

**SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 4, 2007**

---

**1. ROLL CALL**

President Daniels called the Regular Session to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Board Members Present:**

Bruce Daniels, President  
Dr. Thomas LaHue, Vice President  
Dan Kriege  
Dr. Bruce Jaffe  
Dr. Don Hoernschemeyer

**Staff Members Present:**

Laura Brown, General Manager  
Bob Bosso, District Counsel  
Jeff Gailey, Engineering Manager/Chief Engineer  
Robert Stevens, Assistant General Manager  
Ron Duncan, Conservation & Customer Service Field (CCSF) Manager  
Michelle Boisen, Accounting Supervisor  
Denise Alexander, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk

**Staff Members Absent:**

Gary Lamprecht, Operations & Maintenance Manager

**Others Present:**

1 member of the public

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

August 7, 2007 – The following change was made:

On page 3, in the motion for Item 5.1, change the number of proposed units from 47 to 43 to be consistent with the number of units given by the consultant when the item was heard.

MOTION: Director LaHue; Second: Director Kriege: To approve the August 7, 2007 minutes as modified. The motion passed by a 4-0-1 vote with Director Jaffe abstaining.
---

### **3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Barbara Graves stated she is a resident of Capitola and serves on the city's Commission on the Environment. She stated that the city has a water sub-committee that is currently setting goals for the upcoming year that include projects the city might implement. A brief description of projects being considered were a recharge demonstration Bio-swale project and a review of the city's point of sale requirements for conservation items. She asked who would be responsible for enforcing the District's Resolution Prohibiting Certain Uses of Water. She would like the city to become an enforcement agent and to adopt a similar resolution or ordinance. With regard to development, specifically re-models, the time requirement for installing drought tolerant landscaping needs to be clarified to the various jurisdictions.

Director Kriege cautioned that seepage can be seen coming out of the bluffs in Capitola and any increase in recharge is potentially dangerous and could cause the bluffs to fail.

General Manager Laura Brown stated that the District's water-wasting policy is being enforced by the Conservation and Customer Service Field staff when incidents are seen and/or reported.

Ms. Graves noted an incident where a pipe had broken in the median at an intersection near the Seascape Resort and no one knew who to contact. Making the public clear on who to contact would be a good idea.

President Daniels stated he had attended the Central Water District's Board meeting on August 21. Central's issues regarding the District's Aptos Jr. High Well and the Well Master Plan Impact Analysis by the District's hydrologist had been discussed. A copy of the CEQA Categorical Exemption for the Aptos Jr. High Well that was filed with the County Clerk in 2004 will be provided to Central's Board. Ms. Brown stated that HydroMetrics is preparing a response to the written comments submitted by Central's hydrologist Nick Johnson and evaluation of impacts during multi-year drought will be included.

The Board complimented the District's Conservation and Customer Service Field Manager, Ron Duncan for the review that was received from the State Department of Water Resources on the District's Urban Water Management Plan.

The Board requested copies of the Well Master Plan Impact Analysis for Central Water District and the final Urban Water Management Plan.

#### 4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

The applicant was not yet present and President Daniels postponed hearing this item until Item 5.5 was heard.

##### 4.1 Request for Variance Application to the subject Service Charge: Kaira, 1840 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Capitola

Assistant General Manager Bob Stevens provided an overview of the staff report. A brief discussion ensued.

President Daniels opened the public hearing.

Seeing no one was present to speak on this item, President Daniels requested a motion to close the public hearing.

MOTION: Director Kriege; Second: Director Hoernschemeyer: To close the public hearing. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
---

MOTION: Director LaHue; Second: President Daniels : To deny the variance to waive the subject Service Charge of \$20.85 based upon findings under Resolution No. 74-55, Section 1.03 and to deny the variance to waive the practice of turning over unpaid bills to the District's collection agency. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
--

##### 4.2 Public Hearing: Public Health Goal (PHG) Report

General Manager Laura Brown stated that the report was modified to reflect the changes as directed at the June 19, 2007 meeting before it was sent to the Department of Health Services.

President Daniels opened the public hearing.

