



Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District
Board Meeting Held
June 13, 2018

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held June 13, 2018 at the Casitas Municipal Water District located at 1055 Ventura Ave. in Oak View, California. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. President Word led the group in the flag salute.

1. Roll Call

Directors Baggerly, Kaiser, Bergen, and Hicks were present. President Word was absent. Also present were Steve Wickstrum, General Manager, Rebekah Vieira, Clerk of the Board, and Attorney, John Mathews. There were four staff members and 15 members of the public in attendance.

2. Public comments (Items not on the agenda – three minute limit).

John Johnston with the City of Ventura thanked Russ and Steve for all their efforts and for joining us at the council today. We are trying to get the facts on the table and get us all working together. I realize a lot of that is happening. The public has rumors, fear, and ignorance. They look at the lake and that is the symbol that our property values will be ruined. Fear is based on belief that one of the best opportunities available is the connection to state water because in the years when there is a surplus there would be opportunity to take delivery and wheel water. Because of the cost of that project and need for a consortium between Calleguas, and the Ojai Valley with Casitas and the City of Ventura there is a few that the window of opportunity is closing and we might be left out and then we risk being in stage 4 and 5 more frequently and the cost to remedy may be higher. People show up at our meetings and say why isn't someone doing something. At the meeting we dealt with an op-ed piece we were asked to join in on. We tried to recraft it to ask your board to make clear, by public declaration, the state water connection pipe that it is not just on the back burner. I encourage you to make some kind of statement that would get people to understand there is someone steering the ship.

Bill Weirick, speaking as an individual City of Ojai Council member told the board that people want more demonstration of leadership adding the public is looking for aggressive, clear policy actions, and policy decisions. A step in the issue of connection to state water supply, is getting the gears going as a lead agency with the connection to the Casitas water district. More clearly and

frequently communicate as a board and engage more aggressively in taking positions as a board. Mr. Weirick expressed that transparency is important and he is happy to see cameras in the room and he hopes that soon part of that access will be for people who can't make a day time meeting to be able to view the videos. Please accept the fact that you are on the front lines and concerns are increasing. Take measures to engender confidence that you are taking the leadership position.

3. General Manager comments.

Mr. Wickstrum reported that there was a visit from the Bureau of Reclamation inspecting hazardous materials at various facilities and they noted many good changes in the last 3-5 years. We expect to have mutual well # 6 up and running. This is part of the Ojai system we are working with to improve to achieve water balances in the Ojai area.

4. Board of Director comments.

Director Kaiser asked if it is possible to invite Susan Mulligan to one our meeting. Mr. Wickstrum will invite her.

Director Kaiser commented that there is no doubt the public may feel certain ways at times about what is coming out of this board and district. Ongoing negotiations are happening. We can't make a decision because of emotion because of the millions of dollars that would be spent; we would not be doing our duty for the entire people we serve, the 90,000 in the district. Director Kaiser went on to read the following quote.

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat." Theodore Roosevelt

Director Kaiser asked the public not to be guided by emotions but work with us and be part of this investment. Look at water security as a stool with many legs on it. We have to look closely and consider it financially. It takes all of these aspects to maintain water security in the valley.

Director Hicks added I live at the beach and we get all our water from Lake Casitas. I have not had one person from the beach ask what we are going

to do. We have no aquifers. You do have aquifers. You have 7,000 acre that hasn't been tapped. They get recharged. People at the beach don't have anything. This board is doing a lot to get this rectified. Steve is getting beat up every which way about this. We are not trying to be closed. We have not communicated well enough to make you feel at ease.

5. Board of Director Verbal Reports on Meetings Attended.

Director Baggerly attended Watershed Coalition of Ventura County meeting and discussed some amendments to our mission statement. I also attended the Steve Bennett and Monique Limon water group meeting. Traditional water worries were discussed and it was a lively meeting.

Director Kaiser attended the chamber meeting and they were appreciative of what Casitas is doing from the business owners perspective.

Director Hicks attended the meeting on the water bond. \$8.7 billion that is a lot of money. Matilija Dam will get 80 million of that. People in San Joaquin will get 750 million. It looks like something we should support.

