

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

AUGUST 12, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District was called to order by President Kicinski at 4:30 p.m. in the Board of Directors Hearing Room, 500 West Ridgecrest Boulevard, Ridgecrest, California. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mallory Boyd. **PLEDGE**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: President Ronald R. Kicinski
Director Mallory J. Boyd
Director Charles D. Griffin
Director Stan G. Rajtora **ROLL CALL**

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Vice President David C.H. Saint-Amand

STAFF PRESENT: George Croll, General Manager
Jim Worth, Attorney
Jason Lillion, Operations Manager
Renée Morquecho, Chief Engineer
Tyrell Staheli, Chief Financial Officer
Lauren Smith, Recording Secretary

AGENDA DECLARATION
Recording Secretary, Lauren Smith, reported that the agenda for today's Regular Board Meeting was posted on Thursday, August 8, 2024. **AGENDA DECLARATION**

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION
None. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION
None. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

With no further Board or Public comments, President Kicinski recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 4:32 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION
The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 4:34 p.m. **CLOSED SESSION**

Closed Session was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 6:08 p.m.

No action was taken that requires disclosure under the Brown Act.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

The Board heard public comment from Mike Neel and Renee Westa-Lusk.

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

JULY WORKSHOP DEFERRED ITEMS

George Croll provided an update on WaterView.

**JULY W.S.
WATERVIEW**

Renee Morquecho provided a report on the District's water losses, consumption, and production. (PowerPoint available on website.)

**WATER LOSSES,
CONSUMP.,
PRODUCTION**

The Board discussed ongoing goals, such as recycled water and Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP) water release into Indian Wells Valley.

GOALS

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: was made by Directors Boyd and seconded by Director Rajtora approving the Minutes of the July 8, 2024, Regular Board Meeting, Minutes of the July 18, 2024, Special Workshop, and Payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$908,908,48. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora. Nays: None. Absent: Saint-Amand.)

**CONSENT
CALENDAR**

PLANT & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

Staff presented the Board with information regarding the Drinking Water Administrator Program and the requirement to submit a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ). The State Water Resources Control Board Drinking Water Program has requested that the District submit an SOQ in preparation for possible request to become the Administrator of the Inyokern Community Services District.

**P&E:
DRINKING
WATER ADMIN
PROG.**

The Board heard public comment from Judie Decker, Renee Westa-Lusk, and Mike Neel.

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Director Boyd approving the District to submit a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) to the State Water Resources Control Board to become a Drinking Water Administrator. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora. Nays: None. Absent: Saint-Amand.)

The Notice of Exemption for possible Rademacher Way pipeline project is to be tabled until ready.

**RADEMACHER
MAINLINE EXT.**

ADMINISTRATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Board previously agreed to not create a policy regarding CCWs, and to permit firearms in accordance with state law pertaining to CCWs. However, upon inspection of the Personnel Manual, a mention of firearms was brought to legal's attention. The Personnel Manual states that "Possession or use of firearms or alcohol while on duty or at any District facility" is prohibited.

**ADMIN/EXEC
CM:
CCW**

Legal and staff to revise the Personnel Manual accordingly.

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Director Boyd directing staff to revise the Personnel Manual accordingly to meet state requirements. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora. Nays: None. Absent: Saint-Amand.)

Staff requests the office to be closed on Thursday, December 26th and Thursday, January 2nd, as the office will already be closed on the Wednesdays prior in observance of Christmas and New Years holidays. REQUEST FOR OFFICE CLOSURE

MOTION: was made by Director Boyd and seconded by Director Rajtora approving request to close the District on Thursday, December 26th and Thursday, January 2nd in Observance of preceding holidays. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora. Nays: None. Absent: Saint-Amand.)

Resolution item tabled until a future Board meeting.

**RESOLUTION
NO. 24-05**

California Occupational Safety and Health Standards requires employers to develop and implement a "Heat Illness Prevention in Indoor Places of Employment" to establish required safety measures for indoor places of employment to prevent employee exposure to the risk of heat illness.

HIP PLAN

Jason Lillion reviewed the draft Heat Illness Prevention (HIP) Plan with the Board.

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Director Rajtora approving the Indoor Heat Illness Prevention Plan as presented. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora. Nays: None. Absent: Saint-Amand.)

