

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Aromas Water District Board of Directors March 28, 2023

- I. CALL TO ORDER.** The regular meeting of the Aromas Water District Board of Directors was called to order by President Morris on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in a hybrid setting; attendees were present both in the Board Room and online via Zoom.
- II. ROLL CALL.** President Morris, Vice President Holman, and Directors Norton, and Powers were present; also present was General Manager Johnson. Director Capron was absent, and Counsel Bosso attended via Zoom.
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** President Morris led the pledge of allegiance.
- IV. STATEMENTS OF DISQUALIFICATION.** There were no statements of disqualification.
- V. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.**
- VI. MINUTES.** The minutes of the February 28, 2023, Board Meeting were presented for review and approval. Director Powers moved for approval of the minutes as corrected; Director Norton seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved with Directors Morris, Holman, Norton, and Powers present.
- VII. ORAL COMMUNICATION.** There were no public comments.
- VIII. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS**

A. Attorney's Report. Counsel Bosso reported there weren't any new cases to report about; however there was a ton of stuff in the legislature regarding pre-1914 water rights, though those are related to surface water rights, so there would not be any implication on the District because our water source is groundwater.

B. Manager's Report:

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

Production & Well Levels

Total production in February 2023 was 4,337,520 gallons; 22.6% lower than January's production, and 17% lower than February's average production. The daily average production was 154,911 gallons.

The District has 972 total connected meters.

San Juan and Carpenteria wells were operated all but one day this month, and Pleasant Acres well was not used at all. All water testing reports were filed on time and showed satisfactory results.

Operational well levels: Carpenteria and San Juan wells were both up four feet. Observational wells: Marshall Well was down three feet and Aimee Meadows was up three feet.

INCIDENTS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Staff & Board Recognition

GM Johnson indicated that all staff have been working hard to keep the water flowing and the customers informed with all the rain and congested road conditions.

WUSp Girõn was promoted to the newly formed Management Analyst position, and is working to get all the new salary information into QuickBooks, along with her other new duties.

GM Johnson started informal discussions with a landowner regarding the possible use of a part of the parcel for a well site, as well as coordinating with the Pajaro/Sunny Mesa GM regarding provision of water during the Pajaro flooding emergency. No water was ever requested or provided.

Conservation & Rainfall

The beginning of the new rainfall year was on October 1, 2022. Since then 35.84 inches of precipitation has been recorded by the rain gauge at Chittenden Pass, with 7.84 inches falling in March (to date).

PROJECTS

Orchard Hill Road proposed annexation progress

The group of residents has the information the financial advisors developed. They are working through it at this time. The group will then provide information to the folks who may want to be a part of the project. The District stands ready to assist with a public meeting if needed.

Cole and Rocks Road Annexation

With the annexation complete, customers can start being connected, although it has been a challenge with the rains that have been occurring. Connection installations will begin when the conditions allow.

New Water Source

This matter will be discussed in Closed Session.

Follow-up on the Kang Annexation effort

The Kang Annexation was approved by the District Board in November 2022. The matter was presented to the PVWMA Board on March 15, 2023. The PVWMA Board tabled the matter until they could get more information. It is planned that PVWMA and District staff will work together to get their questions answered, culminating in a return to the PVWMA Board in April at the earliest.

C. Correspondence:

GM Johnson went through the shorter, more focused monthly correspondence list and answered questions regarding specific items. The majority of the correspondence was related to connecting to the District's water system, as well as the District's monthly reports to the State.

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IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Consider reviewing the current District Strategic Plan, in preparation for the upcoming budget and rate study processes, and providing direction to staff.

GM Johnson went through and reviewed the Strategic Plan with the Board. There were specific discussions around a social media strategy, Board training, and adding (or being aware of) economics as the next Strategic Plan is developed. Since this was a review item, the report was received by consensus by the Directors who were present, Director Capron was absent.

B. Consider reviewing the Water System Capital Improvement Plan proposal, in preparation for the upcoming budget and rate study processes, and providing direction to staff.

GM Johnson went through and reviewed the Water System Capital Improvement Plan with the Board. There were specific discussions around the timing of the Plan, as well as the significance of a planning document like this one to prioritize projects, programs, or improvements to District infrastructure. Also, this type of report is an important component to future strategic plans, rate studies and grant opportunities.

The development of the plan has been slowed due to data acquisition issues, which GM Johnson and the consultants will work on to try and remedy.

Since this was a review item, the report was received by consensus by the Directors who were present, Director Capron was absent.

C. Financial Reports for the Month of February 2023

Total Assets / Liabilities & Equity are \$16,292,704.14. In the P&L Report, Revenue for January was \$103,165.86. Total Expenditures were \$119,923.36 between February 22 and March 21, 2023.

On the graphical representation of the Profit and Loss statement, February's revenue was 8.1% higher than year-to-date budgeted revenue. February's Expenditures were 2.9% higher than year-to-date budgeted expenditures.

Vice President Holman moved to adopt the Financial Reports as presented; seconded by Director Powers. With Directors Morris, Holman, Norton, and Powers present, the Financial Reports were unanimously adopted. Director Capron was absent.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS & AGENDA ITEMS.

The next meeting date will be Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at the District office. Future agenda items will be a discussion of possibly reopening the District Board Room for groups in the evening, maybe the District Expense Budget Draft, and a Closed Session related to continue the discussion regarding well site options.

XI. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION at 8:10pm

Discussion of Well Site selection and strategy for next steps.

XII. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION at 8:50pm


XIII. REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION

The General Manager was given direction as to next steps in selection a well site.

XIV ADJOURNMENT. President Morris adjourned this meeting at 8:52pm.

Read and approved by: 
President, Vicki Morris

Date: 4-25-23

Attest: 
Board Secretary, Robert Johnson

Date: 4/25/23