

Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District
Board Meeting Held
January 28, 2015

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held January 28, 2015 at Casitas' Office, Oak View, California. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. Directors Bergen, Kaiser, Baggerly, Word and Hicks 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 no members of the public in attendance. President Bergen led the group in the flag salute.

1. Public Comments (items not on the agenda – three minute limit).

None

2. General Manager comments.

Mr. Wickstrum introduced Michael Moler our newly appointed Operations and Maintenance Manager. Mr. Moler thanked the board for the opportunity to become a member of the team.

Mr. Wickstrum reported on the progress on Recreation Area entrance gate. The roof is down, the kiosks are out and temporary kiosks have been set up on the south side of the location. Staff did a marvelous job setting up the entrances and exits and making it secure. Mr. Cole added that completion of the project is dependent on the roof manufacturer and there is no delivery date from them yet. Director Kaiser asked how the entrance is secured. Ms. Belser replied that the spike strip is installed and gate arms are in use.

Mr. Wickstrum then informed the board of the initial meeting with RNT, the consultant performing the analysis regarding quagga mussels. We had a good meeting with staff in the morning and met with the ad hoc committee in the afternoon. RNT came to the lake on Saturday to gather information prior to our meeting. They expressed that it is great to work with a public agency that is proactive rather than reactive.

Mr. Wickstrum mentioned a conversation with the Bureau of Reclamation regarding an MOU for the Teague watershed. We have an interim agreement dating back to 1980's regarding responsibilities with the Teague watershed. This will be moved to the Recreation Committee. The Park Services Manager and I will work with the Bureau. Director Baggerly asked that we have every single agreement that has been entered into regarding the Teague watershed in its current status. There was discussion that some of those were entered into by a former Bureau employee and the Bureau has had difficulty obtaining some of the documentation so that request may not be feasible.

Mr. Wickstrum informed the board of a traffic accident that went thru a bike trail and caused fence and rail damage at a pump plant. A claim will be submitted for reimbursement.

3. Board of Director comments.

Director Hicks mentioned the editorial in the Ventura County Star on quagga mussels. Director Baggerly asked if you saw the article about funding the proposed upgraded fish ladder at the Vern Freeman Dam on the front page of Saturday's Star. I can't tell you how surprised I was that there was no mention again of Quagga Mussels getting closer to the Santa Clara River. United misunderstood the destructive nature of the mussels in the original threat over a year ago at Lake Piru and now they are about to repeat that history for the Santa Clara River. They are generating all this attention about upgrading a fish ladder when there might not be any fish to swim up the river because the Quagga Mussels will destroy the fish habitat.

Director Baggerly then mentioned that the Department of Fish & Wildlife issued the draft rulemaking on Quagga Mussels and will hold a public hearing March 12 and that is when comments are due. I have developed a few comments to go to the ad hoc committee and back to board. I am interested in the Board sending me to Sacramento on March 12.

Director Baggerly then commented on the sound attenuation on Reeves Rd. It has been over a year now and we are not any closer to a resolution. Mr. Cole added that a report has been prepared and will be brought to the next board meeting. Director Baggerly added I get part of the thread between Neil and Brian but I don't have the report. Mr. Cole explained that the report was received on Tuesday and it would be on the next agenda. Mr. Wickstrum added that he would like the opportunity for Mr. Cole and me to go over the report with Mr. Holly to assist and shed some light on the report. Director Baggerly added all we have done so far is to provide a high degree of resentment. Mr. Wickstrum replied I don't agree with that. We engineered and installed the mutes, we have conducted two sound testings' out there and the results are within the report. Director Word added it may just be that he does not like the results but we need to view the report.

Director Hicks added it is ironic that Mike from United was chiding the City of Ventura for not taking their 10,000 acre feet from State Water when he did not take the 5,000 from us. A lot of water has been offered to United.

4. Board of Director Verbal Reports on Meetings Attended.

Director Baggerly reported that he and Director Kaiser attended the afternoon meeting with RNT on the quagga mussels. Director Hicks reported he attended the AWA meeting and it appears that El Nino is not ending as we had hoped. Director Kaiser reported that the GSA meeting update will be covered on the agenda.

5. Consent Agenda

ADOPTED

- a. Minutes of January 14, 2015 Meeting.

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

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

6. Bills

APPROVED

Director Hicks questioned the purchase of a tree kit. This was recommended by our arborist to treat our oak and pine trees. Ms. Belser reported that this is a product that staff were trained on administering to the trees and it is put in the ground. (Subsequent to the meeting Ms. Belser informed the Clerk of the Board that the product is injected directly into the tree and it has been added to the Integrated Pest Management Plan).

On the motion of Director Hicks, seconded by Director Word, the bills were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

7. Public Hearing on proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Aeration Improvements at Lake Casitas. Item b Approved

- a. Approve the proposed project as described in the initial study and certify the Mitigated Negative Declaration or;
- b. Approve the proposed project with additional mitigation measures in response to comments received and certify the Mitigated Negative Declaration with the additional mitigation measures or;
- c. Direct staff to revise the Mitigated Negative Declaration to respond to comments received and extend the public comment period.

President Bergen stated this is the time and place for a public hearing to consider input regarding the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Aeration Improvements at Lake Casitas. She asked the Clerk of the Board to read the names of the public who called or submitted communications regarding the Mitigated Negative Declaration. Ms. Vieira answered Russ Baggerly and the Department of Fish & Wildlife. The General Manager asked Mr. Cole to provide a summary of the project. Mr. Cole explained this is for a hypolimnetic aeration system injecting pure oxygen to maintain healthy levels at the lake. The comments received from Fish & Wildlife were attached in the packet. They combined all comments on the three projects in one letter and it is recommended that you include those in the Mitigated Negative Declaration. The other comment was on potentially hazardous materials and he handed out proposed additions to section 2.5.7 a & b to also be included in the MND.

