

RAND COMMUNITIES WATER DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
MINUTES

Wednesday, October 13, 2021
27804 Comstock Ave, Johannesburg, CA 93528

- I. Call to Order**
President Cliff Kennedy called to order the regular meeting of the Rand Community Water district at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 in Johannesburg, California. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- II. Roll Call**
Present were President Cliff Kennedy, Vice-President Ernest Napolis, Director Tom Williams, Director Brent Brown, and Director Ghulam Din.
- III. Adopt Agenda**
Director Din made a motion to adopt the agenda as is. Vice-President Napolis seconded the motion. Motion passed with all ayes.
- IV. Communications from the Public**
No one had any comments.
- V. Closed Session – CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) – Name of case: Greg Thompson v. Rand Communities Water District, et. al.**
The board went into closed session at 7:05 pm.
- VI. Open Session**
The board resumed open session at 8:20 pm. No reportable action taken at this time.
- VII. Correspondence**
No new correspondence to report.
- VIII. Approve Minutes from September 8, 2021**
Director Williams made a motion to approve the minutes from September 8, 2021. Seconded by Director Din. Motion passed with all ayes.
- IX. General Managers Report**
(Copied from original report)

All the valves in all the towns have been exercised with no issues.

September 3 – Leak on transmission line and in Randsburg at the Chime Shop.

September 7 – Leaks in Johannesburg on Johannesburg Ave and in Randsburg on Lexington.

September 9 – Leak on Johannesburg Ave and on Highland Street.

September 18 - A major leak on the transmission line occurred on Saturday night. This was a leak that was known to be there somewhere but was never pinpointed because it wasn't showing above ground. The line is believed to have blown soon after the system was turned on that night, as the tanks were not filled the next morning. Tiger and Ocean took the backhoe down and fixed it on Sunday Morning. At no point were the towns out of water.

October 12 – Leak on the transmission line after booster 3 heading to Randsburg. This has been leaking for a while, and some of the townsite water loss can be attributed to this leak.

The State Water Board will be distributing funds to cover Covid unpaid customer debt and district income loss between November 1, 2021 and January 31, 2022, prioritizing small drinking water systems first. Disadvantage communities, which we are, will also be prioritized. Based on the survey results received by the State Water Board, the program funds they received will cover 100% of the reported drinking water debt. I have received the application from the State Water Board for the customer arrearages reimbursement and am filling it out. It appears we will be receiving approximately \$19,000.00 for customer arrearages.

Customers will not be paid this money directly. The district will be required to credit each eligible customer account and notify them that their water bill debt has been cleared or reduced. Those who still have a past due balance after the credit will be sent a letter given them 30 days to enter into a payment plan with the district. After 30 days from the date of the letter, if they have not entered into a payment plan, the district will then be able to start the water shutoff procedure. Because the governor extended the shutoff moratorium, we cannot start shutting off people's water for non-payment until after December 31, 2021.

The bids for the grant project are due to go out this month. I have been in contact with NV5 concerning Prather Well 3, stressing that it needs to be addressed first. Without it in working condition, there really is no point to the rest of the project.

One of our tax liens have been paid off. The lien was for \$2132.95 for one of the properties in Johannesburg.

(End of report)

X. Future Meeting Teleconferencing

The public will be able to attend all future meetings in person. Zoom will also still be available to watch the meetings online.

XI. CoBank Bridge Loan for Grant

Cobank approved the bridge loan and asked if the Board still wants them to draw up the contract. Vice-President Napolis made a motion that we authorize Cobank to go ahead and initiate the process to get the loan. Seconded by Director Williams. Motion passed with all ayes.

XII. Customer Arrearages Payment Plan Specifications

The current payment plan amortization contract was distributed to the board. Basically, it asks for the current amount due on the bill plus \$25.00 on arrearages. If a customer defaults on the contract, they will be sent a termination notice that their water will be

turned off. Vice-President Napolis made a motion that we leave the payment plan amortization as is with \$25 to be paid on arrearages. Seconded by Director Williams. Motion passed with all ayes.

XIII. Catastrophic Loss Specifications

Director Williams said that we should allow a catastrophic loss claim for the person who was paying the bill at the time and who it happens to. Vice-President Napolis asked how it applied when someone has a claim and then someone else filed a claim for the same meter. GM Jones said that the house would have had to be sold to the other person and they would have to be living there in order for a new claim to be made on that meter. Director Napolis wondered how you arrive at what would be considered a catastrophic loss. He thought that we should wait until we are more solvent until we make any changes. The board said they would leave it as is.

XIV. Designation of Authorized Representative for Arrearages Program

GM Jones said that the State Water Board needed forms signed in order to complete the application for the Arrearages Program. Two board members needed to sign a form authorizing President Kennedy to sign the application.

XV. Pay Bills

All the checks presented for payment of bills were signed.

XVI. Future Agenda Items

Special meeting for ad-hoc meeting findings. Ad-hoc meeting was set for 10:00 am on Friday, October 15, 2021.

XVII. Adjournment

Director Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Din. Motion passed with all ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

ATTEST: _____
Debbie R Jones, Secretary
RCWD Board of Directors