

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
December 1, 2022
RUBIDOUX COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Armando Muniz
Bernard Murphy
John Skerbelis
F. Forest Trowbridge
Hank Trueba, Jr.

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Jeff Sims, General Manager
Brian Laddusaw, Finance Director
Martha Perez, Accounts Payable Manager
Miguel Valdez, Director of Operations

Call to order: the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Rubidoux Community Services District by President Trueba, at 4:00 P.M., Thursday, December 1, 2022, by teleconferencing at District Office, 3590 Rubidoux Boulevard, Jurupa Valley, California.

ITEM 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Minutes for November 17, 2022, Board Meeting.

Director Muniz moved, and Director Skerbelis seconded to approve the November 17, 2022, Regular Board Minutes as presented.

Roll call:

Ayes – 5 (Muniz, Murphy, Skerbelis, Trowbridge, Trueba)

Noes – 0

Abstain – 0

Absent – 0

The motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM 5. Consideration to Approve the December 2, 2022, Salaries, Expenses and Transfers.

Consideration to Approve the December 2, 2022, Salaries, Expenses and Transfers.

Director Murphy moved, and Director Muniz seconded to Approve the December 2, 2022, Salaries, Expenses and Transfers.

Roll call:

Ayes – 5 (Muniz, Murphy, Skerbelis, Trowbridge, Trueba)

Noes – 0

Abstain – 0

Absent – 0

The motion was carried unanimously.

ITEM 6. PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGE OF NON-AGENDA MATTERS

There were no members of the public to address the board.

ITEM 7. CORRESPONDENCE AND RELATED INFORMATION

There was nothing to present at this time.

ITEM 8. MANAGER’S REPORT

Operations Report:

Presented at the second board meeting of the month.

Emergency and Fire Report:

We have two new Battalion Chiefs to replace Chief Kitty and Chief Danson. Both of the new Chiefs promoted in October. Chief Chris Tate has a military background. He was in the Marines for 4 years and 8 years in the Army Reserves. He has been a with CalFire firefighter for 23 years. He is Battalion 14A. Chief Alex Paul is the other Battalion Chief. He is Battalion 14B. Chief Paul also became a firefighter in the early 2000’s. He was in the Navy for 4 years. He was a shipboard firefighter there.

Manager’s Report:

Jeff and Brian are going to the City of Jurupa Valley council meeting tonight with a presentation. The purpose of attendance is because on December 15th staff will be coming to the board with the public hearings for the consideration of the water and sewer rate adjustment. Staff held a virtual town hall meeting, went through the process, and no one showed up. Tonight, we will be presenting and advising why we are doing the adjustments and inviting them to the meeting on the 15th. There will be another virtual townhall meeting on the 7th. Staff will be working with counsel Harper to prepare a script for the public hearing for the board president to stay on point.

Brian Laddusaw added that the next virtual townhall meeting will be in the evening.

The new HR person will be starting on December 12. Claudia, is now a full-time employee for the District, replacing Martha’s position. One of Miguel’s crew transitioned over to the systems operator position. There is now an opening for that position.

ITEM 9. Consider Supporting 2023 Metropolitan Water District Legislative Priorities. DM 2022-103.

BACKGROUND

Rubidoux Community Services District (“District”) is a retail water agency within Western Municipal Water District’s (“Western”) General District. Western is one of the twenty-six member agencies of Metropolitan Water District (“MWD”). Although the District currently does not receive any imported water supply from MWD through Western, as part of Western the District is eligible to access imported MWD water supply.

Currently the District is 100% reliant on local groundwater supply and desires having an imported water supply for supply redundancy and water quality enhancements. Over the past year or so the District has collaborated with Western, MWD, West Valley Water District, and San Bernardino Valley MWD on an agreement to wheel up to 2,000 acre-feet per year of imported MWD water through West Valley Water District to the District. The five-party agreement to accomplish this was approved by all involved agencies except due to concerns about drought impacts on MWD’s overall water supply portfolio. It is anticipated MWD will revisit approval of the agreement withing the next 2-4 month based on recent conversations with Craig Miller, Western’s General Manager.

