

**JUNIPER RIVIERA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Thursday August 18, 2022
5:30 PM District Office**

Meeting Minutes

Board of Directors:
Erin D’Orio, Present
Jason Chormicle, Present
Waldo Stakes, Present
Charlene Grenier, Present

Staff:
Lorrie Steely, Present
Lee Logsdon, Present

- **CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE – 5:06pm Meeting was called to order, Erin D’Orio led the flag salute**
- **ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECORDED MEETING/ ROLL CALL – Roll call was taken by Erin D’Orio**
- **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** The public is invited at this time to address the Board on matters relating to water district business. Comments regarding specific agenda items may also be addressed during the time that the item is before the Board of Directors, with prior notice being given. The Board of Directors at its discretion may impose time limits on the speaker(s).

- **CONSIDER APPLICANT(S) FOR VACANT BOARD SEAT – No applicants were in attendance.**

- **PUBLIC HEARING – THE BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE CAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION 2019 RATE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSED RATE INCREASE AT THIS TIME THE PUBLIC IS AGAIN INVITED TO SPEAK AND ASK QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS MATTER. This matter was moved to the end of the meeting.**
- **APPROVE MEETING MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD JULY 21, 2022**
The Board reviewed the meeting minutes and a motion was made to approve as written.
Motion to approve by; Jason Chormicle, Second by; Waldo Stakes All in Favor; 3 All Opposed; 0

- **APPROVE FINANCIAL REPORT INCLUDING MONTHLY OPERATING EXPENSES FOR JUNE 2022/FISCAL YEAR-END 2021-2022.** PEGGY EINHART, DISTRICT BOOKKEEPER TO DISCUSS YEAR END NUMBERS
Staff called Peggy Einhart who discussed the year end budgetary numbers. The District was well within the estimated budget for the fiscal year 2021-20212 and is in sound financial condition. General discussion ensued and the motion was made to approve the year end financials for June 2022.
Motion to approve by; Waldo Stakes, Second by; Jason Chormicle, All in Favor; 3, All Opposed; 0

- **INFORMATION ITEMS: The following items, announcements and/or reports are presented for information and discussion only:**
 - **OPERATIONS/WATER SYSTEM UPDATE – Lee Logsdon discussed the current system conditions. Staff has made temporary repairs on a couple of leak, and we have been working to replace some services in order to relocate them off private property and into the easements, making them accessible. Overall operations are running smoothly with no significant issues or problems in the past month.**
 - **DISTRICT BUSINESS/GENERAL MANAGERS UPDATE – Lorrie Steely**
 - + Marijuana issues and water consumption update, nothing new to update. Growing season is coming to a close as we near the end of summer. Remember to keep an eye out for suspicious activity.
 - + County taxes were filed for annual collections for both stand-by fees and bond debt. Staff was able to provide all the documentation necessary working with the San Bernardino County Auditor/Controller’s Office. The District provided required documents ahead of the annual deadline of August 10th.

+ Filed election paperwork for (4) seats, all (4) seats were filed for, one seat will be vacant in January unless another resident filed their own candidacy paperwork. Staff reported this was a bit of a task this year since all four Director seats had changes since the prior election year. Staff completed and filed candidacy documents for all 4 seats. One sitting Director did not file for re-election, and as such unless another candidate filed, the District will have to solicit for the seat and appoint a new Director.

+ Staff has focused on collecting some past due accounts, in particular (3) accounts, (1) Aspen Road – resident deceased, fire on property, large water leak resulted in high bill. The owner was finally located and the bill has been paid in full. (1) apparent abandoned property on Corto Road found that owner is deceased – property in possession of HUD, staff has made contact with HUD staff who have indicated they will remit payment in full for the past due balance within 30 days, (1) property on Roundup that was previously owned by Ray Pryke and was a grow in 2020-2021, Staff has located contact for current owner's daughter who agreed to a payment arrangement which would have the balance paid by September 19th.

- **GRANT UPDATES**

Demonstration Garden – Edible Garden Grant Update: June 15, awarded \$17,500, work to be done in October after growing season when weather is cooler. The community garden next to the office is doing well. Producing mostly tomatoes, zucchini and okra. Staff has been sharing with the residents who come into the office and the project so far has been well-received. Next step is to begin the planning process for the garden building now that the summer season is coming to an end.

IRWMP Grant Update: Grant Status: Approved \$250,000 Nov 2021, Amendment to increase funding to \$377,000 based on changes identified during preliminary implementation.