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)

IWVGA

The Board discussed action items from the July 10th meeting, including:

- Discussion on the use of the \$3.3 million Consolidation Grant
- Federal Funding award for the interconnection pipeline project
- Presentation on updates to the basin groundwater model

The August IWVGA meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum. The next meeting is scheduled for September 11th.

The Board heard public comment from Judie Decker, Mike Neel, and Renee Westa-Lusk.

COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION

**COMPREHENSIVE
ADJUDICATION**

Jim Worth reported on the Adjudication Hearing held on August 5th. Searles Valley Minerals (SVM) had filed a motion to schedule a Phase 2 trial on the issue of safe yield. The IWVGA argued that because the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) was approved by the DWR, that the court was prohibited from taking evidence other than what was in the GSP to establish safe yield. At the October Hearing, a Phase 2 trial date will be set. At the August Hearing, the Judge made it clear that during the Phase 2 trial, the Technical Working Group (TWG) will be able to present its evidence regarding safe yield to the Court for consideration.

The TWG will produce the Safe Yield White Paper to the public at least 30-days after the Hearing, around the first week of September. The TWG hopes the IWVGA, for transparency, will release its groundwater model to the public also.

The next Hearing is scheduled for October 2nd at 1:30 p.m.

The Board heard public comment from Judie Decker, Renee Westa-Lusk, and Mike Neel.

GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE

**GENERAL
MANAGER AND
STAFF UPDATE**

Mr. Croll reported the monthly water data for July. Water produced: 258,484,300 gallons, water consumed: 204,480,012 gallons (11% commercial, 4% other, 85% residential), and estimated loss 13,586,025 gallons (which is water lost to meter inaccuracy, flushing, and theft, etc.)

Nicholas Construction has been removing the old 30-inch CMLC pipe and has completed removal up to Primavera. After further investigation, a decision was made to also replace the CMLC pipe in Victor up to Well 30 (the closest to Hwy 178). This is approximately 700 additional feet of 24-inch PVC. The cost is approximately \$213,000 but Nicholas has submitted a request to use native soil for backfill which will give the District a credit of \$200,000. NW TRANSM. PIPELINE

The District received a draft general counsel opinion letter and request for a letter designating the authorized representative from the District to sign documents for the Hometown Water System consolidation funding. Staff and legal are reviewing them at this time. Staff expects to receive the same type of request soon for the Dune 3 consolidation. CONSOLIDATION PROJECTS

The estimated year-to-date revenues as of July 31, 2024, are \$518,204 and expenses are \$769,660. Expenditures exceeded revenues by \$251,456, which is better than budget by \$627,945. To date, the District has paid \$14,493,119 in GA Fees to the Groundwater Authority. FINANCIAL STATUS

Mr. Staheli reported on the following conservation items: State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Waster Report - there have been 12 water waste reports received with 12 contacts made. There has been one formal Second Notice and one penalty issued. CONSERVATION

Plant 1 is now online and running at half capacity. After all the bugs have been worked out, staff will bring the Plant to full capacity. Plant 2 experienced an error in the meter, it was reporting erroneous flows. Staff is investigating the source of the error. ARSENIC TREATMENT

Mr. Lillion reported for the month of July, 11 services were repaired and 21 were replaced. The NO-DES truck made zero runs in July. Since inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 9,428,891 gallons. Six valves were exercised. He further reported District staff is working with Nobel Systems to bring the new GIS system online. The new system provides a more streamlined approach to work orders and workflow. Staff is planning on giving a demonstration to the Board at a future meeting. OPERATIONS

George Croll reviewed a slide regarding the IWVGA 2030 pumping correction. Mr. Croll clarified the IWVGA wanted to correct that the table was not an allocation table. (Slide available on website.)

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

**BOARD
COMMENTS**

Director Boyd thanked staff for their help with Inyokern CSD.

Director Rajtora thanked Jason Lillion for his report on the Inyokern Transmission Mainline for the newspapers. He also urged the Board to move forward with the Resolution formally opposing the IWVGA's water pipeline from AVEK to Ridgecrest.

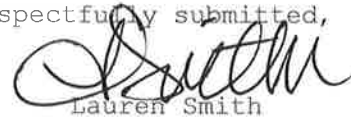
Director Griffin echoed Director Rajtora's comments on the IWVGA pipeline and hopes to see the Resolution on the September agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Smith

Recording Secretary

APPROVED: September 9, 2024