

Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District
Board Meeting Held
November 25, 2008

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held November 25, 2008 at Casitas' Office, Oak View, California. Directors Word, Hicks, Handley, Kaiser and Baggerly were present. Also present were Steve Wickstrum, General Manager, Rebekah Vieira, Clerk of the Board, and Attorney, John Mathews. There were three staff members and seven members of the public in attendance. President Word led the group in the flag salute.

1. Public comments.

Brian Dickenson spoke regarding the lack of trout plants in the lake. We have noticed a large decrease in the quality of the fish we have been catching. We brought it to the local ranger's attention in casual conversation. We spend a lot of time on the lake and the fishery is in decline. He added that he would like the trout plants to begin again to sustain the fishery. We feel the large hatchery trout provide the best form of food and sporting for those that fish from the shore. The money spent on the fish should be spent on some trout.

Rod Thigpen from Santa Paula stated he has been a guide for two years. We have had a lure business for 15 years and have pursued the giant bass at this lake for 20 years. We have seen a huge decline in the big fish. He stated that he has not had a fish over 14lbs in over four years. A lot of other fish are going into the lake. These fish are starving and you have fish with giant heads that cannibalize on each other. We have even fed the fish with shad before we released them. I remember when you used to buy the trout. 50 guys would be on the launch ramp waiting for the trout truck to show up. It hurt us when the Department of Fish and Game trout plants went down a couple of years ago. I spend a lot of time on that water and catch hundreds of fish every year. This is a sad process for me. I don't know of anyone catching a fish over 14 pounds at Casitas this year. There is no chance of a world record fish at that lake anymore. There is a high population of shad. The fish spend so much energy chasing the shad down they don't gain weight. I want to see if you can help and put the double trout plants in there again. Steve Wickstrum reported that DFG delivered about 1,600 pounds of trout this afternoon.

President Word mentioned that we have two sources for the trout, the ones we buy and the Department of Fish and Game. We stopped purchasing the trout because of whirling disease a couple of years ago. We have continued to buy and plant other fish. What stopped are DFG plants and staff is aware of that and is pursuing that with DFG. We share your concern. Mr. Wickstrum added that he would have our Fisheries Biologist look into this.

2. Board of Director comments.

President Word reported his attendance at the AWA water issues meeting. The new regulations for storm water will be very costly. They were planning the

work plan for 2009 and they have established safe yield for steelhead restoration, biological opinion impacts, invasive and endangered species work. Hopefully they will be able to come to some better solutions.

Director Hicks reported that they had a good turnout for the clean up day. He recommended that the BBQ be held earlier.

3. General Manager comments.

Mr. Wickstrum reported that it was interesting to get the information on the trout plant just as we were getting ready to send a letter to Dr. Maxwell. Director Baggerly added DFG had us hold off on trout plantings because of the whirling disease. Mr. Wickstrum asked that Rob investigate if we are cleared to purchase trout again and added that the hatchery has undergone a complete renovation.

Mr. Wickstrum asked for consideration to change the date of the meeting in December. It was decided to move the meeting to Friday, December 19th at 4:30 p.m.

4. Consent Agenda

ADOPTED

- a. Minutes of the November 12, 2008 Board Meeting.
- b. Recommend approval of Leak Relief for Gerald Kaplan.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Consent Agenda

On the motion of Director Baggerly, seconded by Direction Handley and passed, the consent agenda was approved.

5. Bills

APPROVED

Director Hicks questioned #00857. Rebekah Vieira explained that is a payment for a workers' compensation claim. Director Hicks then questioned #00921 for the fish passage study. Mr. Wickstrum explained that we have an outside firm working on fish passage issues and a study is in progress.

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

6. Committee/Manager Reports

APPROVED FOR FILING

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

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

7. Resolution authorizing the execution of the agreement for the transfer of the Matilija Conduit to Casitas and transfer the Matilija water rights to the Ventura County Watershed Protection District.

ADOPTED

President Word explained this has been a long time coming. Mr. Wickstrum added we are close. We had agreement until yesterday at 3:00 and someone had issue with that rediversion issue. I have dire concerns of transferring something that gives rights and privileges at Robles Diversion Dam. There is the question of moving forward at this point or let them move through their county process.

President Word added this is what we are willing to transfer and give up. We have responded to every issue they have had. We have initiated some issues that may cause us concern down the road. If they come back with something else that poses a bigger problem. I am not prepared to say we wait. This is what we have agreed to and what we will do. The deadline is still January 1, 2009. Director Baggerly added there is no time left. Director Kaiser added enough is enough. This has been dragging on far too long. President Word added that as soon as we think we are in agreement the county comes up with something else. This is what we are offering and this is what we sign and send to them. He went on to say that the customers of the Matilija Conduit need to know that Casitas is doing our part. Mr. Wickstrum added that there is some confusion at the County because of the new individual there. President Word added we have been working on this for five years.

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

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

Resolution is numbered 08-41.

8. Recommend approval of a purchase order in the amount of \$492,115 to Blois Construction, Inc. for the Rincon Pump Plant Rehabilitation Phase 2.

APPROVED

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

9. Recommend consensus on revisions for the California Urban Water Conservation Council Urban Water Management Best Management Practices.

APPROVED

Ron Merckling reported on the recommendations to vote no on two of the items under consideration by the California Urban Water Conservation Council.

On the motion of Director Baggerly, seconded by Director Handley and passed, the above recommendation was approved.

10. Information Items:

- a. Monthly Cost Analysis for operation of Robles, fisheries and fish passage.
- b. ACWA 2009 DC Conference
- c. Report from the Sensus Users Conference
- d. LAFCO Election Results
- e. Status report on the catwalks and Oak View Tank projects
- f. News Articles of Interest
- g. Investment Report

President Word mentioned the ACWA DC Conference and it was determined that Director Baggerly and Ron Merckling would attend. Issues that would be discussed include the RMP, open space lands, the Quagga issue, appropriation issues and endangered species. President Word asked what the comments would be if legislators question our lawsuit. John Mathews advised the board not to discuss it as it is on going litigation.

11. Closed Session:

Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
(Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9)
Name of Case: Casitas Municipal Water District v. United States

President Word moved the meeting to closed session at 5:22 p.m.

12. Reconvene Open Session

President Word reconvened the meeting to open session at 5:36 p.m. stating there was no action was taken and there was nothing to report out of closed session.

13. Adjournment

President Word adjourned the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

Secretary