

RAND COMMUNITIES WATER DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
MINUTES

Wednesday, March 9, 2022
27804 Comstock Ave, Johannesburg, CA 93528

- I. Call to Order**
Vice-President Ernest Napolis called to order the regular meeting of the Rand Communities Water district at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 in Johannesburg, California. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- II. Roll Call**
Present were Vice-President Ernest Napolis, Director Ghulam Din, and Treasurer Pam Keiser. The fourth and fifth seat was vacant.
- III. Adopt Agenda**
Vice-President Napolis made a motion to adopt the agenda after adding approve minutes and changing the Arsenic Report on the April agenda. Director Din seconded the motion. Motion passed with 3 ayes and 2 vacant.
- IV. Communications from the Public**
Various members of the public commented.
- V. Closed Session: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION** (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2) – Significant Exposure to Litigation – One Potential Case.
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.
Closed Session: EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION - (California Code Section 54954.5(e) – Titles: Office Clerk and Maintenance Manager.

The meeting went into closed session at 7:25 pm.
- VI. Open Session: Report on Closed Sessions.**
The meeting went back into open session at 8:17 pm. There were no reportable actions taken.
- VII. Approve Minutes from February 9, 16, and 22, 2022.**
Director Din made a motion to approve the minutes from February 9, February 16 and February 22, 2022. Treasurer Keiser seconded it. Motion passes with 3 ayes and 2 vacant.
- VIII. Treasurer’s Report**
Treasurer Keiser gave her report. First, she was instructed during the last meeting to research public accountants, which she did. She submitted a proposal to the board which

was submitted by one of the three CPAs she looked at. She recommended that the district use this firm for a year while still looking around and evaluating other CPAs for comparison.

The next topic in her report was concerning cost of living increases, inflation, and the need for a rate increase. Costs have risen in excess of 17% since the last rate increase in 2014. She recommended that a rate increase is inevitable. Without is the district cannot survive.

Next was the catastrophic water loss account. This account was established for the 2014 rate increase. One dollar from each meter account was to be deposited into this account each month. The purpose was to raise funds beyond the \$45.00 base rate exclusively for assisting individuals in the community who wanted to claim a one-time catastrophic loss. In 2019 the then general manager closed the account and transferred the money into the main checking account. She recommended that the account be reopened and resume depositing the \$1.00 per meter into it.

The next topic was the state of the district accounts. She recommended that she, the outgoing general manager and the office staff meet the next day to go over the accounts. She said the district needed to have at least one years' worth of capital in reserve to cover operating expenses. Namely, \$266,000 dollars plus the 17% to equal approximately \$300,000. Currently the district only has about \$30,000 of the needed \$300,000 needed.

IX. General Managers Report
(Copied from original report)

On March 3, 2022, the Kern County District Attorney called me. A member of the public had called and complained that we were violating the elections code by requiring our directors to have a water account. I told the DA that the 2018-19 Kern County Grand Jury had required in their recommendation number R5 that all directors had to have a water account in order to serve on the board.

I directed him to the Grand Jury report on our website and the recommendation number R5, which states: RCWD Bylaws should be amended to require all Board Members live within the District, be a registered voter, and a RCWD customer. After reading this for himself, he said that is exactly what he was looking for and ended the call with no further inquiries. Thus, we are not in any kind of violation in this regard because this was a Grand Jury requirement.

I inquired of James Owens of NV5 about the status of the extension for the grant. The extension letter will need to be signed by a new authorized representative. The extension must include a proposed project schedule with a new proposed date for completion, which is something only NV5 at this point can provide.

2/22/2022	Booster #1 motor stopped working, which caused a pipe down from it to blow from the water pressure.
2/22/2022	Water leak on Highland Ave- 339 Highland Ave
2/22/2022	Water leak on Beck Rd-362 Beck Rd
2/22/2022	Water leak on Transmission Line-368 Beck Street
2/28/2022	Water leak on the 500 Block of Goler Street. This leak caused a massive water drain on the Johannesburg/Randsburg water tank. We lost 6 feet of

water before the lead was discovered. It happened during the early hours of the morning.

2/28/2022 Leak at 383 Burma from the house
2/28/2022 Below Booster #3 leak
2/28/2022 Up from Booster #3 leak

(End of report)

X. General Manager's Job Description

No action was taken. Treasurer Keiser was going to look into finding some of the older job descriptions when in the office tomorrow.

XI. California Water Board Grant Extension and Resolution for New Signer for Grant

Vice-President Napolis volunteered to be the designated signer. This topic was put off until a full board is present.

XII. Grand Jury Responses

The responses were reviewed by the board. Treasurer Keiser made a motion to accept the responses with the changes made. Director Din seconded the motion. Motion passed with 3 ayes and 2 vacant.

XIII. Bank Signatures and Designation of Director for Debit Card

Topic put off until a full board is present.

XIV. Board Secretary Position

Topic put off until a full board is present.

XV. Ad Hoc Committees for Well 3 and Grant, Office Organization and Accounts

Topic put off until a full board is present.

XVI. Pay Bills

All the checks presented for payment of bills were signed.

XVII. Future Agenda Items

Arsenic Report and skipped topics.

The special meeting for board candidates will take place on Friday, March 11, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

XVIII. Adjournment

Director Din made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Treasurer Keiser. Motion passed with 3 ayes and 2 vacant. The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 PM.

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