

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES OF December 10, 2014  
10:00 A.M.

President Corneille called the Board Meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 10:00 a.m. All present stood for the pledge of allegiance, led by President Corneille.

ROLL CALL:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard Corneille, President  
Melody McDonald, Vice President  
David E. Raley, Director  
Manuel Aranda, Director

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

John Longville, Director

GENERAL COUNSEL PRESENT:

David Cosgrove, Rutan & Tucker, LLP

STAFF PRESENT:

Daniel Cozad, General Manager  
Jeff Beehler, Land Resources Manager  
Athena Monge, Administrative Services Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT:

Don Lee, Tetra Tech

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

President Corneille announced this as the time for any persons present, who so desire, to make an oral presentation to the Board of Directors. Hearing none, the meeting continued with published agenda items.

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There were none.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Director Aranda and seconded by Vice President McDonald to approve Consent Calendar Item A: Board Minutes, November 19, 2014 and Item B: Expenditure Report, November 2014. The motion carried 4-0 with all Directors present voting in the affirmative and Director Longville noted absent from the vote.

President Corneille: Yes  
Vice President McDonald: Yes  
Director Longville: Absent  
Director Raley: Yes  
Director Aranda: Yes

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

A. UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORTS, NOVEMBER 2014

It was moved by Director Raley and seconded by Vice President McDonald to approve the Unaudited Financials for November 2014. The motion carried 4-0 with all Directors present voting in the affirmative and Director Longville noted absent from the vote.

President Corneille: Yes  
Vice President McDonald: Yes  
Director Longville: Absent  
Director Raley: Yes  
Director Aranda: Yes

B. APPROVAL OF DISTRICT MEETING DATES

There were comments or suggestions made by the Board.

It was moved by Director Aranda and seconded by Vice President McDonald to approve the District Meeting Dates for 2015. The motion carried 4-0 with all Directors present voting in the affirmative and Director Longville noted absent from the vote.

President Corneille: Yes  
Vice President McDonald: Yes  
Director Longville: Absent  
Director Raley: Yes  
Director Aranda: Yes

C. PLUNGE CREEK CONSERVATION DESIGN PROCUREMENTS STATUS

Mr. Cozad introduced this item for discussion. The District received three qualified proposals from engineering firms: RBF-Baker, ICF Jones & Stokes and ESA. Unfortunately, all were significantly above the grant budget for this task. Staff reviewed proposals with partner agencies (USFWS, SBVMWD, and SBC Flood Control District) and they identified that all firms

appeared qualified, yet assumptions were made that may have unduly increased proposed costs. Staff requested all proposers attend a workshop to provide them with additional information as to allow them to better provide the services needed. Mr. Cozad is optimistic that the revised proposals will be more appropriate. The District's 2014-15 budget for the Plunge Creek Conservation Design includes \$120,000 in the Land Resource Enterprise as match funding for the \$191,000 in grant funds. The revised proposals are to be submitted by January 15<sup>th</sup> and will be presented at the February Board meeting for approval. President Corneille asked if there would be additional funds that would need to be expended for the Plunge Creek Conservation Project. Mr. Cozad stated that the item being discussed today is for design and permitting; the construction consulting expenses will come later. Vice President McDonald asked if anyone else is a financial partner with the District on this project. Currently, the project costs are being covered by the District and grant funds; however opportunities will be presented for other partners. This item was received and filed.

#### D. STREAMBED ALTERATION AGREEMENT

Mr. Beehler stated that the initial study is completed and that the waters diverted by and to District facilities are considered waters of the state of California. Because the waters are considered such this gives CA Department of Fish and Wildlife (CA DFW) jurisdiction over much of District property. Therefore, it is necessary for the District to enter in a Streambed Alteration Agreement with CA DFW. A California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis is needed for the permit application. Mr. Beehler noted that a Mitigated Negative Declaration, which lists the potential impacts to plants and animal species required by CEQA, has been prepared and will be posted for review and comment on December 19<sup>th</sup>. The CEQA documentation for consideration of adoption will be brought to the Board in February after the 30 day posting period and response to comments is completed for approval. Mr. Cosgrove clarified that due to the District's change in field activities related to joint ventures with other agencies that it is best to comply with the new requirements and obtain the permits now to avoid future issues. Daniel Cozad added that these would need to be done to perform the updates to the Mill Creek diversion that are being contemplated. Brief discussion ensued. Mr. Beehler noted that when developing the CEQA document that staff made extensive use of the District's Operations & Maintenance Manual; which was a great resource according to CA DFW. He indicated that with the development and maintenance of this document the District saved about \$25,000 and that the District will be attaching it to the permit application. Mr. Beehler said there are jurisdictional determinations that are needed for both the Mill Creek and Santa Ana facilities. After determinations have been reviewed by the Corp of Engineers (COE), they will go to the USEPA for final approval. Mr. Beehler indicated that based on the current rules of the COE and preliminary discussion with the COE that it is not likely our canals and basins are considered waters of the US. This report was received and filed.