Barbara Graves suggested that the District could provide education about contaminants contained in runoff water that can harm the environment. She will provide the Board with a brochure the city has on this topic. President Daniels suggested having an article in the District's newsletter.

MOTION: Director Kriege; Second: Director Jaffe: To close the public hearing. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
--

Director Hoernschemeyer questioned a statement in the report that all of the District's source (well) water samples for copper in 2004 were less than the PHG when the chart shows copper levels to be greater than the PGH. Ms. Brown stated she would speak to the Operations and Maintenance Manager who had prepared the report, to obtain clarification.

## **5. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Will Serve Water Service Application for Dave Dias, 519 Moonrise Lane, Aptos, APN 040-221-31**

Engineering Manager Jeff Gailey responded to questions from the Board. He stated that the existing home, currently being served by the District, and the proposed new detached garage and ADU are outside the District's boundary. He clarified that a variance from the requirement of having frontage on a water main, recording a water pressure waiver and permission from LAFCO for an extra territorial service because the parcel is located outside of the District's boundary, will be required before a second water meter can be installed.

Director Jaffe stated he was uncomfortable with approving a Will Serve letter that would increase the District's water demand for a parcel located outside the District's boundary when the aquifers are not being recharged due to the lack of water.

**MOTION: Director Kriege; Second: President Daniels: To authorize the District's Conditional Will Serve Letter indicating that the District will conditionally serve the proposed new Accessory Dwelling Unit to be added to the property located at 519 Moonrise Lane in Aptos, APN 040-221-31. The motion passed by a 4-1 vote with Director Jaffe dissenting.**

### **5.2 *This item was pulled from the agenda.***

### **5.3 New Water Service Connection Application for Carla Rittue, 150 Paseo Bonito, Aptos, APN 039-252-19**

**MOTION: Director Jaffe; Second: Director Hoernschemeyer: To authorize the District's standard water connection to be installed for Carla Rittue at 150 Paseo Bonito in Aptos, APN 039-252-19. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.**

#### 5.4 Water Demand Offset (WDO) Program Review and Potential Amendments

Conservation Customer Service Field Manager Ron Duncan provided a brief overview of the staff report and responded to questions from the Board. Discussion ensued regarding modifications to extend the WDO program as follows:

##### **Potential WDO Modifications to Extend the Program:**

1. *Provide Credit for Retrofitting Uses Served outside the District service area but within the basin:* The report of evaluation of opportunities and benefits to provide credit for retrofitting uses served outside the District by the District's hydrologist will be modified to specifically define the retrofit credit to better evaluate the hydrologic benefit and whether the benefit would be site specific.
2. *Greywater:* to pursue the feasibility, cost effectiveness and amount of water savings/credit available with including greywater for both new and existing development in the WDO program.
3. *Sell Rebates Water Savings as WDO Credits:* – The Board agreed with staff's recommendation not to pursue this option.

##### **Cost Effectiveness:**

Discussion ensued regarding the economics of:

- o the current WDO policy that sets the cost/benefit for developers to obtain WDO credits and the concept of allowing developers to decide what is cost effective. Allowing developers to seek their own level of cost effectiveness prompted discussion that obtaining WDO credits would only be affordable to the elite if the cost to obtain the credits was raised too high. The Board suggested that the Decision Guide include the concept to have the developers come up with creative ideas for determining an appropriate or feasible cost benefit ratio for their particular project
- o determine cost and water savings of installing individual meters in mobile home parks
- o to provide added incentives for replacing lawns with water-wise turf
- o to include clothes washing machines and cisterns to the WDO program
- o evaluate the feasibility of selling shares in the Satellite Reclamation Plant

**Decision Guide:**

- develop a flow chart defining the steps for declaring a moratorium, identify the trigger points
- identify who will be in line to be denied service and to be eligible for service once a moratorium is declared and/or lifted
- continue to issue Will Serve letters until the coastal monitoring wells indicate that water levels or quality are below levels as determined by the District's hydrologist to be protective of the groundwater basin

Ms. Graves commented on the following: the green building protocols established by the City of Santa Cruz that are based on a point system, researching what the County's Department of Environmental Health Services parameters are on using greywater and to consider adding greywater systems to the District's WDO program, amending the District's requirements to allow only drought tolerant landscaping to be installed for new development and to provide a reimbursement for bringing established landscaping into compliance; categorize the applicants, i.e. single-family, sub-divisions, commercial, to determine when to take the fees, and cistern use for landscaping. She noted her interest in the Clean Water Act and how the Scotts Valley Water District has been successful in motivating their customers to conserve water by publicizing that only a specific number of years of water will be available at the current usage rate.

