Judie Decker.

**COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION**

Jim Worth stated the next Adjudication Hearing is scheduled for Monday, August 5th at 1:30 p.m.

At the June 14th Hearing, the Judge set the basin boundary consistent with the Bulletin No. 118, and also agreed with the case management order which sets the deadlines and timeframes for when pre-discovery actions must take place. The Judge was also receptive of the Phase 2 trial Searles Valley Minerals motion to set the Phase 2 trial regarding safe yield, but no trial date was set.

The Board heard public comment from Judie Decker and Renee Westa-Lusk.

After much deliberation, the Board asked for a presentation regarding water supply solutions in the IWV to be discussed and reviewed at the upcoming Board Workshop.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**ADMIN/EXEC CM:** AMENDMENT TO MOA 457 PLANS

**IWVGA**

**COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION**

George Croll provided a presentation on the review of estimated projected costs of the Imported Water Pipeline to ratepayers. (Available on the IWVWD website.)

The Board discussed the possibility of creating a Resolution to officially oppose the pipeline project.

**GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE**

Mr. Croll reported the monthly water data for June. Water produced: 193,329,000 gallons, water consumed: 167,316,000 gallons (11% commercial, 4% other, 85% residential), and estimated loss 9,148,275 gallons (which is water lost to meter inaccuracy, flushing, and theft, etc.)

Mr. Croll commented on the Grand Jury report regarding the Inyokern CSD. He further reported on the recent complete water loss that Inyokern CSD experienced. State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) will make a presentation to the Board at the upcoming July Workshop on steps going forward for reorganization of the water services for Inyokern.

Mr. Croll and Lauren Smith to compile topics discussed at this meeting and in previous communications for the Workshop agenda scheduled for Thursday, July 18, 2024; 8:00 a.m.

A preconstruction meeting was held June 20th with the Nicholas Construction and Caltrans. Nicholas has notified the District it will be mobilizing Monday July 15th. A class on protected species will be held that morning as required by Caltrans as a condition of the encroachment permit. Nicholas’s master schedule indicates completion of the project, including punch list items, by the first week of December 2024.

All requested documents have been provided to the State and/or uploaded to the FAAST (Financial Assistance Application Tool) system. The estimate is an agreement with the State for both projects by the end of July. Staff has reviewed the draft agreement between the District and Dune 3. Once a final draft is complete, it will be forwarded to District legal counsel for review. The agreement language will be the same for Hometown Water.

Staff provided the solar production for July 2023 through June 2024. Production was slightly higher than the guarantee for the year.

The estimated year-to-date revenues as of June 30, 2024, are $16,275,284 and expenses are $16,642,810. Expenditures exceeded revenues by $367,526, which is better than budget by $314,303. To date, the District has paid $14,126,632 in GA Fees to the Groundwater Authority.

Mr. Staheli reported on the following conservation items:

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Waster Report – there have been 12 water waste reports received with 12 contacts made. There has been one formal Second Notice and one penalty issued.

Plant 2 is online at half capacity.  District has received Pureflow media on July 1st, and is currently staging to begin installation tomorrow, July 9th.

**GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE**

INYOKERN CSD UPDATE

MID-YEAR BOARD WORKSHOP

NW TRANSM. PIPELINE

CONSOLIDATION PROJECTS

ANNUAL SOLAR PRODUCTION

FINANCIAL STATUS

CONSERVATION

ARSENIC

TREATMENT

Mr. Lillion reported for the month of June, 11 services were repaired and 44 were replaced. The NO-DES truck made three runs in June. Since inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 9,428,891 gallons. 33 valves were exercised.

**BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The Board collectively thanked the staff for their quick response to the Inyokern CSD situation. They also thanked Garrison and Bertrand for their help, as well as the City of Ridgecrest.

Vice President Saint-Amand commented on the pipeline study and the lack of an economic study being done.

President Kicinski thanked Christopher Camp for his letter to the Board.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Smith

**APPROVED: August 12, 2024** Recording Secretary

OPERATIONS

**BOARD COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**