

**SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

July 28, 2022

9:00 A.M.

Vice President Corneille called the Operations Committee meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. The meeting was held as a hybrid meeting with in-person and Zoom/teleconference attendance.

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Richard Corneille, Vice President

Robert Stewart, Director

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Manuel Colunga, Field Supervisor

Katelyn Scholte, Principal Engineer

Erwin Fogerson, ARTP Engineer

Milan Mitrovich, Land Resources Manager

Athena Laroche, Administrative Specialist

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Melody McDonald, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District

**1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public present.

**2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

There were none.

**3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL 4, 2022**

**It was moved by Director Stewart and seconded by Vice President Corneille to approve the meeting minutes from April 4, 2022. The motion carried 2-0, with all directors present voting in the affirmative.**

**Director Stewart: Yes**

**Vice President Corneille: Yes**

**4. FIELD SUPERVISOR UPDATE PRESENTATION**

Mr. Colunga presented a PowerPoint presentation on field operations activities. He reviewed the Mentone Shop construction preparation, where field staff removed old structures to make way for the new building. Treatment of invasive stinkwort and stinknet in the Cemex mining area was reviewed. Mr. Colunga

discussed the work being done to remove encampments from District lands. He noted that Field Operations Specialist Michael Gulzar and interns Jazmin Serrato, Anna Frey and Christiana Kent prepared assistance kits for individuals experiencing homelessness. The recently completed survey for slender-horned spinyflower was reviewed in brief. Mr. Mitrovich stated that staff and consultants are tracking the two largest populations found to date, including the largest patch of approximately 1400 plants. Mr. Mitrovich noted that over 4000 seeds were collected, and the next step is to perform seed bulking. Staff is working to identify additional sources of revenue, including potential grant funding opportunities to continue efforts to expand the spinyflower population. Mr. Colunga provided examples of use for the new crane. Field Operations Specialist Tommy Purvis has used the crane to build new gates to deter trespassers from coming onto the District property. Mr. Mitrovich said that there is a need for these types of gates and that other local landowners have inquired about installing their own after seeing the effectiveness on our lands. This could be a potential partnership opportunity. Mr. Colunga shared pictures of views from the field.

#### 5. MENTONE SHOP IMPROVEMENTS

Ms. Scholte provided a verbal update on this item. Staff is working with the architect to finalize the layout, which will allow permitting to begin soon. Vice President Corneille asked the staff when they anticipated construction would begin. The lead time on the building is three to four months. The biggest obstacle so far has been fire prevention flows and fire hydrant location. Director Stewart suggested that staff determine the chain of command for fire-related permitting issues and requirements in order to maintain open lines of communication.

#### 6. UPDATE ON MILL CREEK DIVERSION AND DEBRIS MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS VERBAL UPDATE

Mr. Fogerson reviewed this item, noting that it appears that the 408 is nearing completion. Staff is waiting on the 404 completion, which is contingent on the 401 completion. The COE has issued the Regional Quality Control Board a letter that a response to the 401 permit must be issued within sixty days. Mr. Fogerson stated that the staff is anticipating that the permit process will be concluded within the next couple of months. He asked if the Operations Committee would like for staff to proceed with bidding on the project now or if they think it's best to defer construction until spring. Mr. Fogerson said that if this project is built during the winter, the District will lose the capability to capture flows. It was the consensus of the Committee to defer construction of this project until the spring.

**It was moved by Director Stewart and seconded by Vice President Corneille to defer the construction of the Mill Creek Diversion and Debris Management Improvement Project until Spring 2023, depending on recharge flows. The motion carried 2-0, with all directors present voting in the affirmative.**

**Director Stewart: Yes**

**Vice President Corneille: Yes**

## 7. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE MANUAL UPDATE PLAN

Ms. Scholte stated that this would be Assistant Engineer Laura Torres' first project. She reviewed the items that need to be updated on package page 15. Ms. Torres will prepare a new Field Operations section with information needed by our field team on a regular basis. Vice President Corneille noted that the District's organization chart needs to be updated as well.

