



Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District  
Board Meeting Held  
September 13, 2017

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held September 13, 2017 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. Directors Baggerly, Word, Hicks, Bergen and Kaiser were present. Also present were Steve Wickstrum, General Manager, Rebekah Vieira, Clerk of the Board, and Attorney, John Mathews. There were five staff members and nine members of the public in attendance. President Baggerly led the group in the flag salute.

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

William Weirick, Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Ojai spoke as an individual council regarding SB 229 that is believed to be signed into law on October 15<sup>th</sup> and go into effect January 1, 2018. The bill is regarding connection fees or capacity charges for accessory dwelling units. The City Ojai is not requiring will serve letters and report to the board that we all need to look at our ordinances to be in compliance with state law.

2. General Manager comments.

Mr. Wickstrum reported on progress in the Ojai System. Approximately 2,400 meters have been installed. We are finding a lot of things that will need correction in the future. There have been a few issues where the contractor forgot to turn on the angle stop and we have talked to the contractor about those. We have found a lot of schedule 40 PVC service laterals in the system. When you put wrenches on it they tend to snap and break. Last week and this week we had a leak detection firm out there looking for leaks. We don't have too many weeping. Pipes on the Ojai system have had more of the catastrophic blow outs. Tank inspections are in process right now. Staff is preparing for customer billing. Ojai has not received a water bill since the final Golden State bills in June. We are gathering in applications for service and working with their software agency to prepare to bill at the end of October.

Ventura Water has hired Kevin Brown and we would like to invite him to visit myself and the board. He is a dynamic individual and I am looking forward to working with him.

3. Board of Director comments.

Director Hicks said he was sorry to hear about the death of Pat McPherson. President Baggerly added we will adjourn in memory of Pat. Director Hicks then mentioned an article he saw in the paper where there had been a \$10,000 bill and it went to court and the court backed up the water district.

Director Kaiser asked staff to look into software so things don't slip through the cracks with rescheduled meetings. Mr. Wickstrum explained that the Recreation committee was rescheduled due to the holiday and there are a lot of things that happened that Friday and it was not noticed. We will work hard at rescheduling and get those things accomplished. President Baggerly asked for an update on the HR and O & M recruitment and the policy updates.

4. Board of Director Verbal Reports on Meetings Attended.

Director Hicks reported he attended the AWA board meeting.

President Baggerly reported on his interview with Michelania Johnson that took place on September 7. She is writing an article on climate change and how it will impact the Ojai Valley for the Ojai Quarterly. Deadline is October 2017. I believe she also working on a collaboration with Kit Stoltz concerning water. She is a Ojai native, a Haas Scholar, and an honors Berkeley grad of 2017.

She has interviewed numerous people for the article. John Brosamle recommended me for the article. The article has a two pronged focus; first, climate change and the local agency involvement, second, water security for our customers as we are independent of the State Water Project and dependent on rainfall only.

We covered climate change difficulties for a local agency. The options include mitigation of the carbon footprint and adaptation from climate change impacts for protection in the future. I explained that statistical stationarity is a not reliable any more. We can't rely on what has happened in the past to help us determine what our future may be. It's too early in the climate change scenarios to tell if the southwest of California will be more drought prone, or it will be plagued by more intense storms bringing more flooding.

We also discussed the complexities of being independent from the State Water Project and the need to expand our water portfolio. Our current policies for the lake and distribution are functioning as designed. The twenty-one year safe yield cycle is providing water for our customers. Droughts are not short term phenomena, they take years to develop. The last time Lake Casitas spilled (and ended the drought) was 1998 with another close call spike in 2005. We discussed the Recon Water Security Study. There is lots of local water available;

all it takes if lots of money to develop. President Baggerly asked for the Board to ratify my the meeting as he was representing Casitas in his official capacity.

On the motion of Director Word, seconded by Director Kaiser the meeting was ratified as a paid meeting by the following roll call vote:

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

5. Consent Agenda ADOPTED

- a. Minutes from the August 23, 2017 meeting.
- b. Recommend approval of the invoice to Alliant Insurance Services, Inc. in the amount of \$63,241.47 for the renewal of the Special Liability Insurance coverage effective 9/29/17 – 9/29/18.

