

**SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 6, 2018**

President Daniels called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm at the Capitola City Council Chambers.

1. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

Dr. Bruce Daniels, President
Dr. Thomas LaHue, Vice-President
Dr. Bruce Jaffe
Carla Christensen
Rachél Lather

Board Members Absent:

None

Staff Members Present:

Ron Duncan, General Manager
Taj Dufour, Engineering Manager
Christine Mead, Operations and Maintenance Manager
Leslie Strohm, Finance and Business Services Manager
Traci Hart, Human Resources Manager
Melanie Mow Schumacher, Special Projects-Communications Manager

Others Present:

4 members of the public

2. PUBLIC HEARING – None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Item 3.1 and 3.3 was pulled from Consent Agenda.

MOTION: Director Jaffe; Second; Director Christensen: To approve consent agenda items 3.2 and 3.4. Motion passed unanimously.

3.1 Approval of Minutes – February 20, 2018

Action: Removed from Consent; Discussed; Approved

Discussion was held about what is recorded in the minutes. President Daniels noted minutes are in an action format; meetings are audio and video recorded and can be viewed if more information is needed. Director Christensen noted concerns expressed by B. Steinbruner about information missing from the minutes. Mr. Duncan responded that it is documented in the minutes when public comments are heard.

One public comment was heard.

3.2 Small Claims Monthly Report for February 2018

Action: Approved

3.3 Approve Scope of Work Addendum for Professional Consultant Services for Groundwater Modeling and Hydrology to Support Evaluation of the Proposed Pure Water Soquel Project

Action: Removed from Consent; Discussed; Approved

President Daniels responded to a question from B. Steinbruner regarding the anti-degradation study.

- 3.4 Approve Requested Modification to Request For Quote for Consultant Services for Development of Finance Plan and Rate Study
Action: Approved

4. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** *(items not on the Agenda)*

Public comment was heard regarding Water for Santa Cruz County and North Coast water.

Public comment was heard about the Brown Act and three ways the Board can engage the public. President Daniels responded that the Board does all three.

Public comment was heard about the use of water for cannabis cultivation. The County Planning Commission doesn't appear to address the increased use of water, new or private wells, and no mention of local water authorities or requirement for an Environmental Impact Review. Also noted was that the drought will probably resume. President Daniels commented about the County process.

Public comment was heard about the high-water rates and if there would be more incentives in the future for low water usage. President Daniels responded that this is one of the issues being discussed by the Water Rates Advisory Committee. He also noted that, by law, the District must have equal rates for everyone.

Public comment was heard that the Capitola City Council will agendize the Soquel Creek management plan and consider adding implementation of the plan as a line item in their next budget.

Board comments:

Director Christensen talked about the current drought situation. The dry season is coming up.

President Daniels noted that City of Santa Cruz has had to draw from the Loch Lomond reservoir due to small water flows in the San Lorenzo River and North Coast streams.

President Daniels reported that he met with the Water for Santa Cruz representatives, noting that the City of Santa Cruz has the rights to the water, not the District. The City will have to agree to any water transfers.

Director Lather will be attending the Water Environment Federation's ImagineH₂O conference that brings together innovators to solve water challenges. She will report back to the Board.

President Daniels mentioned a meeting of the Santa Cruz Water Commission where the status of the water supply was reported. They are at 46% of normal for the time of year. He noted the report is on their website.

5. **REPORTS**

5.1 Board Planning Calendar

Mr. Duncan noted that an update will be given at the 3/20/18 meeting on water transfers and an update on the efforts of the City of Santa Cruz and supplemental supply.

The WaterReuse conference is March 25th - 27th.

Director LaHue will be at a conference when the next Public Outreach Committee is scheduled on April 10th.

The Finance and Administrative Services Committee was moved to April 9th.

