

RAND COMMUNITIES WATER DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

Thursday, April 6, 2023
27804 Comstock Ave, Johannesburg, CA 93528

1. Call to Order

Vice-President Ghulam Din called to order the special meeting at 5:00 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call

Present: President Jay Friel, Vice-President Ghulam Din, Director Will Liebscher, and Director Robert Baum.

4. Adopt Agenda

President Friel made a motion to adopt the Agenda as written. Vice-President Din seconded, and the motion was passed with 4 ayes and 0 nays.

5. Communications from the Public

No comments were made from the public.

6. Accept Greg Thompson's Resignation as a Board Member

President Friel made a motion that Thompson's resignation from the board be accepted. Vice-President Din seconded, and the motion was passed with 4 ayes and 0 nays.

7. Report On Water Meters Located Improperly On Property

It has come to the attention of the district that several water meters are located inside of fenced properties and behind locked gates. Due to this inconvenience, several meters fail to be read on a monthly basis, which creates inaccurate water usage and billing figures. There is also suspicion that the water connections on such properties may have diversion lines to distort the meter reading figures. In order to mitigate the issues posed by these improperly located meters, meters need to be relocated outside of the properties. The General Manager added that he became aware of some properties having unmetered connections, which provide free water to those properties. He stated that this is an issue that must be addressed alongside the improperly located meter issue. Action will be taken on this matter immediately.

8. Report On Cross-Connection Violations South Of Sunset Street

Due to the low water pressure caused by the elevation of a few properties located on a hill at the south of Sunset Street, there is a risk of backflow (water reentering the water system after it has reached the customer) occurring at those connections. To prevent this problem from arising, the state waterboard requires those properties to install backflow devices. The residents for whom this is required will be given a courtesy notice.

9. Discuss, Take Action On Board Member Requirement To Have Active Water Meter

According to *Resolution #2019-1*, which was passed the board and adopted on January 23, 2019, RCWD Board Members are required to be active customers of RCWD to be on the board. The clause in question reads:

“Whereas, the RCWD Board of Directors seeks to be in compliance with the recommendation that Board members be a RCWD customer.

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved and Ordered as follows:

1. That it is the policy of the RCWD that all Board members are required to have a water account with RCWD.”

Due to the ambiguous wording of this resolution, there has been confusion about what exactly constitutes being “a RCWD customer” and “[having] a water account with RCWD,” whereby this requirement would be fulfilled. Specifically, the question that the board sought to answer was the following: is having a water meter coupled with a suspended account—whereby neither water is received, and nor is any bill charged—sufficient to fulfill this requirement? After a thorough discussion among the board members attempting to gain clarity of this stipulation, President Friel made a motion for the phrase “Board members are required to have a water account with RCWD” to be interpreted as having an active account which receives water and is billed. The motion was seconded by Vice-President Din, and passed with 3 ayes and 1 abstain. With this definition having been established, it became apparent that a member of the board fails to meet this requirement. Appropriate course of action will be discussed and considered at future meetings.

10. Adjournment

Vice-President Din made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Director Baum. Motion passed with 4 ayes and 0 nays. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

ATTEST: _____

Maaz Tahir, Secretary
RCWD Board of Directors