

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

OCTOBER 15, 2024

The Special 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 Ron Kicinski. **PLEDGE**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: President Ronald R. Kicinski
Vice President David C.H. Saint-Amand
Director Charles D. Griffin
Director Stan G. Rajtora **ROLL CALL**

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Director Mallory J. Boyd

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Worth, Attorney
Jason Lillion, Operations Manager
Renée Morquecho, Chief Engineer
Tyrell Staheli, Chief Financial Officer

AGENDA DECLARATION

Operations Manager, Jason Lillion, reported that the agenda for today's Special Board Meeting was posted on Thursday, October 10, 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 4:31 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

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

Closed Session was adjourned at 5:50 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.

FINANCIAL PLAN AND RATE ANALYSIS

**FINANCIAL
PLAN**

The Board received a presentation on the updated financial plan and proposed rate changes from Mark Hildebrand of Hildebrand Consulting. (Included in the Board packet).

The rate changes include a proposed 12% increase in February 2025, 10% and then 8% for 3 years

Board members asked questions for further clarification of the Financial Plan and Rate Analysis.

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

MOTION: was made by Vice President Saint-Amand and seconded by President Kicinski to begin the Prop 218 process and set a Public Hearing Date with a 45-day notice. Motion was carried. (Ayes: Griffin, Kicinski, Saint-Amand. Nays: Rajtora. Absent: Boyd.)

CONSENT CALENDAR

**CONSENT
CALENDAR**

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Vice President Saint-Amand approving the Minutes of the September 9, 2024, Regular Board Meeting, and Payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$3,496,859.26. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: Boyd.)

PLANT & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

**P&E:
ACCEPTANCE OF
CONTRACT
WORK: ONSTOTT**

The Board reviewed the Staff recommendation to accept Contract Work performed by Onstott Construction. Onstott has completed several lists of areas where temporary pavement was replaced from November 2022 to August 2024 for the total amount of \$402,489.15.

MOTION: was made by Director Rajtora and seconded by Vice President Saint-Amand accepting contract work performed by Onstott Construction in the amount of \$402,489.15. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: Boyd.)

Assessment District 87-1 was formed in the Ridgecrest Heights area to replace all the infrastructure back in the late 1980s. Those assessments have been paid and are no longer being collected. Excess funds collected can only be used for the AD-87-1 area. Currently, there are enough funds to purchase 1500 ultrasonic water meters. That will allow the District to replace almost all the meters in the AD 87-1 area with the newest technology. These new meters have no moving parts that can wear out and come with a 20-year warranty.

**APPROVAL OF
PURCHASE FOR
1,500 METERS**

The Board heard public comment from Mike Neel.

MOTION: was made by Director Rajtora and seconded by Vice President Saint-Amand approve the purchase of the ultrasonic meters at a price of \$555,126.56 to replace current meters in the Assessment District 87-1 area. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: Boyd.)

Staff presented a list of many miscellaneous items for surplus. These items have been accumulating for several years and are no longer useful by the District. These items must be surplused to see if anyone wants to purchase them before being either given away or landfilled/recycled.

SURPLUS ITEMS LIST

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by President Kicinski approving the equipment list as presented to be surplused. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: Boyd.)

CURRENT BUSINESS

Board reviewed the approval of Reimbursement Agreement with the IWVGA for District services in connection with the IWVGA Rademacher Consolidation project.

CURRENT BUSINESS:
REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT
W/IWVGA

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by President Kicinski approving Reimbursement Agreement with the IWVGA for District services in connection with the IWVGA Rademacher Consolidation project. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: Boyd.)

Board to consider approval of the Funding Agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for Hometown Water Association Consolidation project.

APPROVAL OF FUNDING AGREEMENT W/SWRCB

The Board heard public comment from Mike Neel.

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Director Rajtora approving the Funding Agreement with SWRCB for Hometown Water Association Consolidation Project. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: Boyd.)

Board to consider an amendment to the IWVGA JPA eliminating the requirement that alternate Directors of the IWVGA be elected members of their governing bodies.

AMENDMENT TO IWVGA JPA

The Board heard public comment from Judie Decker and Renee Westa-lusk.

MOTION: was made by Vice President Saint-Amand and seconded by Director Griffin for JPA's requirement of elected officials for the big 3 as currently defined remain the same. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora, Saint-Amand. Nays: None. Absent: Boyd.)

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)

IWVGA

The Board discussed items from the September 11th agenda, including:

- Recycled water presentation
- Groundwater Sustainability Plan Modeling and Periodic Eval Update
- Update on Rademacher consolidation and reimbursement agreement

President Kicinski listed numerous misrepresented statements made by elected officials and/or staff.

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

COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION

COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION

Jim Worth commented on the Hearing held on October 2nd. The Court set the trial date for the Phase 2 regarding Safe Yield, March 30, 2026. The IWVGA filed a petition for writ of mandate, asking for the trial court's decision to be overturned and authority for determination of safe yield, independent of the GSP.

Phase 1 trial for federal reserve water rights to be held April of 2025.

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

GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE

GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE

Mr. Staheli reported on upcoming events the District will be attending and handing out conservation items and literature. He also reported on the recent Chamber Luncheon that Searles Valley Minerals (SVM) was the guest speaker at.

There will be a Special Board Workshop "Town Hall" style meeting held on Monday, October 21, 2024; at 6:00 p.m. at the USO Building. Remote and in-person attendance is permitted. Recording of the meeting will be uploaded to the District's YouTube page.

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Jason Lillion provided an update on the status of Inyokern Community Services District (ICSD). He reviewed the major issues the CSD is facing.

ICSD UPDATE

Contractor Nicholas Construction is currently filling the pipeline to pressure test and disinfect Phases 1 and 2 (Victor to Pinto and Pinto to Primavera. They also continue installing pipe in Phase 3 (Primavera to Brady) and will complete installation shortly. This project is on schedule and budget.

NW TRANSM. PIPELINE

No further update available.

CONSOLIDATION PROJECTS

The estimated year-to-date revenues as of September 30, 2024, are \$4,266,506 and expenses are \$4,594,806. Expenditures exceeded revenues by \$328,300, which is better than budget by \$604,626. To date, the District has paid \$15,607,346 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 15 water waste reports received with 15 contacts made. There has been two formal Second Notice and one penalty issued.

CONSERVATION

Plant 1 online 50% capacity, Plant 2 offline for erroneous meter. Plant ARSENIC
2 is in the process of being winterized, Plant 1 is being scheduled for TREATMENT
winterization.

Mr. Lillion reported for the month of September, 30 services were OPERATIONS
repaired and 20 were replaced. The NO-DES truck made zero runs in
September. Since inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 9,428,891
gallons. Zero valves were exercised.

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

**BOARD
COMMENTS**

Vice President Saint-Amand thanked staff and contractor for their work
on the northwest transmission pipeline and arsenic treatment plants.

Director Kicinski thanked Director Griffin for his representation and
role as the IWVGA representative.

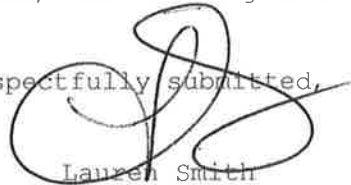
President Kicinski thanked staff.

ADJOURNMENT

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With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was
adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Smith

Recording Secretary

APPROVED: November 12, 2024