

Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District
Board Meeting Held
February 25, 2009

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held February 25, 2009 at Casitas' Office, Oak View, California. Directors Hicks, Handley, Kaiser, and Word were present. Director Baggerly 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 two members of the public in attendance. President Hicks led the group in the flag salute.

1. Public comments.

None

2. Board of Director comments.

Director Word asked if there had been a response from Senior Canyon. Mr. Wickstrum explained that the letter he received on Friday is in the packet. They are meeting every Friday to discuss their financial situation and they will issue out a letter to their constituents assessing a surcharge. They feel they would be able to take care of this in four to six months. We have not received anything in writing telling us we will get paid in a certain amount of time. Director Word they still have not responded with a plan and it will not look good if we do not have something in hand before our audit stating their plans to retire the debt.

Director Word then asked if there has been a response to the letter about kayaks and canoes. Mr. Wickstrum had not seen the letter but it can be reviewed in the Recreation Committee.

3. General Manager comments.

Mr. Wickstrum reported that nothing will happen on the Matilija agreement until after Tom Lagier returns from vacation.

4. Consent Agenda

APPROVED

- a. Minutes of the February 11, 2009 Board Meeting.
- b. Recommend approval of the engagement letter from Charles Z. Fedak for audit services for fiscal year ending June 30, 2009.

The consent agenda was offered by Director Handley, seconded by Director Kaiser and passed.

5. Bills

APPROVED

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

6. Committee/Manager Reports

APPROVED FOR FILING

- a. Finance Committee Minutes
- b. Water Resources Committee Minutes
- c. Personnel Committee Minutes

On the motion of Director Handley, seconded by Director Word and passed, the committee/manager reports were approved for filing.

7. Recommend approval of supplemental benefits package and Flex One Section 125 and 129 plan offered by AFLAC. APPROVED

Gena Quarantello of AFLAC presented the voluntary benefits program and Section 125 plans. These plans will save the district money as they reduce amounts spent on FICA. President Hicks asked if this program would cost the district money. Mr. Wickstrum replied that it will save us money. Director Word added that there are all types of supplemental benefits that employees can pick what they want and it is handled through payroll deductions with most of the premiums being on a pre-tax basis. Gena added that there is a fifty cent per payroll fee to the employees that you keep to help offset the administrative cost. Changes are only made once a year. All employees have to be offered the coverage but there is no obligation for them to purchase the coverage. With the voluntary insurance you will be billed once a month in arrears so if the coverage begins in April, you will be billed in May. Director Word added that if an employees leaves they can take the insurance with them. This coverage would be offered to full time employees only.

The parameters of the Section 125 plan were discussed and it is a use it or lose it plan. The District can set the spending limit on the unreimbursed medical and it was suggested that it be set at \$2,000. The \$6.00 fee per participant in the Section 125 plan was discussed and the board determined that the District would cover that cost.

On the motion of Director Word, seconded by Director Kaiser and passed the supplemental benefits package was approved with a limit of \$2,000 for the unreimbursed medical and the District will pay the \$6.00 monthly fee for the participants of the Section 125 plan.

8. Verbal update from Fisheries Biologist Scott Lewis on the Fisheries program.

Fisheries Biologist Scott Lewis presented the board with information on the fisheries program development including information on the monitoring and evaluation program. Robles was completed in 2005. The monitoring and evaluation program was first accepted by the Biological Committee in 2007. Necessary permits were acquired in 2008 and 2009 is the first full year of monitoring and evaluation with all the different components required in the Biological Opinion. Biological monitoring includes upstream impediments, sandbar monitoring, fish attraction and fish passage. Mr. Lewis then discussed

the steelhead and rainbow trout research that the district wanted him to conduct relative to his PhD work.

Mr. Lewis reported that at a follow up meeting of the biological committee they had some concerns about the way some of the sites were selected to monitor. We did a physical habitat survey and collected lots of data. Based on that data collection, sites were selected for monitoring and the data will give us a baseline. Director Word commented that this is what we were lacking when we started. Mr. Lewis continued by stating that the BO committee went in the field yesterday and we went through how this was developed and showed some examples of what was selected. They did agree with me. They want to look at all the raw data and may want to include some additional sites. We had 6 adult fish make it through the impediments up to Robles last year. With the fish attraction evaluation we are looking for adults or juveniles holding in the entrance pool and we evaluate it on a weekly basis. There is additional monitoring after peak flows on a daily basis. This program is evolving slightly. 6 adult fish were monitored as using the facility last year with two going downstream.

Mr. Lewis discussed the process of trapping smolts that are migrating downstream. The trap is checked twice a day. One of the biggest concerns is water temperature and vandalism. Regarding fish rescue issues NMFS wanted us to apply for a section 10a1a permit to transport fish, then they changed their mind and in December decided that they would apply for their own permit and allow us and others to work under their permit. We may be doing fish rescue this year if they get the permit. This last year we were not responsible for fish rescue even though we did most of the work. We tried to put in a net trap but only caught three and transported them upstream. We rescued more with an electro fisher and had one fatality. Many weeks were spent on pumping and rescue and involved a number of people for many days. Netting and trapping continues daily for several weeks.

Regarding the steelhead/rainbow trout research, the research proposal was approved by the graduate committee. There are two classes remaining in the program. Mr. Lewis will conduct the study, collect the data and will be publishing the results. He intends to have three published papers. The research will look at population structure and life history patterns. Mr. Lewis explained his research method and timeline for completion. He will do genetic sampling this year and next, will do lab analysis this winter and in 2010 with data analysis and writing results following and plans to defend and publish in the spring of 2012.

9. Discussion regarding the scheduling of a special meeting for a field trip to the Casitas Dam.

The special meeting will be held on March 3rd at 4:30 p.m. and the board will meet at the front gate to the Treatment Plant.

10. Information Items:

- a. Letter from Senior Canyon Mutual Water Company
- b. News Articles of Interest
- c. Investment Report

11. Adjournment

President Hicks adjourned the meeting at 5:41 p.m.

Secretary