President Bergen opened the public hearing at 3:22 p.m. There was no public in attendance and no comments and the hearing was closed at 3:23 p.m.

The board discussed safety and security issues and on the motion of Director Word, seconded by Director Baggerly, Option b was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

8. Public Hearing on proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Lake Casitas Shoreline Vegetation Removal. Item b Approved

- a. Approve the proposed project as described in the initial study and certify the Mitigated Negative Declaration or;
- b. Approve the proposed project with additional mitigation measures in response to comments received and certify the Mitigated Negative Declaration with the additional mitigation measures or;
- c. Direct Staff to revise the Mitigated Negative Declaration to respond to received comments and extend the public comment period.

President Bergen stated this is the time and place for a public hearing to consider input regarding the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Lake Casitas Shoreline Vegetation Removal. She asked the Clerk of the Board to read the names of the public who called or submitted communications regarding the Mitigated Negative Declaration. Ms. Vieira answered Pete Kaiser, Russ Baggerly and the Department of Fish & Wildlife. The General Manager asked Mr. Cole to provide a summary of the project. Mr. Cole explained that we want to remove the vegetation to reduce issues of water quality. It is proposed to remove vegetation ten feet above the current water mark and the high water mark. Biological surveys will be conducted and the work would happen following the bird nesting season. If there is bird nesting in one area we can move on to a different area as it is not anticipated that all vegetation will be removed.

President Bergen opened the public hearing at 3:32 p.m. and hearing no public comments closed the hearing at 3:32 p.m.

Director Hicks asked how it would be removed. Mr. Cole said that would be left to the contractors but most likely by brush hog or some areas would be by hand. Director Kaiser asked where the removed debris would be going and suggested taking it to Ojai Valley Organics.

On the motion of Director Hicks, seconded by Director Kaiser, item b was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

ABSENT: Directors: None

9. Public Hearing on proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Santa Ana Launch Ramp Extension at Lake Casitas Recreation Area.

Item b Approved

- a. Approve the proposed project as described in the initial study and certify the Mitigated Negative Declaration or;
- b. Approve the proposed project with additional mitigation measures in response to comments received and certify the Mitigated Negative Declaration with the additional mitigation measures or;
- c. Direct staff to revise the Mitigated Negative Declaration to respond to comments received and extend the public comment period.

President Bergen stated this is the time and place for a public hearing to consider input regarding the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Santa Ana Launch Ramp Extension at Lake Casitas Recreation Area. She asked the Clerk of the Board to read the names of the public who called or submitted communications regarding the Mitigated Negative Declaration. Ms. Vieira answered the Department of Fish & Wildlife. The General Manager asked Mr. Cole to provide a summary of the project. Mr. Cole reported that this is for the concrete boat ramp extension to Santa Ana Ramp #1. The project is subject to a grant from the California Department of Boating and Waterways. If we get the grant, they will pay for 100% of the extension. Mr. Wickstrum explained that we had a visit from the Department and this was identified as the preferred project.

President Bergen opened the public hearing at 3:30 p.m. and hearing no public comments closed the public hearing at 3:30 p.m.

Director Baggerly asked if the stairway could be included. Ms. Belser responded that this is on a grant that was submitted last May and we have been notified that we will know if we receive the grant this winter.

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

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

10. Update on the Groundwater Sustainability Agency from the GSA Committee.

President Bergen reported that the county does was to be involved and will contribute to the costs. We talked about developing a Memorandum of Understanding and splitting the costs for an attorney to assist with the setup of the GSA. The idea behind the MOU is to have five shares and put a cap on the amount we are authorizing to begin with. The MOU will have to go to the Ventura City Council and the County Board of Supervisors which will be a

lengthy process. Director Kaiser added the attorneys are supposed to put together something that is palatable for all agencies. The County said they would like to help out. Mr. Wickstrum added that the Watershed Protection District has an appropriate role in our watershed and they have data from wells in our area. There is a need for involvement of the stakeholders. President Bergen added that Russ McGlothlin indicated there is a way to bring in private parties but it is complicated.

11. Information Items:

APPROVED

- a. Finance Committee Minutes.
- b. Lake Casitas Recreation Area Report for November, 2014.
- c. Lake Casitas Recreation Area Report for December, 2014.
- d. Investment Report.

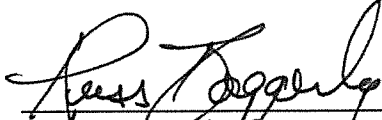
Director Kaiser reported that the Recreation area does a great job on the cross country events and it is nice to be in your home area and see how well it is organized. He then discussed the Incident Reports listed in the Recreation Area Reports and mentioned another dog bite and referenced a mauling to a Park Services Officer in the past. He added that he sees dogs off leash and suggests doing a better job of enforcing dogs on leashes. With another incident, he expressed concern of doing our own investigations and he hoped it was turned over to the authorities as he doesn't think that is within our ordinance.

On the motion of Director Kaiser, seconded by Director Baggerly, the Information Items were approved by the following roll call vote:

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

12. Adjournment

President Bergen adjourned the meeting at 4:01 p.m.



Russ Baggerly, Secretary