5.2 Annual System Water Production Status Report

Ms. Mead reviewed the report and graphs on usage, well production, maintenance, yields and capacity and answered questions from the Board. Key points were the production capacity in 2017 was lower than prior years due to several wells being offline. The wells were able to meet the maximum day demand with all sources, and were able to meet the peak hour demand through a combination of sources and storage. A gradual decline in the yield of some wells was documented due to age. The drop in yield at Tannery 2 well is due to operating the motor at a lower frequency to save energy.

One public comment was heard about the Polo Grounds well capacity.

Staff was thanked for providing this very helpful report.

5.3 Report Out on Mid-County Groundwater (MGA) Agency Related Activities (Oral)

Mr. Duncan reported that the Mid-County Groundwater Executive Team have been discussing how to make information about the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) more easily understood by the audience (the GSP Advisory Committee and the public). Board discussion included more guidance being provided by the Executive Team and the consultants.

One public comment was heard about giving public comments at the MGA and wanted to know how to contact members of the MGA. President Daniels suggested contacting the MGA.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

6.1 Will Serve Letters

Mr. Dufour reviewed the memo for the presented Will Serve applications and answered questions from the Board.

One public comment was heard about limits on WDO credits.

President Daniels responded that there is no limit on the amount of WDO credits, but there is a maximum of how many toilets retrofits each developer can use for WDO offsets before they need to go back to end of the line.

One public comment was heard about why there was a \$5,200 payment to a developer for WDOs.

Ms. Strohm responded that a developer retrofitted toilets and gave the rebates to the customers. The developer who purchased the toilets was paid for the rebates which were then distributed to the customers.

New WDO Program:

6.1.1 Will Serve for Capitola Library Tear Down and Rebuild, 2005 Wharf Road, Capitola. APN: 034-541-34

6.1.2 Will Serve for Minor Land Division with 3 Tier I Single Family Homes at 4201 Capitola Rd., Capitola. APN 034-121-36 (Magnolia Tree Investments, Inc.)

MOTION: Director Lahue; Second; Director Christensen: To approve will serve letters Items 6.1.1 and 6.1.2. Directors Lather, Jaffe Christensen, and LaHue voted in favor of the motion. Director Daniels was opposed. Motion passed.

6.2 Main Break Road Repairs at Various Locations Project Bid Award (CWO 18-571)

Ms. Mead reviewed the bid opening for the paving projects as noted in the memo.

MOTION: Director Jaffe; Second; Director LaHue: To accept the lowest qualified bidder, Earthworks Paving Contractors, Inc. for the Main Break Road Repair Project at Various Locations, Construction Work Order (CWO) 18-571, and to adopt Resolution No. 18-07 for award of contract to Earthworks Paving Contractors, Inc. and authorize the General Manager to sign a purchase order in the amount of \$129,183.00. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

6.3 Update on SkyTEM Investigation/Report Regarding the Seawater Intrusion Interface (Oral)

Mr. Duncan gave an update on what is currently known about the SkyTEM data. The conclusions will be presented at the 3/15/18 MGA meeting at Simpkins Swim Center. A written report will be provided. In summary, seawater intrusion is very close in all areas of the coast.

Director LaHue noted that Simpkins might not be the best venue if a large audience is expected. Director Christensen suggested seeing if the adjoining room at Simpkins could be used for this meeting, since it may have larger than normal attendance. Mr. Duncan will look into this.

6.4 Memorial Resolution Honoring Laura D. Brown

President Daniels read the resolution honoring the late former General Manager Laura Brown for her excellent service to the District.

MOTION: Director LaHue; Second; President Daniels: To adopt Resolution No. 18-08, in Posthumous Appreciation of Laura D. Brown. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

7. **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

7.1 Email from B. Steinbruner

Public comment was heard about a payment made to Tom Burns. Mr. Duncan noted he is a consultant assisting the District.

8. **CLOSED SESSION** – None

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

President Daniels adjourned the meeting at 7:21 pm to the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 20, 2018.

TRANSCRIBED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Karen Reese, Board Clerk

Dr. Bruce Daniels, President