

Keith Hadick, President (Division 3)
Randy Sharer, Vice President (Division 7)
Casey Conrad, Treasurer (Division 6)
Andrew Adam, Secretary (Division 2)
Gerald Mahoney, Director (Division 4)
Vacant, Director (Division 1)
Vacant, Director (Division 5)



SANTA MARIA VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – July 18, 2024

District Office
2255 S. Broadway, Ste. 8E
Santa Maria, California

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.
 - a. Roll Call:** Present were Directors Hadick, Conrad, Adam, Mahoney and Sharer. Members of the public attending online were Daryl Souza, Baris Karabulat, Shad Springer and Adam Stibich. Also present were Carrie Troup, CPA; District Counsel Keith Lemieux and Michael Linden; and Interim General Manager Carol Thomas-Keefer (attending remotely).
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance:** President Hadick led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
- 3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** None
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Ms. Thomas-Keefer noted that Item 12 should be corrected to read "FY 2022-23" for the audit. Counsel Lemieux requested that the Closed Session (Item 14) be moved up to Item 5 to accommodate Counsel Linden's schedule. On motion by Director Sharer and seconded by Director Mahoney, the agenda was approved with changes as noted. Motion carried: 5-0-0-2.
- 5. CLOSED SESSION:**
**CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL: (Government Code 54956.9) Existing litigation:
War Eagle vs SMVWCD**
- 6. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION:** Counsel Lemieux reported that no reportable action was taken in Closed Session.
- 7. CONSENT CALENDAR:** On motion by Director Sharer and seconded by Director Adam, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 20, 2024, were approved as corrected. Motion carried 5-0-0-2.
- 8. APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT #3 TO HORNE AGREEMENT:** On motion by Director Adam and seconded by Director Sharer, Amendment #3 to the agreement with HORNE LLP was approved, expanding the scope of work to include a second appeal at an amount not to exceed

\$15,000. It was noted that the amendment does not increase the total contract amount. Motion carried 5-0-0-2.

9. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF REVISED DISTRICT ACCESS POLICY: Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to defer action on this item until the August meeting in order to allow more time for review.

10. DISCUSSION OF CITY OF SANTA MARIA REQUEST TO CEASE OR REDUCE WATER RELEASES FROM TWITCHELL DAM TO ACCOMMODATE MINING OPERATIONS: Mr. Shad Springer, City of Santa Maria, discussed the City's plans and schedule for a contractor to begin mining operations in the riverbed to obtain materials to support the City's landfill work. Following discussion, it was agreed to maximize current water releases from the dam in order to conclude releases by early to mid-August, allowing time for the riverbed to dry before the City's contractor begins work.

11. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 24-02 REQUESTING CONSOLIDATION OF GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION WITH NOV 5, 2024, GENERAL ELECTION: Ms. Thomas-Keefer noted that this resolution is a standard formal request to the counties to allow the election of Board members seats to be included in the ballot for the November 5 general election. On motion by Director Sharer and seconded by Director Hadick, Resolution 24-02 was adopted. Motion carried 5-0-0-2.

12. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 24-03 PERTAINING TO CANDIDATE STATEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 5, 2024, GENERAL ELECTION: Ms. Thomas-Keefer reported that the counties require the District to adopt and transmit a policy pertaining to candidate statements to be included with General Election materials. The proposed resolution continues the District's previous policies. On motion made by Director Sharer and seconded by Director Adam, Resolution 24-03 was adopted. Motion carried 5-0-0-2.

13. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AERIAL SURVEY PROPOSAL: Following discussion, this item was deferred to a future meeting in order to obtain clarification on pricing, survey options and resolution.

14. RECEIVE AND FILE ANNUAL AUDIT FOR FY 2022-23: Ms. Carrie Troup reviewed the annual audit of District financials for FY 2022-23 prepared by Moss, Levy and Hartzheim LLP, stating that the audit provides a clean opinion. On motion by Director Mahoney and seconded by Director Adam, the audit for FY 2022-23 was received and filed.

15. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

a. Report on Operations at Twitchell Dam: President Hadick reported that the water elevation as of today was 555.6 feet, with 11,219 acre-feet of water in storage, which is half the amount of last month. The gates are open at six and one-half inches, releasing water at a rate of 180 cfs or about 373 acre-feet per day.

b. Twitchell Operations Committee (TOC): President Hadick reported that the committee received a report on mowing and clean-up activities from Jerry Ramer of ROC Energy, noting that the mowing work was wrapping up. Director Adam provided an update on the gate controls work, noting that a tablet will be installed for use in monitoring and making adjustments electronically. Additionally, the Committee discussed the need for the aerial survey and have requested additional information from HORNE on the proposal.

c. Financial Committee: Ms. Troup reviewed the June year-end financial statements, along with invoices paid. She also reported that she had completed the assessment calculation worksheet to accompany the resolution that will be submitted to the counties for tax rolls. She noted that land values had increased 3.75 percent over last year. Finally, Ms. Troup reported that she has completed the transfer of \$1 million to the Cal CLASS investment pool, as previously directed by the Board. On motion made by Director Sharer and seconded by Director Mahoney, the financial statements for June were received and filed. Motion carried 5-0-0-2.

d. Report from Horne: President Hadick reported that the District has not yet received a report from Horne this month, and a Horne representative was not able to attend this meeting. Staff was directed to request the monthly reports for June and July.

16. DIRECTOR & STAFF REPORTS

a. Director Reports: Director Sharer reported that the District's ad hoc Staffing Committee, formerly the Personnel Committee, met to discuss staffing options and provided direction to the General Manager.

b. General Manager's Report

Ms. Thomas-Keefer reported that the contract with Gaedeke Hydrologic LLC will expire as of July 31, 2024. She noted that she has contacted Mr. Gaedeke about a renewal and he has requested a change in weekday daily rates. She indicated she would review and negotiate an agreement amendment for board consideration, possibly at an upcoming special meeting. Ms. Thomas-Keefer also reported that the RGS contract was due for the six-month review as requested by the Board. She was directed to add this item to the August Board meeting agenda.

c. District Counsel Report

District Counsel Lemieux reported that the Grand Jury report had identified several policies that the District should have in place. His office will work with the Interim General Manager to begin drafting those policies for Board review and consideration over the next several months.

17. NEXT MEETING: August 15, 2024

18. ADJOURNMENT: It was moved and seconded by Director Adam and Director Conrad to adjourn at 8:13 p.m.

Minutes approved on _____

Keith Hadick, President

Submitted by Carol Thomas-Keefer