The consent agenda was offered by Director Bergen, seconded by Director Hicks and adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

6. Review of District Accounts Payable Report for the Period of 8/18/17 - 9/06/17. APPROVED

Director Hick questioned the camping cancellations and Park Services Manager Carol Belser informed the board that our refund procedure only allows us to refund a credit card if it is within 120 days. Cancellations that happen after 120 days we have to issue a refund check back from the District.

Director Hicks then questioned the payment to KCLU and Mr. Merckling reported that we are using various venues and different approaches to get our conservation messages out.

Director Word asked about the GPS fee and Ms. Collins answered it is for the GPS for the vehicles. Director Word then asked about the side arm for the mower and Mr. Wickstrum stated it is a side arm extension for our current mower.

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

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

Director Kaiser asked that the board consider item number 8 prior to consideration of item number 7.

8. Recommend acceptance of the hydrographic survey report and ratings table prepared by Tetra Tech and direct staff to us the accepted ratings table going forward. APPROVED

Neil Cole presented the report explaining that the report found there is less water in the lake than based on the bureau study. Most of that does not appear to be attributable to siltation in the lake. Some of the roads barely had a dusting on them. The reason for the difference is methodology. The Bureau surveyed with land dry. The current one used multi beam sonar and LIDAR for land portion. There are advantages for both techniques. Ultimately, it does not change much, we were in stage 3 before and we remain in stage 3 now. The recommendation is to use the new ratings table to be more conservative and perhaps review the supply and demand study. We may want to wait until the drought is over to do that.

Bert Rapp with Ventura River Water District said he was glad you did this study. I had thought it was a waste of time as my thought is that the Bureau of Reclamation used the best available technology with margin of error in this report they are within a half percent. He suggested you take the results of the study and round down to the nearest 500 af.

William Weirick suggested that a lot of beach communities want to buy sand. Mr. Wickstrum explained that there it is difficult to find the need and there are issues with disruption of habitat. Director Bergen added it is silt, not sand.

Angelo Spandrio reviewed the data and composed plots of the lake elevation from the old and new data. The plots agree with each other. Shape and general trends are in agreement. If it is due to sediment or measurement difference, I don't think that really matters. The net result is there is a difference in volume of water in the lake. He researched other reservoirs and discovered the same trend in charts and shapes.

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

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

7. Recommend acceptance of the Annual Water Allocation Report and continue with the allocation policy adopted June 8, 2016.  
Approved as modified

In 2016, the board agreed to authorize 10 af of water for sale for new or additional water allocation needs. We sold 4.65 af in the past year. As part of the agreement, we said we would come back and to the board and recommend continuing with the ten af per year. There is not a lot of growth in this area.

Director Baggerly suggested reducing it to five af since we only sold 4.65 last year and there is a demand reduction moratorium of new hookups in stage 3. Director Bergen countered that ten af is not very much water given everything. Director Hick suggested leaving it at ten and not create a run on the bank. Mr. Wickstrum added that last year at this time we had no idea we would be taking on Ojai. There may be some projects in the Ojai system and Mr. Cole added there are some ag customers who have expressed interest and a development in Ojai.

Director Kaiser added he does not like to send contradictory messages to the public. We are in a Drought; the lake is at 39%. The hydrographic study and it says there is about a 14,000 af difference. That being the case, to continue the same idea we had a year ago seems to undermine the intent of what this board is trying to achieve. This threshold can be adjusted every year. It makes sense and is logical to not provide contradictory decisions and I am in favor of bringing it down to five af.

Director Bergen mentioned revisiting the leak and allocation penalty and would like to get the board to revisit the ag penalty. Want to have an incentive but not drive people out of business. She asked that the Water Resources committee consider that.