6. Consent Agenda.

ADOPTED

- a. Minutes of the May 23, 2018 Board Meeting.
- b. Recommend approval of a purchase order to Legend Well and Pump Company in the not to exceed amount of \$22,415 for the purchase and installation of a new submersible pump and motor for Mutual Well #6.
- c. Recommend approval of authorization for the temporary placement of a storage shed by the Ventura County Comets at Lake Casitas Recreation Area.

On the motion of Director Kaiser with some minor changes to the minutes, seconded by Director Baggerly and adopted by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Baggerly, Kaiser, Bergen, Hicks
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	Word

7. Review of District Accounts Payable Report for the Period of 5/23/18 - 6/06/18.

APPROVED

On the motion of Director Bergen, seconded by Director Kaiser, the Accounts Payable Report was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Baggerly, Kaiser, Bergen, Hicks
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	Word

8. Request of Lou Preiczer for Water bill adjustment and removal of Conservation Penalty of \$320.00.

DENIED

Lou Preiczer stated I have a bill for \$495, \$146 was for water and \$320 for penalties. The bill was for 80 units. I didn't use that water. The next month the usage was expected to be three units. On both sides I have a unit in one month and three in the next month. I was told there was probably an error. I asked that it be looked at. There are no green spots in the yard. I have three bathrooms, a pool and a horse. The water usage does not change that much. Changes were made at the meter. The last meeting I had I found they changed something on the meter and took out the meter reading part. This was done without any knowledge to me. Transparency is very important. You made those changes and I can't check and that is wrong. I want to know policy and procedures. I would like to see the code of ethics and your mandates. If you can do this to me you can do this to everyone. Everyone is getting paid on Casitas payroll. When I was saying the pledge of allegiance I heard justice for all. How is there justice for someone that made a complaint and you are setting in judgment and you have a horse in the race. Transparency is important to the public. TV is important. In past career I spoke many times to the Board of Supervisors and to congress. This is wrong and I may have to pay it and it will not end there. I will be in front of the Board of Supervisors and if I have to pay a lawyer I will. You have screwed with the meter. I went on internet site and looked up meters. The company said they are notoriously wrong. You are telling me I have to pay this and this fine is wrong. I will have a lot of questions. When they come out to read meters are the wands calibrated? How often are water meters calibrated? Have you replaced water meters in the Ojai valley? If you do, why? I would request there be an independent board to review complaints, to be fair and equitable. More than anything as someone who uses your system and it is the only one in town there has to be something more equitable for people who have a problem. This does not look fair to me. It is wrong and outrageous. I appreciate the time to speak with you. You have a difficult job but there has to be a better system for this. I say I didn't get that water – you prove I got it. Fair and impartial justice for all.

Director Kaiser asked for a staff report and Mr. Wickstrum reported there was a high usage occurrence. There have been other peaks and valleys on water usage. There was 55 units in December, and dropped in January and was high in February at 80 then dropped to 2 and then 19. We bring that to the customers attention and put out an order in April to change out the register. Ms. Collin added we had it looked at to see if it was stuck and changed the register from 5/8 to ¾. Director Baggerly added the water usage changed back to normal before the register was changed. Mr. Wickstrum continued that we had a customer at the beach who came in here and said he didn't use the water. We met with the caretaker and it was a toilet leaking that they were not aware of. Meters can get stuck and we have to replace them. This used to happen in the past because of lack of filtration or particles in the system. To explain a high use is more difficult as far as meter error. We rely on these to give us the measurements. I don't know any other read changes were made. Director Kaiser

asked when the register was changed and if there was anything noted as being faulty. Mr. Wickstrum replied it was in April and there was no report of that nature. Ms. Collin added he used 55 units in December but didn't have an allocation penalty in December because of the fires. Mr. Wickstrum added it was a high read so we sent out a customer service employee to see if there is a leak or meter spinning. They did not see a leak at the time they went out in April. Customer has high use in February and low usage in other months. The register does not affect flow.

Director Kaiser made a motion based on statements provided and information and existing policy to deny the appeal. This was seconded by Director Bergen and passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Kaiser, Bergen, Hicks
NOES:	Directors:	Baggerly
ABSENT:	Directors:	Word

9. Presentation by Connor Jones entitled "Slow it, Sink it, Store it."

Connor Jones provided his presentation on slow it, sink it, store it which discussed the advantages of implementing these strategies. Many of these things can be done on individual property owners land to assist in efficient use of water. It powers people to be better stewards of the water cycle.

