

RAND COMMUNITIES WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

Thursday, June 13, 2024
27804 Comstock Ave, Johannesburg, CA 93528

1. Call to Order

President Ghulam Din called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call

Present: President Ghulam Din, Vice-President Mark Jones, Director Robert Baum, Director Gregory Frazier.

Absent: Director Gregory Thompson

4. Communications from the Public

An advocate of *B&N Mining* made a complaint about the board not putting items requested by her on the agenda for this meeting. The requested items included taking action on matters which the board was not ready for, such as binding the district to a several-year contract that the board did not have adequate time to deliberate. The Board only learned of this potential bulk-water purchasing agreement one month prior to this meeting, and was not provided with concrete plans, logistics, or final contract details; yet the item which that was requested to be put on the agenda would have bound us to a contract with unknown terms for several years. The board explained that not everything that a member of the public requests must go on the agenda, and it is ultimately the Board's discretion to decide on which topics would be discussed at the board meeting. The board, still needing time to properly contemplate and assess the viability of the potential bulk-water purchasing, did not feel ready to make the decision to bind the district to this massive project, and hence felt that it was too early to vote to accept the proposed contract. Thus, the President, when making the agenda, simply put "Discuss Bulk-Water Purchasing Agreement," so that the board can further discuss important considerations before taking any action on this matter.

5. Adopt Agenda

Director Jones made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Baum, and passed with 4 ayes and 0 nays. The agenda was adopted.

6. Discuss Well #2 Project and Take Action on Future Arsenic Remediation Plan

General Manager David Perry updated the board on the Well #2 project, which was to reposition the pump to access a lower water-table level with a suspected lower arsenic concentration. The project was conducted in May, in collaboration with Self-Help Enterprises. The original pump level was 483-feet, and the project proposed to lower the pump to the 580-foot level of the well, which is reported as being 600-feet deep in the driller's report. However, the video survey showed that the well is only 539-feet deep, and filled with sediment beyond that level. The project could not be conducted as

planned, so the water was sampled at different levels for our own knowledge at 504-feet and 420-feet, and showed no significant change in arsenic levels. The project was unsuccessful and the pump was left at 420-feet. The Well #2 project has ended and a new arsenic remediation plan needs to be determined.

We are looking to have our arsenic remediation grant reinstated to follow the original remediation plan of making Well #3 into a production well and blending the water with Well #2 to lower the arsenic concentration in our water system. Carlos Bravo from Self-Help Enterprises, who attended the meeting virtually, gave the board some considerations for this process, stating that the grant will have a higher chance of reinstatement if we plan on having NV5 as the project manager. The board is not inclined to the idea, and would prefer working with MC Engineering, a new engineering firm that we have been in contact with. The board believes NV5 has a record of acting against the interests of the water district, and would rather work with an engineering firm that works . The board would like to try to have MC Engineering to undertake the project if the grant is reinstated.

7. Diss and Take Action on Bulk-Water Purchasing Agreement

President Din initiated the discussion of the potential bulk-water purchasing agreement with *B&N Mining* for a large mining operation. Din stated that we must move slowly to ensure that we can execute this supply in a way that doesn't compromise our operations and water supply. Several things need to be ironed out before we move forward and bind the district to the contract, such as the rate that the district can afford to lease the well out at, the agreement term length, and various other considerations to ensure the feasibility of such a contract with the district.

It was pointed out that the "Memorandum of Understanding," which the advocates were pushing the district to promptly sign, ties the district into a contract that would be ratified 90 days after the well is proven viable. However, the final contract hasn't been made or presented to the board, which would mean that the district would bound itself to a contract with unknown terms; hence the need to delay immediate action. First the terms need to be fleshed out and finalized, and then action can be taken. Due to disagreements between the *B&N Mining* advocates and the board, no progressive development occurred regarding this potential agreement. This topic will be discussed in future meetings.

8. Discuss and Take Action on Conditions for Calling Special Meetings Requested by Outside Entities

Resolution No. 06-13-2024 was drafted by the board to institute a policy to charge outside parties who request a special meeting to be held the cost of holding the meeting, which includes reasonable board members' and secretary's stipend, and staff pay, represented by a minimum amount of \$500, until reevaluated by the board. Director Frazier made a motion to pass the resolution, which was seconded by Director Baum, and passed with 4 ayes and 0 nays. The resolution was passed with 4 ayes and 0 nays.

9. Discuss Budget

With the fiscal year approaching an end, the board would like to begin considering the budget for the next fiscal year. This will be discussed in the next meeting when more concrete financials become available.

10. Approve Minutes

Minutes from the 3/4/24 Regular Meeting and 4/4/24 Special Meeting were presented for approval. Vice-President Jones made a motion to accept both minutes. Director Frazier seconded the motion, and the motion was passed with 4 ayes and 0 nays.

11. General Manager's Report

General Manager David Perry gave a report of the notable events and achievements for the month. A summary is given below:

- Fixed 3 leaks in Johannesburg.
- Fixed 2 leaks in Red Mountain.
- Fixed 1 leak in Randsburg.
- We had a transmission line break as a result of Booster 2 shutting down while we were pumping. Mike Powell was hired to troubleshoot the electrical problem and he was able to get the booster functioning again. Next week he will install a new overload circuit in the Booster 2 electrical box. Meanwhile it is working fine.
- Finished road repair on Oompaul and Comstock where we fixed another leak.
- Repaired the valve on Mountain View and Pico.
- Two meter boxes had beehives in them on meter day. We opened the boxes and left. Currently the bees have moved from one box and nearly out of the other.
- The Well 2 project showed us that we have about 60' of sediment in the bottom of the well, so the current bottom is at 539'. As a result, we were not able to complete the experiment, but we were able to get a video of the well casing and it looks good. We have a video if the board members want to view it. We were able to get a water sample from the 420' level and there is no meaningful difference in the arsenic content. The well pump was reinstalled to the 504' level.
- Carlos from Self-Help Enterprises is already pushing to get the arsenic remediation grant active again.

12. Pay Bills

Bills were presented and paid.

13. Future Agenda Items

A Special Meeting has been requested to be held on June 26, 2024 for *B&N Mining*. Agenda items will be determined prior to the meeting.

14. Proceeding Adjournment

President Din made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Director Frazier and passed with 4 ayes and 0 nays. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

ATTEST: Maaz Tahir
Maaz Tahir, Secretary
RCWD Board of Directors

Minutes Approved with 4 ayes and 0 nays at a Regular Board Meeting held on July 11, 2024.