

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

MAY 13, 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
Vice President David C.H. Saint-Amand
Director Mallory J. Boyd
Director Charles D. Griffin
Director Stan G. Rajtora **ROLL CALL**

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

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 **AGENDA DECLARATION**
Recording Secretary, Lauren Smith, reported that the agenda for today's Regular Board Meeting was posted on Thursday, May 9, 2024.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
Director Saint-Amand stated his opinions shared during this meeting are his own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of his employer, nor the Board.

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

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

CLOSED SESSION **CLOSED SESSION**
The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 4:35 p.m.

Closed Session was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 6:00 p.m.

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

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**CONSENT
CALENDAR**

MOTION: was made by Vice President Saint-Amand and seconded by Director Griffin approving the Minutes of the April 8, 2024, Regular Board Meeting, and Payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$652,218.19. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

FINANCE COMMITTEE

**FINANCE CM:
AUDITOR
CONTRACT**

Board reviewed contract presented by staff. Contract rates were competitive with similar services from other agencies, and the Board has been satisfied with the results of previous audits from CJ Brown & Company.

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Director Boyd approving the auditor contract with C.J. Brown & Company for a five-year term. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: None.)

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)

IWVGA

The Board discussed items on the May 15th agenda, including:

- Report on Board Member referral regarding Little Lake
- Public Service Announcement regarding the groundwater adjudication lawsuit filed by the IWVWD and the impact on small domestic well owners in the IWV

Director Griffin reported on actions taken at the April IWVGA meeting, including: receive and file of the 2022 Financial Audit, Amendment to master agreement CACA-059994 with Bureau of Land Management (BLM), consolidation grant presentation.

The Board heard public comment from Judie Decker.

COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION

**COMPREHENSIVE
ADJUDICATION**

Jim Worth commented that parcel owners have until around the end of May to file an answer with the court to enter into the adjudication.

Mr. Worth commented that initial disclosures are due by May 17th. The District is completing their initial disclosure for filing by the deadline. The disclosures will be distributed to the Board and will be posted on the IWVWD website.

Phase 1, the Federal Reserve Right Hearing, is scheduled for April 2025.

Mr. Worth clarified the requirements to serve notices to the public and how the District has fulfilled those requirements.

The IWVGA's preliminary injunction against Mojave Pistachios is set to be heard on June 14th.

The Board heard public comment from Judie Decker.

GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE

**GENERAL
MANAGER AND
STAFF UPDATE**

George Croll reported the monthly water data for April. Water produced: 152,685,400 gallons, water consumed: 108,241,000 gallons (11% commercial, 4% other, 85% residential), and estimated loss 11,459,205 gallons (which is water lost to meter inaccuracy, flushing, and theft, etc.)

Mr. Croll provided a report from the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) conference.

STATE REG.
UPDATES

Mr. Staheli provided an update on the Electric Vehicle mandate and how it may impact the District.

The following updates were given on items assigned at the January 12, 2024, Special Board Workshop:

BOARD
WORKSHOP
UPDATES

➤ **Updated Costs and plans for Wastewater Project**

Follow up to be had with CEC and presented to the Board accordingly

➤ **Follow up with LADWP on capturing water overflow**

Meeting with LADWP scheduled for May 28th

➤ **Project Priority List based on FY 25 Funding**

Staff is working on the list, including costs, and will present to the Board at a future Board meeting

Staff is completing review of submittals by Nicholas Construction. The contractor is waiting on a ship date for the butterfly valves in order to schedule a mobilization date. They are expecting to mobilize mid-July. Staff expects to schedule a pre-construction meeting for June.

NW TRANSM.
PIPELINE

Since the District agreed to move forward with both these consolidations, the State Water Resources Control Board has issued preliminary award letters for both projects on April 18th. The District has until May 18th the supply the required documents. Once that is completed, grant agreements will be prepared for both projects.

CONSOLIDATION
PROJECTS

The estimated year-to-date revenues as of April 30, 2024, are \$12,284,795 and expenses are \$13,372,361. Expenditures exceeded revenues by \$1,087,565, which is over budget by \$92,783. To date, the District has paid \$13,809,906 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 seven water waste reports received with seven contacts made. There has been one formal Second Notice and one penalty issued.

CONSERVATION

Plant 2 is online at half capacity. District expects delivery of the Filtronics media this week, while the Pureflow delivery has been delayed 1-3 weeks.

ARSENIC
TREATMENT

There are no exact numbers to report due to errors within the GIS. All services on Felspar were replaced from Downs to China Lake Blvd in April. The NO-DES truck made eight runs in April. Since inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 9,303,923 gallons. 57 valves were exercised.

OPERATIONS

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Rajtora asked for the following discussion items to be added to the July Workshop agenda: updated report from WaterView to show the conservation efforts by the District, and a brief of how the District monitors water losses, including procedures how to mitigate those losses.

**BOARD
COMMENTS**

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Smith
Recording Secretary

APPROVED: June 10, 2024