Well 3 Profiling: Based on profile findings, Well is not a viable candidate for remediation. The project will need to be revised or the funding allocated for the well will have to be given back to the state.

PRV Stations: Priority for Rebuilding/Replacing PRV Stations has been identified. Staff has determined that all the PRV stations along Milpas should be replaced. Amendment to scope of work approved and increase to budget implemented. PRV Stations will be replaced in cooler weather when the water consumption is less, staff anticipates scheduling this work in the fall possibly October or November.

State Water Resources Control Board Grant – Generators: Status of application; Pending Staff received a call from Cal Rural Water Association on Friday June 6th, the State of CA has approved our application to go to the implementation phase. As of August 15th, Cal Rural has hired an electrical engineer who will provide the electrical plan, and there should be an update by the end of the month.

Prop 1 Grant (NV-5 James Nolte/Sac State): Preliminary Engineering Report draft under review, pending revisions based on comments before second draft review.

- **NEW BUSINESS:**

Discuss/consider annexation of 3850 Overlook Road to be added to District boundaries and as District customer. Staff discussed the application received from resident on Outlook Road to have the mainline extended and a water meter installed on his property. Staff provided information regarding the required interconnection and stated we will need a plan to be provided by the developer (owner). Staff will provide written requirements to owner/developer. Board concurred that Staff will issue a Will Serve letter as of today's date and the cost for the meter will be \$7,000.

- **ACTION ITEMS:**

Approve authorizing staff to implement Direct Deposit for employees: First Foundation Bank. Staff stated that the process for implementing the direct deposit has been finalized, there is a training course to be completed and thereafter DD will be operational, Board discussed the matter.

Motion to approve by; Jason Chormicle, Second by; Waldo Stakes, All in Favor3, All Opposed 0

The Regular Meeting was closed at 5:28 pm

The Public Hearing was called to order at 5:32 pm

- **PUBLIC HEARING** – THE BOARD WILL DISCUSS THE CAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION 2019 RATE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSED RATE INCREASE AT THIS TIME THE PUBLIC IS AGAIN INVITED TO SPEAK AND ASK QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS MATTER. This matter was moved to the end of the meeting.

The following District customers/members of the Public in attendance:

Carlos & Alicia Villapondo	26325 Rancho St
Virginia Haire	26330 Rancho St
Jerry Lyon	8350 Overlook Dr
Lynn Ackerman	26565 Horizon
Scott McDade	26475 Roundup Way
Yvette Roy	26370 Roundup Way

District Staff explained the process by which Staff and Board of Directors considered the District's costs verses income projections over the next 3 years. In addition, during the July 7th Finance Committee meeting (consisting of (2) Directors and (1) member of the Public and the District General Manager), the findings from the Study done under a grant by Cal Rural Water Association; performed by Robert D. Niehaus, Inc were considered and after a lengthy discussion the Finance Committee determined their direction from the Budget Committee to the Board of Directors would be to follow the recommendations of the Study, and increase the monthly service rate by \$3 per year for each of the next three fiscal as well as increasing the rates for tiers for water use by 10% this fiscal year 2022-2023 as well as 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

The floor was opened to the public in attendance; many comments were made and questions asked. The overall concern expressed was disagreement with any rate increase. Attendees stated the rates were high and there was no incentive to conserve water built into the District's rates. Further statements were made comparing the District rates to other various water companies, both public and private.

Staff and Director's answered questions and reiterated the process that had been followed in order to come to the conclusion which was; in order for the District to continue to operate in a responsible fiscal manner, a rate increase is warranted. Staff stated that the Study that was performed in 2019 could not possibly have foreseen, or taken into consideration the current economic conditions. In fact, if these conditions could have been predicted, the outcome of the Study would likely have warranted an even higher increase.

Action Item: Approve Resolution #356: Directing staff to implement (3) year rate-plan including monthly service-rate increase of \$3 for each of the fiscal years 2022-2023, 2023-2024 & 2024-2025 to be effective September 1 of each year. Having heard and considered the public comments as well as the recommendations of the Rate Study and the Finance Committee, the Board made the motion to approve Resolution 356.

Motion by Waldo Stakes to approve Resolution #356; Second by Jason Chormicle;
All in Favor; 3 All Opposed; 0

Motion to Adjourn was made by Waldo Stakes; Second by Jason Chormicle; All in Favor, 3; All Opposed, tThe Public Hearing was closed at 6:45pm.

X 
Minutes approved/recorded by;
District Secretary, Lorrie L. Steely

9.22.2022