

RAND COMMUNITIES WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

Thursday, July 11, 2024
27804 Comstock Ave, Johannesburg, CA 93528

1. Call to Order

Vice-President Mark Jones called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call

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

4. Communications from the Public

No comments were made from the public.

5. Adopt Agenda

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

6. Review Brown Act

In response to public disruptions at recent board meetings which impeded the orderly proceeding of the meeting, the board wanted to review relevant sections of the Brown Act, the document which all public board meetings are bound to comply with. The following section was reviewed:

Despite the public's rights to attend meetings as discussed above, a legislative body may exclude all persons who willfully cause a disruption of a meeting so that it cannot be conducted in an orderly fashion. Where removal of the disruptive persons is not sufficient to restore order, the body may clear the room of all persons. (§ 54957.9.) However, in such situations, media personnel not involved in the disturbance must be permitted to attend the session as continued. (§ 54957.9.)

7. Discuss and Take Action on Parliamentary Rules for Conducting Meetings

To further ensure smooth conduct of board meetings, the board was presented with a parliamentary procedures guideline drafted by Director Thompson. The proposition is listed below:

Parliamentary Rules for Conducting Meetings

RCWD Board meetings have been out-of-control for some time now, which affects the ability to accomplish the tasks at hand. The following parliamentary procedures are proposed for the board to adopt as needing extraordinary attention and adherence to.

1. *When a matter is before the board for consideration and or action, the President or Acting President shall go around the table to each board member and the General Manager, one at a time, giving those 5 minutes each to express their concerns, opinions, suggestions, etc. After the last member has spoken the President shall go around one more time for two minutes each to allow members to follow up or respond to other comments.*

There shall be no interruptions or side conferences or conversations with members of the public while board members are speaking.

If action is required after all members of the board and General Manager have spoken the board will take a vote.

2. *Members of the public shall be given up to 5 minutes each to speak about a subject of public interest, and within the jurisdiction of the board, not on the Agenda at the top of the Agenda during Communication From The Public. Members of the board shall not engage in conversation with members of the public at this time and responses should be minimal, such as; thank you, or we will take that under advisement, etc.*

If the President determines that a comment warrants further review or consideration, then the President shall take a poll of the board members as to whether or not the matter should be placed on a future Agenda.

3. *Members of the public shall not be allowed to interrupt the proceedings after the public comment period and members of the board shall not respond, acknowledge, interact, or consider any public interruptions.*

If a member of the public is before the board for a matter being considered, during their 5 minutes board members may ask questions of that person, preferably in a yes or no format, or ask the member to answer briefly as the 5 minute clock will continue to run during the answers.

Members of the public shall be allowed up to 4 minutes to speak about matters being considered by the board either prior to the President going around the table of board members or after all board members have spoken. Members of the board shall not spontaneously respond to members of the public's comments or engage in conversations while considering a matter.

4. *Only one person is to speak at a time for a clear record of the proceedings. If more than one person is speaking at a time or the Board Secretary ask the President to do so, the President will call the meeting to order.*

Director Thompson made a motion to adopt the Parliamentary Rules for Conducting Meetings. The motion was seconded by Vice-President Jones, and passed with 4 ayes and 0 nays. With these rules being adopted, meeting shall now be conducted in accordance to the Parliamentary Rules for Conducting Meetings

8. Update on Grant

Carlos Bravo from *Self-Help Enterprises*, who attended the meeting virtually, gave the board an update on the arsenic remediation grant. The *Division of Financial Assistance* from the *State Water Resources Control Board* is in the process of moving forward to have the grant reinstated. The reinstatement will come with certain conditions, which will be considered as the process progresses. Before the grant is reinstated, the test well that was drilled in the first instatement of the grant (Well 3) will need to be proven viable for conversion into a production well.

9. Update Regarding B&N Bulk-Water Purchasing Proposal

We have sent a draft proposal to *B&N Mining Properties* and our lawyer and are waiting for updates.

10. Discuss and Take Action on Election Requirements

Resolution 07-11-2024 was drafted and presented to the board for requesting Kern County to consolidate the RCWD Board of Directors election with the November 5, 2024 General District Election. Director Thompson made a motion to approve Resolution 07-11-2024. The motion was seconded by Director Baum, and passed with 4 ayes and 0 nays. Resolution 07-11-2024 was approved.

11. Closed Session, per §54956.5 Regarding Employee Evaluation

The meeting moved into closed session at 5:50 PM.

12. Return to Open Session

The meeting returned to open session at 6:05 PM. Vice-President Jones reported the following action taken:

- Maintenance Worker Timothy Waldron will receive a \$1/hour raise retroacted to the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1, 2024.

13. Approve Minutes

Vice-President Jones made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2024 meeting. The motion was seconded by Director Baum and was passed with 4 ayes and 0 nays.

14. 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 service connection leaks in Johannesburg.
- Fixed 1 service connection leak in Red Mountain.
- Fixed 5 service connection leaks in Randsburg.
- All valves have been exercised.
- All fire hydrants have been exercised.
- Road repair performed in Randsburg at 2 locations.
- A copy of our original lease proposal was sent to B&N Mining on Tuesday, 7/2/24, and to our attorney, Sunny Wise, on 7/5/24. We are awaiting B&N Mining's revised version.
- Meeting between the General Manager, Self-Help Enterprises, and State Water Resources Control Board was held on 7/10/24 regarding developments in the reinstatement of the arsenic remediation grant. Awaiting things to move forward.

15. Pay Bills

Bills were presented and paid.

16. Future Agenda Items

No items were suggested to be tabled for a future meeting.

17. Proceeding Adjournment

Director Baum made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice-President Jones, and passed with 4 ayes and 0 nays. The meeting was adjourned 6:30 PM.

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

Minutes Approved with 3 ayes and 0 nays at a special meeting held on November 14, 2024.