

RAND COMMUNITIES WATER DISTRICT

Regular Board Meeting

MINUTES

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

501 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, February 10, 2021 in Johannesburg, California. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Roll Call

Present were President Cliff Kennedy, Director Ghulam Din, and Director Tom Williams. Absent were Director Brent Brown and Director Ernest Napolis.

III. Adopt Agenda

Director Williams made a motion to add three bids presented by NV5 and one bid from another company concerning one of the Red Mountain water tanks to be added after the General Manager's report. Seconded by Director Din. Motion passed with all ayes.

IV. Communications from the Public

No comments from the public were given.

V. Approve Minutes

Director Din made a motion to approve all the minutes from January 13, January 20, and February 10, 2021. Director Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed with all ayes.

VI. General Managers Report

(Copied from original report)

All the known leaks on the transmission line and in the towns have been fixed, including a leaking meter. So far, no other leaks have come to light and the system is currently stable. Tiger greased the boosters on February 23 and made sure the packing was adjusted. I also had him take soundings of the water level in the wells a few days ago. The water level at Well 1 is 428 ft, and 384 ft at Well 2. This is consistent with prior soundings, so the water level is remaining constant.

Currently it is taking approximately 10 minutes for the water to get from Well 2 to Booster 1, 8 minutes to get from Booster 1 to Booster 2, and 4 minutes to get from Booster 2 to Booster 3. This is a big improvement to the 20 to 30 minutes between pumps it used to take.

Martin Delgadillo has resigned, and I have hired Ocean Hyles to replace him as of February 22. We are currently at full staff.

I talked with James Owens of NV5 on March 4. He sent three proposals to be considered later in the agenda. We also discussed the trenches he mentioned earlier. He said the trenches should not be more than 5 feet deep, so we do not need to worry about shoring. OSHA only requires shoring for trenches over 5 foot deep. These trenches will be between booster 1 and 2 for the new pipe to be laid there. They will be boring test holes in the area where the blending tank and control shed will go.

The guys have been working on the building in their spare time, painting and repairing as needed. The roof is bowing in the middle past the doorway heading into the shop, and they will be working on bracing that so it doesn't collapse.

We have been going through files in the office, looking for and consolidating important documents and shredding those documents that need to be. We have been checking the shred boxes first to make sure nothing important gets destroyed.

I have received a bid to sandblast and repaint tank 2 in Red Mounting. Both other bids I received earlier were \$100,000 or more, making this one much more reasonable.

We have put in a new cabinet and sink in the bathroom as the other one was leaking and falling apart. Cost was approximately \$100.

I have heard from the Auditors, and I should have a draft copy of the 2019-2020 audit by the end of this week.

Due to the recent cyber-attack on an Oldsmar, Florida water treatment facility which briefly adjusted the levels of sodium hydroxide from 100 parts per million to 11,100 parts per million, our insurance has added an updated cyber liability renewal/information request to our insurance. Sodium hydroxide is used to raise the PH of water to a level that minimizes corrosion and is toxic in larger volumes. Luckily, there was an operator monitoring the equipment at the time, saw the change being made and changed it right back, so no harm was done. The only chemical we use in our water is chlorine, and no part of our water system is computer controlled at this time, so we are currently safe from this type of remote computer attack.

I was contacted today by Newmont Goldcorp (Rand Mining). They are planning to start up again in April. They are going to send me an amended meter permit reflecting the meeting we had with them last year. They want to take no more than 20,000 gallons per day from the Butte site in Randsburg at 2½ cents per gallon, and the rest from Well 1, at 2 cents per gallon. They are also looking to get a three-year agreement.

Northwind has also received the contract for removing mine equipment and reclamation across 395 in Johannesburg. I don't know yet if they plan to buy any water as they have not contacted us.

(End of report)

VII. NV5 and Water Tank Proposals

James Owens went through the bids with the Board over Zoom. They included a proposal for traffic control, one for geotechnical investigations, and one for drilling test holes. The board gave permission for GM Jones to be able to sign paperwork from NV5 if she advised the president of the paperwork she was signing. It was questioned whether these proposals were reimbursable by the grant. NV5 assured the board it would be reimbursed. The proposals were signed by President Kennedy.

The water tank proposal was discussed but no action taken.

VIII. Well RMC 4 Access

GM Jones could find no paperwork pertaining to how of how John Cruz came to oversee RMC 4, nor of Marvin Rupee and how he came to sign a lease agreement. No one has ever heard of Marvin Rupee, and the lease agreement signed by a previous general manager was illegal as it was not approved by the board.

GM Jones said she talked to a previous board president who said she vaguely remembers Mr. Cruz coming to a board meeting to discuss the well. GM Jones has gone through the board minutes from 2006 to 2016 and has found no mention of any discussion concerning John Cruz caretaking RMC 4 or of Mr. Rupee. RMC4 has two working generators and is a working well, as Mr. Cruz pays for its upkeep. He also has a water account where he pays \$46.00 per month for the water.

It was discussed that the District could truck water from it in an emergency.

President Kennedy directed GM Jones to send a registered letter to the GM who wrote the lease and ask him who Mr. Rupee was, who he made the deal with.

IX. Bills Paid

All the checks presented were signed.

X. Future Agenda Items

Update on RMC 4.

XI. Adjournment

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

ATTEST: _____

Debbie R Jones, Secretary
RCWD Board of Directors