The Board suggested: (a) to consider using an educational tool on the grounds in front of the District, such as a big thermometer that shows supply and demand figures, to demonstrate the dire state of the groundwater basin and (b) targeting the private water companies within the District.

**MOTION:** Director LaHue; Second: Director Jaffe: To approve Nos. 1, 3 and 4 as stated:

1. Available Retrofit Credits – Keep the Board apprised of the status of the toilet and turf offset/savings credits as the total value nears the 475 acre feet level
3. Greywater – to explore permitting greywater systems with the appropriate Santa Cruz County staff and return to the Board with a feasibility and potential savings assessment
4. Continue WDO Development – staff to continue to evaluate other potential methods to extend the WDO program by adding cisterns, clothes washing machines and by installing individual meters in the mobile home parks. The motion passes by a unanimous vote.

MOTION: Director LaHue; Second: Director Jaffe: Nos. 2 and 5 are to return to the Board for further discussion at a future date.

2. Retrofits for Private Wells Outside SqCWD Service Area – the District’s hydrologist will modify his report on expanding the WDO program to include private wells users outside the District’s service area but within the basin to specifically define what the hydrologic benefit would be, whether the benefit would be zone specific and to identify areas where water level data is needed
5. Decision Guide – develop a flow chart that would identify the steps that would be followed for declaring a moratorium, what the trigger points would be, and provide various options regarding who will be the first to get shut off if a moratorium is declared and who will be the first to get turned back on once the moratorium is lifted. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

By consensus, the Board requested having the motion for Nos. 2 and 5 reviewed as a separate Board item for clarity at the **next meeting on September 18, 2007.**

The Board thanked Mr. Duncan for his work on this item.

- 5.5 Approve the Scope of Services and Budget for Municipal Financial Services to Provide a Rates and Charges Model Update for 2008

Assistant General Manager Bob Stevens provided a brief overview of the staff report. Tom Pavletic with Municipal Financial Services (teleconferencing) responded to questions from the Board. Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Director LaHue; Second: Director Hoernschemeyer: To approve the Rates and Charges model update proposal of “Not to Exceed” \$5,880, including out of pocket expenses, from Municipal Financial Services for the Calendar Year 2007 as presented. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

- 5.6 Wixon Avenue/Bayview Court Main Replacement Project, Bid Award

Engineering Manager Jeff Gailey stated that five bids were received and opened on August 7, 2007 for the above named project. Earthworks Paving Contractors Inc. was the lowest bidder at \$256,880.00.

MOTION: Director Hoernschemeyer; Second: Director Kriege: To accept the lowest qualified bidder and to adopt **Resolution No. 07-32** for award of contract to the lowest responsible bidder for the Wixon Avenue/Bayview Court Main Replacement Project, CWO 07-154. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

- 5.7 Approve Utility Agreement for County of Santa Cruz Public Works, 2007/2008 Road Overlay Project, Soquel-San Jose Road and Soquel Drive, Soquel

MOTION: Director Jaffe; Second: Director LaHue: To authorize the Board President to sign a Utility Agreement with the County of Santa Cruz Public Works Department for the amount of \$18,627 for the 2007-2008 Road Overlay Project and to authorize the General Manager to sign a Purchase Order in the amount of \$18,627 for the County of Santa Cruz to raise water valves on the 2007-2008 Road Overlay Project. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

- 5.8 Approve Job Description and Salary Range for the New Position of Customer Service Field and Conservation Worker

MOTION: Director Jaffe; Second: President Daniels: To approve the new job description for "Customer Service Field and Conservation Worker" and associated salary range. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

- 5.9 Resolution Honoring Daniel Steingrube Upon his Retirement as the District's Water Quality Technician