#### E. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS IN APPRECIATION OF WASH PLAN TECHNICAL SUPPORT

President Corneille introduced this item for discussion indicating this exemplary service was being recognized by the staff of our federal partners. He said that both Mr. Hund and Ms. Roberts deserve this acknowledgment for their efforts as they went above and beyond to assist the District in moving the Wash Plan forward. Vice President McDonald expressed her appreciation of both for their efforts. Brief discussion ensued. Vice President McDonald asked when these will be presented to Geary Hund of FWS and Holly Roberts of BLM. Mr. Beehler

stated there may be opportunity to present at a Wash Plan Task Force meeting and staff will make the Board aware of the plans for presentation.

**It was moved by Director Raley and seconded by Vice President McDonald to approve Resolution No. 516 & 517 in appreciation for technical support and volunteer services provided by Geary Hund of US Fish and Wildlife Service and Holly Roberts of Bureau of Land Management in connection with the Wash Plan. The motion carried 4-0 with all Directors present voting in the affirmative and Director Longville noted absent from the vote.**

**President Corneille: Yes  
Vice President McDonald: Yes  
Director Longville: Absent  
Director Raley: Yes  
Director Aranda: Yes**

## **5. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS-WITHOUT ACTION**

There were no committee meetings held during the past month. President Corneille noted that a handout of the Districts Major Accomplishments for 2014 that Mr. Cozad and he developed. This handout lists the highlights for the calendar year related to our priorities derived from the strategic plan. President Corneille would like for each staff member to receive a handout so that all can see what they helped the District achieve. He thanked all staff for helping the District achieve these accomplishments and Mr. Cosgrove for being part of the team.

### **B. WASH PLAN REPORT**

Mr. Beehler introduced this item for discussion. He noted that the written report is included in package on page 34. The management efforts geodatabase has been completed. The database summarizes conservation activities on the 1900+ acres of conserved and managed lands within the Wash Plan area. FWS is performing their metadata review process and once the information is verified for accuracy and completeness it will be released to others for use. Staff working with FWS has identified three main methods to treat invasive grasses: 1) controlled burns using CAL fire crews; 2) sheep grazing, and 3) application of herbicides. The initial costs were estimated at \$250/per acre for ongoing management. Mr. Beehler indicated that herbicide is the most expensive method of management and has now been reduced by over 40%. Through the analysis performed and alternative management methods identified staff is now estimating the cost at \$100/per acre for ongoing management. Mr. Cosgrove requested that Mr. Beehler document the process discussed and present to the Task Force and that it be kept as administrative record. Discussion ensued. Mr. Beehler provided a handout of the updated schedule. He said that the District can implement much of the HCP before the land transfer. Mr. Beehler indicated that projects appear within scope and on schedule, but said that the land transfer is likely to be outside the schedule if congressional action is required. Vice

President McDonald asked how far the Wash Plan could move forward without having the land transfer done. Mr. Beehler said that almost all of the covered activities except for expanded mining would be able to be performed. Discussion ensued regarding land transfer and congressional action. There may be additional legislative action that will require follow up by Board and staff. President Corneille requested that the implementation agreement be added to the schedule. He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Beehler for his efforts and all those who have assisted in pushing the project forward. This update was received and filed.

### C. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Cozad indicated that the written General Manager's Report is included in the Board package on page 36. He said that the District has received some rainfall and water for recharge. Jacinto Construction has again performed repair work to fix the diversion in Mill Creek. The Mill Creek Redesign RFP was released on December 9<sup>th</sup> to fix the diversion. The deadline for proposal submittal is January 16<sup>th</sup>. This item will be placed on the agenda for Board approval at the February meeting. The access permit with Spiniello Construction has been executed. The biological consultants performed their analysis of storage areas and cleared them for use. So far Spiniello has moved approximately 20,000 tons of rock from the construction area to storage areas. Advanced Landscaping has begun their work on Redlands Plaza to install drought tolerant landscaping; so far, all grass has been removed and they are proceeding with weed cloth and rock placement. Through this process the District has identified that the connections for water are somewhat convoluted. Water connections may be irrigating neighboring landscaping, but staff is working with the City of Redlands to clear up any ambiguities. The Board will be updated on the status as soon as clarification by the City is received.

Mr. Cozad voiced his appreciation for the support of staff, district counsel and the Board. He stated that staff and partners have received a first draft of the Groundwater Sustainability Council and it was well received. At the BTAC Committee, the District has been assigned 196,000 acre feet of recharge as water becomes available. Mr. Cozad provided a brief update of District Priorities and noted that it is included in package on page 39. He noted that Plunge Creek is about a month behind as previously discussed. President Corneille requested the Board review the District Priorities. He indicated that an update to District Priorities will be on the Board's agenda for review and approval in January and asked that if they have any suggestions to forward those to staff.