## 8. DRAFT ARTP POLICY COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT

This item is included on package page 16. Mr. Fogerson reviewed the Progress Overview slide via PowerPoint. The current progress was reviewed as follows:

- Waterman Basin & Twin Creek Spreading Grounds – Feasibility study contract is with Tetra Tech. Draft hydrology studies have been submitted to FCD. The first round of comments has been addressed. Approximately \$255,000 of \$1,530,615 is estimated to have been expended to date from the Waterman, Twin & Lynwood contract. Permitting efforts for geotechnical work are completed, and testing is planned to begin in September.
- Lynwood/29<sup>th</sup> Street Basins – Feasibility study contract is with Tetra Tech. Draft hydrology studies have been completed and submitted to FCD. Coordination with the City of San Bernardino has begun.
- Plunge Creek – Feasibility study contract is with CASC. The lag time sensitivity analysis for the hydrology has been completed and submitted to FCD. Approximately \$7,000 has been expended from the \$786,880 (Plunge and Oak Creek) contract to date. Permitting efforts for geotechnical work are underway, and require a permit from BLM. Alternative testing locations are being considered to avoid species impacts or additional permitting issues. Mr. Fogerson stated that this site is critical and recommended that, while the site design is still be studied, we continue to consider preliminary design options on Robertson's land that is planned for future mining. After discussing the benefits of both sites, Director Stewart and Vice President Corneille agreed with the approach of discussing both sites with Robertson's.
- Oak Creek – Feasibility study contract with CASC. The lag time sensitivity analysis for the hydrology has been completed and submitted to FCD. Approximately \$7,000 has been expended from the \$786,880 (Plunge and Oak Creek) contract to date. Permitting efforts for geotechnical work is underway; however, SBKR were found on site. Discussion on WSPA ensued. Mr. Fogerson said that the District should potentially consider authorizing a second mobilization for the geotechnical work so that this site can move forward and not wait for authorization work on the Plunge site. After discussing the benefits of the site, Director Stewart and Vice President Corneille agreed with this approach.
- Mill Creek – Feasibility study contract with Q3. A hydraulic model for existing conditions in basins has been started. Pebble count for sediment transport analysis is underway. Coordination with Lockheed regarding hazardous materials on site has begun. The updated survey is in process. No invoices have been received on the \$1,374,343 contract to date. Preliminary design work is underway and will be provided to Q3 for their use in their work.

- City Creek (Bledsoe Creek) – The concept was refined to analyze diversion from Bledsoe Creek only. Feasibility study contract with Q3. Notice to proceed has not been given for the project. No invoices have been received on the \$1,374,343 contract to date. This is a small site, and we are going to look at the site northeast of Boulder.

Vice President Corneille asked for a financial update on the ARTP projects. Mr. Fogerson noted that there has been a boilerplate spreadsheet that has been created to track and reports costs.

#### 9. COOK CREEK FAULT STUDY

Mr. Fogerson reviewed the map of the project. He noted that staff would like to perform tests on this site to check the recharge viability. He is looking at attaining a cost estimate for seismic refraction in order to locate bedrock. Mr. Fogerson noted that he participated in a similar study during this tenure at FCD. Ms. Scholte said that this site does appear to percolate. Director Stewart noted that seismic refraction is non-evasive and said he is supportive of performing this test. Ms. Scholte requested feedback from the Committee. Vice President Corneille inquired about the cost of this testing. Mr. Fogerson said that the cost could range from \$40,000-\$50,000, and a portion of the costs are included within the current contract. The preliminary design has been completed on this site. Mr. Fogerson said that the permitting would be required to perform the survey. The Committee spoke in support of completing the testing. Ms. Scholte indicated that another potential benefit is that the District may be able to recharge Santa Ana River water in this area since the North Fork pipeline runs adjacent to this location.

#### 10. EXCHANGE PLAN AGREEMENT VERBAL UPDATE

Ms. Scholte provided a draft of the amended Exchange Plan Agreement to the Committee as a handout. Director Stewart spoke in support of keeping the agreement in place. The draft has been circulated among the Exchange Plan members, and the staff is currently awaiting feedback.

#### 11. ENHANCED RECHARGE ENGINEERING DESIGN, PHASE 1B VERBAL UPDATE

Mr. Fogerson said that the Phase 1A lining project is going to be bid soon. There will be a formal update on this item in October. Ms. Scholte reviewed, in brief, the updated set of plans, which are now referred to as Phase 1B-A. She noted that the Borrow Pit is no longer included in the revised plans. Mr. Fogerson said that these enhancements would result in silt reduction. Mr. Mitrovich is preparing the first COI under the Wash Plan for this project.

#### 12. NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for October 4 at 9 A.M.

#### 13. ADJOURN MEETING

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

**It was moved by Vice President Corneille and seconded by Director Stewart to adjourn. The motion carried 2-0, with all directors present voting in the affirmative.**

**Director Stewart: Yes**  
**Vice President Corneille: Yes**