MOTION: President Daniels; Second: Director Kriege: To adopt **Resolution No. 07-33** in Appreciation of Daniel L. Steingrube, Water Quality Technician, 1979 – 2007. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

- 5.10 Nominations for Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Committee Appointments for the 2007-2008 Term

MOTION: Director Jaffe; Second: Director LaHue: To approve the nomination of Robert E. Bosso to the 2007-2008 ACWA Legal Affairs Committee and to approve the nomination of Derrik Williams to the 2007-2008 ACWA Groundwater Committee. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

- 5.11 Approve Attendance at ACWA and Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA) Fall Conferences, November 27-30, in Indian Wells and the ACWA Region 5 Meeting, September 16-17, in Cambria

MOTION: Director Kriege; Second: Director LaHue: To authorize attendance by Staff and Board Members at the ACWA and JPIA Fall Conference in Indian Wells, November 26-30, 2007 and to authorize attendance by Staff and Board Members at the ACWA Region 5 meeting in Cambria, September 16-17, 2007. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

- 5.12 Approve Press Release Regarding Installation of Arsenic Treatment Plant

The following modifications were made:

Replace Board ~~President Bruce Daniels~~ with Board Member Bruce Jaffe; Condense Press Release to  $\frac{3}{4}$  size page by eliminating the 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> paragraphs; ~~999,999,999 molecules of water~~; New **effective low cost** water treatment facilities ....(1<sup>st</sup> paragraph); has consistently reduced these low arsenic levels ~~to less than can be reliably detected~~ **to below reliably detectable amounts of 1.2 ppb.** (third paragraph) and Dr. Thomas LaHue noted: eliminate first sentence and start with, "Even though State Health officials....(7<sup>th</sup> paragraph).

MOTION: Director LaHue; Second: Director Jaffe: To approve the press release about arsenic removal with modifications to be sent to the media on October 1, 2007. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

- 5.13 Desalination Task Force (Oral Report) - this item was not discussed.

## 6. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 6.1 Review Annual Disclosure (Govt. Code Section 53065.5). Fiscal Year **2005-07** Director & Employee Reimbursements Exceeding \$100

This item was not discussed.

- 6.2 Satellite Reclamation Plant Facilities Study Grant: Market Assessment Requirements

This item was not discussed.

## **7. STATUS REPORTS**

- 7.1 Conservation and Customer Service Field (CCSF) – Mr. Duncan provided an overview of the status report and responded to questions from the Board.
- 7.2 Income & Investment Report for July – nothing further was discussed.
- 7.3 District Counsel – Bob Bosso stated he had nothing to report.
- 7.4 General Manager – Ms. Brown reported on the following:
- o A review received from the State Department of Water Resources on the District's Urban Water Management Plan
  - o Cabrillo College well's went down and the District has opened the inter-tie connection to provide water to the college
  - o LAFCO has agendized approval of: 1) deannexation of District parcels to the City of Santa Cruz to correct the boundary and 2) incorporation of the Trout Gulch Mutual Water Company and its acquisition of the Mar Vista Water Company
  - o Proposition 50 Integrated Regional Water Resources Management Grant. A kick-off meeting has been scheduled to discuss structure and how to staff
  - o County Fair opens on September 11. A demonstration site on the District's Weather-based Irrigation Controllers (WBIC) will be located at the Conservation Booth.

Ms. Brown apprised the Board she will be on vacation from September 11 and returning to the office on October 1, 2007.

Mr. Gailey provided an update on the La Selva Beach Main Replacement project.

- 7.5 Work Plan & Special Assignments – Ms. Brown responded to a question from President Daniels regarding the Landscape Controller Grant.

## **8. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. Brown noted the District's response letter to Mr. Macken regarding low water pressure on Crystal Heights; revised Production Totals and an article by State Assemblyman John Laird that was distributed with the packet.

LAFCO correspondence dated August 27, 2007 regarding incorporation request from investor-owned Mar Vista Water Company to become a mutual water company to be named Trout Gulch Mutual Water Company.

9. **ADJOURNMENT** - There being no further business, President Daniels adjourned the meeting at 9:51 p.m. to the next scheduled meeting on September 18, 2007.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

---

Denise Alexander, Board Clerk

---

Bruce Daniels, President