At the Metropolitan Water District (“MWD”) Communication and Legislative Committee meeting on November 7, 2022, legislative priorities, and principles for 2023 was presented (attached) and recommended for approval by the MWD Board at its December 2022 meeting. The top legislative priorities of MWD for 2023 include the following:

1. Continue support for imported water supply resiliency and reliability, including progress on the Delta Conveyance Project, Sites Reservoir Project, Voluntary Agreements, and protecting critical elevations in Lake Powell and Lake Mead.
2. Conserve existing water supplies and prepare for climate change by supporting demand management and water use efficiency, long-term non-functional turf conversion, and a federal tax exemption for water conservation rebates.
3. Advance Pure Water Southern California and other water recycling projects and long-term supply reliability improvements.
4. Protect drinking water quality and ensure access to safe and reliable drinking water for all Californians, including upholding the polluter pays principle and ensuring the continued cleanup of sites along the Colorado River.
5. Support adaptive management for ecosystem restoration in the Bay-Delta and Colorado River watersheds that takes into consideration evolving climate conditions, risk analyses, and best available science.
6. Implement Metropolitan’s Climate Action Plan to reduce Metropolitan’s greenhouse gas emissions and reach carbon neutrality by 2045.

On behalf of the agencies within its service area Western has advocated for MWD to adopt priorities consistent with the reason it was originally formed – avail southern California with access to imported water through the Colorado River Aqueduct and State Water Project Systems.

These systems were built decades ago and have performed in an excellent manner absent significant investment in their expansion. However, due to population growth and environmental impacts on supply, the Colorado River Aqueduct and State Water Project systems help for southern California's water supply reliability. Western has strongly advocated MWD must do more than just call for conservation and support statewide water project investments.

Western has requested all retail water provider agencies within its service area to submit a letter to MWD supporting MWD's proposed 2023 Legislative Priorities. Attached for the Boards consideration is the requested support letter for signature by Board President Trueba.

Director Muniz moved, and Director Trowbridge seconded to Support Metropolitan Water District's proposed 2023 Legislative Priorities.

Roll call:

Ayes – 4 (Muniz, Skerbelis, Trowbridge, Trueba)

Noes – 1 (Murphy)

Abstain – 0

Absent – 0

The motion was carried with a vote of 4 Ayes and 1 No.

ITEM 10. Consideration to Schedule Employees' Retirement and Annual End-of-Year Luncheons. DM 2022-104.

BACKGROUND

Later this month, three integral members of the Rubidoux Community Services District ("District") staff are retiring. They include:

- Fausto Canal – Utility Maintenance Worker I – 20+ years' service
- Brian Jennings – Customer Service/Accounts Payable Manager – 21+ years' service
- Jeff Sims – General Manager – 3+ years' service

District staff wishes to recognize their dedication and commitment to the District for their combined 44 years of service. As part of this recognition, District staff plan to hold a catered retirement luncheon for the three employees and their close family on Wednesday December 7 from 1pm – 3pm. Those invited include, recent District retirees, Board Members and a select few from Fire Station 38. District staff expects to expend no public funds towards the retirement luncheon and instead will redeem credit card points accumulated over time to offset the charge of the food and decorations.

Additionally, for many years District staff have participated in a year-end pot-luck luncheon. As the Board is aware, no public funds are used for the luncheon. In recent years, the Board has been asked to voluntarily contribute money toward the luncheon. This year no monetary contributions from the board are required. However, since the luncheon is a pot-luck event, the Board is welcome to bring desserts or sides if they so choose.

To not interfere and diminish the retirement luncheon, the year-end pot-luck luncheon will be Wednesday December 21 from 12pm – 2pm. All District employees and Directors are invited.

No action, information item only.

ITEM 11. Directors Comments

Director Murphy commented regarding the letter received from the general manager. He responded to the general manager with an email letter. Director Murphy is firm in his belief that the number the district should be using is the number published by the federal government. They periodically publish these numbers. The next number they are going to publish is for November and it will be published on December 13th. He will send an email link to the other board members so they can see what it looks like when it comes out. He thinks it's a bad idea for the district to be calculating a number when we can rely on a number published by the federal government. He would like input from staff what their intention is.

Sims: I think there should be a personnel committee. You'll be the board President and you can establish a personnel committee. You can determine exactly what you interpret the MOU wording to be and there has to be an amendment; if the language in the current MOU doesn't match, or isn't clear enough, then I agree there should be one interpretation and the personnel committee should make that decision, bring it to the full board for a recommendation and then present it. There will have to be an opener to the represented staff and if there's concurrence then add that amendment. That's what it is.

Director Trueba adjourned the meeting at 4:28 PM.