# Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District Board Meeting Held June 13, 2012

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held June 13, 2012 at Casitas' Office, Oak View, California. Directors Baggerly, Word, Bergen and Kaiser were present. Director Hicks was absent. Also present were Steve Wickstrum, General Manager, Rebekah Vieira, Clerk of the Board, and Attorney, John Mathews. There were two staff members and no members of the public in attendance. President Baggerly led the group in the flag salute.

### 1. Public Comments

None

## 2. <u>General Manager comments</u>.

Mr. Wickstrum reported that pools are drying up on the river. We only had about 15 inches of rain this winter. There is about 1.5 cfs running through Robles and it is barely reaching the Land Conservancy pool. Below that is drying up. This is not unusual. At Robles there are six or seven small trout and that area will likely dry up by the end of the summer. There are no plans for rescue at this time. That determination is up to NMFS.

Mr. Wickstrum then provided an update on the fire inside the building at the Rincon Pump plant. It seems that something with the VFD's got too hot and it smoked some things. We are working to get that fixed and hope to see some warranty conditions met. There was an alarm condition signaled in the scada and the situation was handled well by our staff. We have brought in an individual to take pictures and assess how this happened. We did not lose water supply or the ability to pump. This only affected one pump and the other pumps carried the load.

Mr. Wickstrum reported that he and some board members attended the meeting of the watershed council this morning on water quality TMDL algae. Some of the things that were said in the video on dewatering in the river were pointed directly at pumpers in the river as the cause for the dewatering. The grant that the three agencies are looking at for the groundwater study will look at what portion is pumping or is water sliding underneath and popping out at Foster Park and Casitas Springs.

The wine festival came off very well this Sunday. It was well attended and Rotary did a great job putting everything together. They will be a good partner for the next five years.

# 3. <u>Board of Director comments.</u>

President Baggerly explained that the conversation with Shirley from the regional board was troubling. One of the issues was if the known subterranean channel will be an issue for diversions and flow pumping. It can have an impact like it did in Carmel. Another issue was if this local groundwater assistance grant will look favorably at the issue if EPA sees it is a positive venture or outcome of the agencies having an mou or moa. EPA can step in any time. If state board decides Ventura River is a subterranean river that could be used to regulate groundwater pumpers. They would have to get a water right. Mr. Wickstrum explained that it is not well understood by many and this may provide answers.

President Baggerly called everyone's attention to an article in the June 7 V.C. Reporter. The title, as can be seen in the copy I am going to pass out for each of you and staff is A Radioactive Nightmare. One of the key findings presented is that the water being used for emergency cooling of the damaged nuclear reactors in Japan is picking up significant amounts of radiation and transporting it via North Pacific currents to our west coast. In addition, radioactive particles can move from the water surface up into the air mass, and, then, travel inland with the onshore westerly winds. As the radioactive particles move inland, they can contaminate anything on the surface such as open bodies of water like Lake Casitas. At this time, I would like to ask my fellow board members and General Manager to read the article and think about steps we might take to verify the findings and conclusions presented. Also I would like to suggest that some thought be given to asking state and federal agencies responsible for water quality to verify the findings and conclusions presented. Finally, if they are verified, we will be left with the question about what steps can be taken to help protect Lake Casitas.

## 4. Consent Agenda

ADOPTED

- a. Minutes of the May 23, 2012 Board Meeting.
- b. Resolution approving membership in American Society of Safety Engineers in the amount of \$200.
- c. Recommend approval of Leak Relief in the amount of \$591.36 to Pamela White.

The consent agenda was offered by Director Kaiser, seconded by Director Word and passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors: Kaiser, Bergen, Word, Baggerly

NOES: Directors: None ABSENT: Directors: Hicks

Resolution is numbered 12-23.

5. Bills APPROVED

On the motion of Director Bergen, seconded by Director Kaiser and passed, the bills were approved.

#### APPROVED FOR FILING

# 6. <u>Committee/Manager Reports</u>

- a. Water Resources Committee Minutes
- b. Recreation Committee Minutes
- c. Executive Committee Minutes
- d. Finance Committee Minutes

Director Word brought attention to the comments regarding leak relief and suggested this may be the time to look at that program. The water is going through the meters and we are not charging under this program and we may want to look at if we want to retain this program. President Baggerly asked if other districts have leak relief. Mr. Wickstrum explained many do not. We emphasize that it there is a problem with your plumbing on your side of the meter you have to take care of it. Director Word explained that the City of Ventura will drop your rate back one tier. Mr. Wickstrum explained this can be discussed further in Executive Committee.

On the motion of Director Word, seconded by Director Bergen and passed, the Committee/Manager Reports were approved for filing.

7. Recommend approval of the payment to the Bureau of Reclamation in the amount of \$317,944.82 for the M&I and interest portion of the Safety of Dams obligation.

APPROVED

On the motion of Director Kaiser, seconded by Director Bergen and passed, the above recommendation was approved.

8. <u>Discussion regarding the scheduling of Board meetings through the summer months.</u>

The Board discussed various scheduling conflicts through the summer months and it was determined that there is no need to alter the Board meeting schedule at this time.

## 9. <u>Information Items</u>:

- a. Monthly Cost Analysis for operation of Robles, fisheries and fish passage.
- b. Lake Casitas Recreation Area Report for April, 2012.
- c. 2011 Robles Progress Report.
- d. News Articles.
- e. Investment Report

Director Kaiser suggested checking with County Office of Emergency Services to see if radiation is on their radar.

President Baggerly moved the meeting to closed session at 3:42 p.m.

# 10. Closed Session

a. (Govt. Code Sec. 54956.9 (c))
Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (One case).

President Baggerly reconvened the meeting in open session at 4:00 p.m. stating there was nothing to report.

# 11. Adjournment

President Baggerly adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Bill Hicks, Secretary