

MINUTES OF THE FIVE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE RIO ALTO WATER DISTRICT HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2017, AT 6:30 P.M., AT THE DISTRICT BOARD ROOM.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Mark Reese, President
Dave Anders, Vice-President
Joe Adams, Director
Craig Weaver, Director

STAFF PRESENT:

Martha Slack, General Manager
Mike Brown, Operations Supervisor
Scott Russell, Systems Operator III
Terri Taggart, Secretary

ALSO PRESENT:

Steve Gibbs, Homeowner
Carol Gibbs, Homeowner
Rick Proietti, Homeowner
Laurene Proietti, Homeowner
David Munro, Homeowner

ABSENT:

Don Moitoza, Director

- 1 The meeting was opened at 6:30 p.m., by President Reese who chaired the meeting.
2
3 Agenda Item #1 - Public Comment. Robert Proietti informed the Board that on social media
4 (Friends of Lake California) someone posted that there was arsenic in the water and he was
5 recently diagnosed with arsenic in his system. He would like to know if arsenic is in Lake
6 California's water. His wife, Laurene Proietti, said they are trying to find answers before they go

1 back to see their neurologist. The General Manager referred to the Consumer Confidence Report
2 and told them that they would be really hard pressed to find any water source that does not have
3 arsenic in it. Arsenic is naturally occurring in most water systems. She explained the difference
4 between the Public Health Goal (PHG) and a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). She
5 explained that the PHG is the amount of a contaminant that poses zero risk to public health. In
6 many cases, it is not possible to remove or reduce a contaminant above the PHG level because
7 the technology may not yet exist or may be so costly that it would make tap water unaffordable.
8 The State of California is one of the most regulated states and the requirements are much higher
9 than most states. When they set the maximum contaminant level at the state level it is generally
10 lower than what the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) level is set at. The maximum
11 contaminant level for arsenic is 10 parts per billion, the public health goal is 4 parts per trillion,
12 and all of our wells tested are not higher than 3 parts per billion. She told Mr. Proietti she would
13 be really surprised if our water has anything to do with the arsenic level in his blood system, but
14 if he is concerned he could buy a filter. The General Manager briefly discussed the misleading
15 report that was put out by the Environmental Working Group claiming that “nationwide, water
16 agencies are delivering contaminated water”, and at the bottom of the website you could sign up
17 to get a water filter. They compared the databases to public health goals instead of maximum
18 contaminant levels and so everyone was over the limit. This resulted in a lot of false information
19 being discussed on social media and rumors that the District is falsifying test documents. Mike
20 Brown (Operations Supervisor) discussed the extensive water testing that the district completes
21 and stressed that the rumors need to stop on social media. If customers have any questions they
22 should direct them to the District staff. David Munro thanked the staff for addressing these

1 issues. He said that he saw all of the posts on social media last night and commented that you
2 would think this meeting would have been packed. He said he appreciates what we are doing.

3
4 Agenda Item #2 – Approval of Excused Absences. Vice-President Anders made a motion,
5 seconded by Director Weaver, to approve Director Moitoza’s absence. The motion was carried
6 4-0, with 1 absent (Moitoza).

7
8 Agenda Item #3 – Manager’s Report. The General Manager presented the Manager’s Report
9 Update through August 16, 2017 (see attached Addendum A to the minutes).

10
11 Agenda Item #4 – Review of Opposition Letter to SB623 and Determine if Rio Alto will Join
12 ACWA’s Coalition Letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Director Weaver made a
13 motion, seconded by Vice-President Anders, to review the Opposition Letter to SB623 to
14 determine if Rio Alto will join ACWA’s coalition letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee.
15 The Directors were in agreement to go on record and oppose SB623. Vice-President Anders
16 made a motion, seconded by Director Weaver, to oppose SB623 and join ACWA’s coalition
17 letter. The motion was carried 4-0, with 1 absent (Moitoza).