Mr. Cozad thanked Administrative Services Specialist, Angie Quiroga and Athena Monge for taking on extra tasks and insuring completion of several special projects. Director Raley asked how much water the District has received. Mr. Cozad said that the District received 10 CFS briefly after the storm, totaling less than 1000 AF this year.

### D. MONTHLY RECHARGE REPORT

The monthly recharge report is included in package and was previously covered under General Manager's Report.

## E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & STAFF TASKS

President Corneille recommended that the District send out congratulatory letters to newly elected officials. It was the consensus of the Board to proceed with the sending of letters.

### 6. MONTHLY BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE ACTIVITY REPORTS, AND/OR COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

President Corneille attended the ACWA Fall Conference in San Diego. He attended the Groundwater Committee and Water Management Committee. The focus of the conference was primarily the Groundwater Sustainability legislation. Groundwater storage was a major issue discussed at the conference. He indicated that 60-70% of water used State-wide comes from groundwater. The water bond was discussed and how that would be used for surface and groundwater storage. The California Water Commission will oversee the projects selected for bond funding. President Corneille attended the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SBVMWD District/Patrick Milligan Retirement Dinner held on December 8<sup>th</sup>. President Corneille and Vice President McDonald presented the formal resolution to Mr. Milligan at that event. He noted that at the event SBVMWD provided a handout of a document summarizing their projects and a booklet called *60 years of Vision and Innovation*.

Director Raley attended the Redlands Rise N Shine breakfast where they introduced the new mayor Paul Foster. He also completed his mandated Sexual Harassment training. Director Raley attended the Western-San Bernardino Watermaster collaborative meeting.

Director Aranda attended the BTAC, Redlands Rise N Shine and Loma Linda Chamber of Commerce meetings. He participated in the USAWRA Restructuring Committee where they discussed the future and restructuring of the USAWRA. A report will be made at tomorrow's USAWRA meeting. Director Aranda is optimistic that the restructuring of the Committee will provide a great resource. Additional written reports are included in Board package.

Vice President McDonald attended the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SBVMWD District/Patrick Milligan Retirement Dinner. She also attended the ACWA Fall Conference, ACWA/JPIA Executive Committee and Water Management Committee in San Diego. Vice President McDonald noted that she has the full Executive Committee packet if anyone is interested in a copy. She provided the District with the *President's Award of Special Recognition* for Liability/Worker's Comp since the District reduced their loss ratio by 20%. Vice President McDonald discussed the Future of Health Care related to Health Savings Account (HSA) as presented at the JPIA breakout session she attended. She would like to see additional information on HSA's presented to staff. Vice President McDonald attended mandated Sexual Harassment Training and provided a certificate. She noted that Form 700 forms can now be filed online. Additional written reports are included in Board package.

### 7. UPCOMING MEETINGS

President Corneille noted that the Advisory Commission meeting will be held tomorrow at SBVMWD; where they will discuss the 2015 Water Management Plan and the IRWMP will be up for approval.

8. CLOSED SESSION

**It was moved by Vice President McDonald and seconded by Director Aranda to adjourn to Closed Session. The motion carried 4-0 with all Directors present voting in the affirmative and Director Longville noted absent.**

**President Corneille: Yes  
Vice President McDonald: Yes  
Director Longville: Absent  
Director Raley: Yes  
Director Aranda: Yes**

General Counsel announced that the meeting will adjourn to closed session under all items posted on the published agenda.

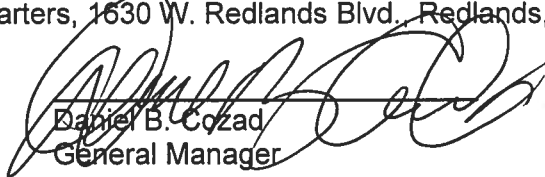
At 11:49 a.m., the meeting reconvened into Open Session. Mr. Cosgrove noted while in Closed Session under Government Code section 54957.1 there was no reportable action taken.

9. ADJOURN MEETING

**It was moved by Director Aranda and seconded by Director Raley to adjourn. The motion carried 4-0 with all Directors present voting in the affirmative and Director Longville noted absent.**

**President Corneille: Yes  
Vice President McDonald: Yes  
Director Longville: Absent  
Director Raley: Yes  
Director Aranda: Yes**

At 11:50 a.m. the meeting adjourned to the next regular Board Meeting scheduled for January 14, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. at District Headquarters, 1630 W. Redlands Blvd., Redlands, CA.

  
Daniel B. Cozad  
General Manager