Michelle Thomas suggested that she hopes in the future building codes we implement water saving measures, decreasing hardscape and recycle greywater and compostable toilets if they make sense. Anything you and Connor can do to educate and encourage water saving measures for Ag. I would love to have recycled grey water storage tank.

10. General Manager's verbal report on Water Security Project status.

Mr. Wickstrum informed the board that this morning we received confirmation from Poncho Smith to approve the application to put data collectors on the backside of the Matilija Formation. Bids are still being reviewed on an exploratory well.

On the State Water Interconnection, we had a meeting yesterday with Kennedy Jenks and has an update on CEQA. We are looking to have a draft EIR available to the City of Ventura by the 18th of August. We will bring it forward here when the City posts it. I had heard through the rumor mill that Oxnard was interested in this interconnection project. What was clarified is Oxnard has a line with a history of problems. They would like a turnout in case there is a problem in case the Oxnard pipe fails that would be another emergency connection. Kennedy Jenks is contacting property owners on the interconnection alignment. They are trying to go through farmlands in the area to entertain a pipeline easement in the ag lands. There are two more out of state property owners to

contact. Property owners have been open with this project. Kennedy Jenks is looking at the situation of how to move water east to west in the city of Ventura system and provide options to us. August 30th we are planning to meet with Metropolitan to have discussion on wheeling of state water.

11. Recommend approval of a Water Service Agreement with Ventura River Water District regarding water allocation assignments. APPROVED

On the motion of Director Baggerly, seconded by Director Kaiser the above recommendation was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Baggerly, Kaiser, Bergen, Hicks
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	Word

12. Discussion regarding Request for Proposals to create a Comprehensive Water Plan.

The board discussed the need to have a comprehensive water plan and on the motion of Director Baggerly, seconded by Director Kaiser direction was provided to staff to obtain RFPs to create a Comprehensive Water Plan. This was approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Baggerly, Kaiser, Bergen, Hicks
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	Word

Bruce Gerber expressed that people are disturbed on the lack of progress and it seems to me most of the people there were in favor of the comprehensive three sisters plan. The alternative to that is desal plant which would cost billions and is a long term solution but so many people have said Richard Hajas should be consulted on this.

Cheryl Rooke explained that she spent some time looking at 2005, 2010, and 2015 management plans. In 2016 you authorized WREA to look at water security strategy and options to bring supplemental water into the valley. Is this the same kind of thing? To put together a plan? Director Baggerly responded yes.

13. Discussion regarding Ventura County Grand Jury Final Report on Independent Special Districts, April 26, 2018.

Mr. Wickstrum discussed the grand jury report and discussed the revision to the reserve policy that is being discussed at the Finance Committee and will be brought forward to the board for approval. A response to the grand jury will be done quickly.

14. Information Items:

- a. Lake Casitas Monthly Status Report for May, 2018.
- b. Water Resources Minutes.
- c. Recreation Committee Minutes.
- d. Finance Committee Minutes.
- e. Executive Committee Minutes.
- f. Contract approved with Rincon Strategies for Public Relations Consulting Services.
- g. Water Consumption Report.
- h. CFD No. 2013-1 (Ojai) Monthly Cost Analysis.
- i. Investment Report.

Director Hicks moved the meeting into closed session at 4:40 p.m.

15. Closed Session

- a. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Subdivision (a) of Section 54956.9
Name of Case: Paula Suzanne Taylor v. Casitas Municipal Water District; Stephen E. Wickstrum and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive.
Civil Action No. 2:16-cv-7864-BRO-E.
- b. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (**Government Code Section 54956.9**) No. of cases: 8

Director Hicks moved the meeting back to open session at 6:05 p.m. with Mr. Mathews reporting that on the case of Taylor v. Casitas, the board met and on a four to nothing vote approved the settlement presented to them and authorized the Vice President of the Board to execute it on behalf of the district. On the anticipated litigation the board met with general counsel and discussed claims. No action was taken.

16. Adjournment.

Director Hicks adjourned the meeting at 6:06 pm.

Mary Bergen, Secretary