Scott Van der Kar spoke regarding his over allocations and his desire to be a part of the solution. They paid \$26,000 in penalties. This is our business, farming, our livelihood but do not know if it is our future. I know we are all in a difficult position. I am here to apologize; I did not want to go over my allocation. We have three meters and I missed all three letters with the 2,000% increase. What's done is done and I would like to present to you in my apology some rational behind it. I have a mobile irrigation lab test report from our orchards showing we have decreased irrigation and are under irrigating. It was suggested that Mr. Van der Kar be invited to attend a water resources committee meeting to consider possibilities that Director Bergen may have been discussing.

Bert Rapp added that the run on the bank brings people out in the woodwork who are not really ready and they just burn up hours of staff time to process will serve letters. The amount you set will affect us. We get about two dwelling units every two or three years. If there is a moratorium in the wind, all these people start calling. If you wanted to do a ten percent reduction round it down to eight. If you go to five, it will create a panic. He strongly urged the board to keep it at ten but maybe lower to eight or nine.

Director Kaiser moved to reduce the allocations to five acre feet for this time period. The motion was seconded by Director Baggerly and passed by the following roll call vote:

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

9. Discussion regarding Quagga Mussels and Invasive Species

- a. Resolution for application to the Quagga/Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention Grant Program administered by the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation, Division of Boating and Waterways in the amount of \$89,380.30. ADOPTED

The resolution was offered by Director Kaiser, seconded by Director Bergen and passed by the following roll call vote:

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

- b. Quagga Ad Hoc Committee Report from Director Russ Baggerly and Director Pete Kaiser with Recommendations for Action.
- i. Based upon the threats imposed by migrating Quagga Mussels toward the District, Lake Casitas and its water treatment and distribution facilities, the Quagga Mussel Ad Hoc Committee should become a standing committee of the Board and meet at least once per month until further notice. APPROVED

Director Word suggested changing the name to invasive species.

On the motion of Director Kaiser, seconded by Director Hicks, the board approved a standing committee on invasive species by the following roll call vote:

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

- ii. Recommend that the Board of Directors set a six week date for the completion of the CMWD *Quagga Mussel Rapid Response Plan* with a report made to the Board no later than October 25, 2017. APPROVED

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

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

- iii. Recommend that the Committee review United's responses to the *Public Records Act Request (PRA)* made by CMWD on August 30, 2017 and have the Committee report the findings to the board. APPROVED

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

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

- iv. Based on the information received from the *PRA*, the Committee could recommend to the Board of Directors which defensive actions should be taken to defend CMWD against the movement of Quagga Mussels in both the Santa Clara and the Ventura Rivers. Rejected

On the motion of Director Word, seconded by Director Kaiser, item iv was rejected and items v and vi were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

- v. Invite a contingent from United Water Conservation District to meet with the Quagga Mussel Ad Hoc Committee so that collaborative efforts can be entertained by both agencies to effectively eliminate this invasive species from the nearby Santa Clara River Watershed. APPROVED
- vi. Work with UWCD to expedite state and federal agency support and/or approvals for actions necessary to successfully eliminate Quagga Mussels in a timely manner. APPROVED

10. Recommendation to approve Change Order 1 and authorize the general manager to sign the change order in the amount of \$26,339.16 for additional work on the Ojai Water Meter Replacement project, Specification 17-394. APPROVED

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

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

11. Resolution setting a public hearing for consideration of an ordinance to authorize an adjustment of 5% to Board of Director's compensation. ADOPTED

The resolution was offered by Director Hicks, seconded by Director Bergen and adopted by the following roll call vote:

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

12. Information Items:

- a. Executive Committee Minutes.
- b. Water Resources Committee Minutes.
- c. Water Consumption Report.
- d. CFD No. 2013-1 (Ojai) Monthly Cost Analysis.
- e. Investment Report.

The information items were offered by Director Word, seconded by Director Hicks and approved by the following roll call vote:

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

13. Adjournment.

President Baggerly adjourned the meeting at 4:31 p.m. in memory of Pat McPherson who lived to see his dream completed.

---

Bill Hicks, Secretary