

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 – June 20, 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, and Sharer. Also present were Virginia Souza, Jane Baxter; Carrie Troup, CPA; District Counsel Keith Lemieux; and Matthew Scrudato and Interim General Manager Carol Thomas-Keefer (attending remotely).

b. Pledge of Allegiance: Vice President Sharer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: Ms. Souza noted that she was attending as an observer on behalf of the League of Women Voters. Ms. Baxter inquired about the dam's structure and about the presence of cattle; she also asked about regular reports from the Twitchell Management Authority, and about possible dredging operations.

3. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: On motion by Director Adam and seconded by Director Sharer, the agenda was approved as presented. Motion carried: 4-0-0-3.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR: On motion by President Hadick and seconded by Director Adam, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 16, 2024, Special Meeting of May 16, 2024, Special Meeting of May 30, 2024, and Special Meeting of June 5, 2024, were approved as corrected. Motion carried 4-0-0-3.

6. AUTHORIZATION TO BEGIN USE OF ELECTRONIC MEETINGS FOR REMOTE PUBLIC ACCESS: Ms. Thomas-Keefer reported that electronic meeting equipment, as previously approved by the Board, has been purchased, installed and tested, and is ready for use. Following discussion, on motion by Director Adam and seconded by Director Conrad, the Board authorized the use of electronic meetings for remote public access, with direction to staff to obtain an upgraded webinar subscription for meeting software;

and to allow meetings to be recorded with recordings maintained only until the minutes are approved. Motion carried 4-0-0-3.

7. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH HORNE: On motion made by Director Conrad and seconded by Director Adam, the contract with Horne, LLC, was renewed through June 30, 2025. Motion carried 4-0-0-3.

8. DISCUSSION OF PARTICIPATION IN CLOUD SEEDING PROGRAM: Mr. Matthew Scrudato of Santa Barbara County reviewed the County's request for District participation in the upcoming cloud-seeding program. He stated that the entire program cost for this year is estimated at about \$175,000, and the County will pay half. Following discussion, on motion by Director Adam and seconded by Director Conrad, the Board approved District participation in the upcoming cloud-seeding program at an amount not to exceed \$30,000. Motion carried 4-0-0-3.

9. APPROVAL OF FY 2024-25 BUDGET: Ms. Carrie Troup reported that she has worked with the Financial Committee to prepare the proposed FY 2024-25 Budget, which includes Special Assessment funds of \$1.2 million to fund several improvement projects at the dam. Ms. Troup reviewed the draft budget, and, on motion made by Director Conrad and seconded by President Hadick, the draft FY 2024-25 Budget was approved. Motion carried 4-0-0-3.

10. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 24-01 CALCULATING AND APPROVING AN ESTIMATE OF AMOUNT OF ASSESSMENT FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, REPAIRS, AND SPECIAL PROJECTS AT AND FOR TWITCHELL DAM AND RESERVOIR, PURSUANT TO WATER CODE SECTION 75370 ET SEQ.: Ms. Thomas-Keefer reported that a resolution was needed to approve the District's Special Assessment amount for placement on tax rolls. A Special Assessment of \$1.2 million is needed for FY 2024-25 to support implementation of improvement projects as provided in the FY 2024-25 budget. On motion by Director Conrad and seconded by Director Adam, Resolution No. 24-01 was adopted. Motion carried 4-0-0-3.

11. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

a. Report on Operations at Twitchell Dam: President Hadick reported that the water elevation as of today was 571 feet, with 23,566 acre-feet of water in storage. The gates are still open at six inches, releasing water at a rate of 182 cfs. Director Conrad reported on a minor issue/possible leak in the water treatment room and stated that the problem was being addressed.

b. Twitchell Operations Committee (TOC): Director Conrad reported that a contract is being prepared with ROC Energy for mowing services, and the contract will be expanded somewhat to include fence repair. Director Conrad also reported that USBR management representatives made a site visit earlier in the month and were impressed with the appearance and condition of the dam site. Finally, it was noted that the City's contractor is expected to begin mining operations in the riverbed sometime in August, and the City has requested that water releases from the dam be reduced or suspended to meet the

City's schedule. Staff was directed to request that the City keep the district apprised of its schedule to facilitate cooperation on releases.

c. Financial Committee: Director Conrad reported that the Committee reviewed and refined the draft FY 2024-25 budget; it is also working with Ms. Troup to prepare and submit the registration package for the California CLASS investment pool. Ms. Troup reviewed the financial statements for May, along with invoices paid. On motion made by Director Adam and seconded by President Hadick, the financial statements for May were received and filed. Motion carried 4-0-0-3.

d. Report from Horne: President Hadick reported that the District did not yet receive a report from Horne this month, and a Horne representative was not able to attend this meeting.

12. DIRECTOR & STAFF REPORTS

a. Director Reports: Director Adam reported that he was still waiting for the machinist to complete work on the gate controls, and he expected the part to be ready next week.

b. General Manager's Report

Ms. Thomas-Keefer reported that the contract with ROC Energy for weed abatement was pending contractor's insurance requirements; she noted that the scope of work would also include some fence repair and site clean-up. Additionally, she requested that an ad hoc Staffing committee meet to work with her to determine employment details for recruitment of a dam tender and office assistant. It was determined that the members of the District's inactive Personnel Committee could serve as the ad hoc committee for Staffing.

c. District Counsel Report

District Counsel Lemieux reported that, in a matter relating to the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, counsel will be briefing the court on the state's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) versus groundwater adjudications. He noted that this matter will be very significant for the future of SGMA and how groundwater basins are managed. He also pointed out that the Santa Maria Basin is adjudicated and managed by the Twitchell Management Authority.

13. NEXT MEETING: July 18, 2024

14. ADJOURNMENT: It was moved and seconded by President Hadick and Director Adam to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.

Minutes approved on _____

Keith Hadick, President

Submitted by Carol Thomas-Keefer