18
19 Agenda Item #5 – Review of Audit Proposals for 2017/2018 Audit Year and Possible selection.
20 Director Weaver made a motion, seconded by Vice-President Anders, to select an auditor.
21 The General Manager discussed the proposals and the Directors agreed that we would accept
22 Craig Collins’ proposal under the following condition; he would need to commit in writing to a
23 timeline, or be monetarily penalized 10%. The General Manager said she will send Craig

1 Collins a letter and see if he accepts our conditions. The motion was carried 4-0, with 1 absent
2 (Moitoza).

3

4 Agenda Item #6 – Approval of the Minutes from the Five Hundred and Sixty-Eighth Regular
5 Meeting of the Board of Directors held on July 19, 2017. Director Adams made a motion,
6 seconded by Director Weaver, to approve the minutes from the Five Hundred and Sixty-Eighth
7 Regular Meeting. The motion was carried 4-0, with 1 absent (Moitoza).

8

9 Agenda Item #7 – Approval of the July 2017 Disbursement Reports. Director Weaver made a
10 motion, seconded by Vice-President Anders, to approve the July 2017 Disbursement Reports.
11 The motion was carried 4-0, with 1 absent (Moitoza).

12

13 Agenda Item # 8 – Income/Expense Reports for Period Ending 6/30/17 (Pre-Audit). The
14 General Manager gave a brief overview of the Income/Expense Reports for period ending
15 6/30/17 (pre-audit).

16

17 Agenda Item # 9 – Communications – Staff. The General Manager thanked the Directors for
18 going to the bank to sign documents. She informed the directors that by the end of the month she
19 hopes to be off jury duty.

20

21 Agenda Item #9 – Communications – Directors. President Reese informed the Board that he is
22 going to be moving out of state and will not be able to fulfill his obligations on the Board. He
23 presented the staff and Board with his letter of resignation, and told them he would be leaving

1 after the next meeting. Vice-President Anders also informed the Board that he will be moving
2 out of State eventually and will not be able to fulfill his obligations on the Board.

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4 Having no further business to conduct, Director Adams made a motion, seconded by Director
5 Weaver, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. The motion was carried 4-0, with 1 absent
6 (Moitoza).

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8 Respectfully submitted,

9 

10 Terri Taggart, Secretary

Addendum A
Manager's Report
August 16, 2017

Project Update:

A surge protector at the WWTP was destroyed a while back when PG&E lost a transformer. We were going to attempt to get reimbursement from PG&E and found the cost to be about \$4,000. Mike had Eric Bullet out for an electrical problem at Lift Station 3 and asked him to look at the surge protector. He informed Mike that this particular brand should be able to take multiple hits. Mike contacted the vendor and it appears they will stand by their product and replace at no charge. We will be holding a tour of the WWTP and wetlands on Tuesday August 15th. We are meeting at the District Office at 9:00 a.m. for anyone interested.

Update on Dinghy:

Mike is having difficulty getting any paving companies to come out for Dinghy. They are all very busy now. He has one contractor coming out at the end of the week, but if he is a no show, like the rest, we may have to piggyback with the POA when Eagle Paving comes out in late August.

Computer Conversion:

The general consensus on our bills seems favorable. It appears the new bills sent in envelopes have decreased collection time. At this point we have collected 62% of our metered billings within 30 days. The portal is up and running. 16 people have signed up for ACH Bank Drafts and 30 people have signed up for E-statements. We hope August is our last month of running parallel systems. The girls have been very busy; delinquencies were turned over to the County in the amount of \$27,008.24 and 119 liens were generated for those accounts. This amount is down 9% from last year. The 2017/2018 Special Tax Levy has been filed with the County.

Miscellaneous:

We lost a phase monitor in the control panel at Lift Station #3. Mike called Eric Bullert (Bullert Electrical) to help identify and correct the problem. Eric is researching ways to simplify with the use of other relays. Mike will be meeting up with him again on Monday.

Regulatory:

As I alerted all of you, the Environmental Working Group (EWG) posted some pretty misleading information about the District and most other Districts in the State. Of course this started a firestorm on Lake California social media. I posted an alert on our website advising our customers that our water is in compliance with all State and Federal Water Quality Standards (I refuse to post on Facebook). Reese Crenshaw, our representative from the Water Board will be attending the POA Board Meeting next Tuesday at my request. I have asked him to speak to the audience about Water Quality Standards, MCL's and reading their Consumer Confidence Reports. Dean has attached the July testing results.