

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY

Thursday, September 29, 2011
8:15 a.m., Adjourned Meeting

Board Members Present: CHAIRMAN LOWELL JARVIS, GRAY ALLEN, ALEX FERREIRA, MICHAEL LEE, and BEN MAVY

Board Members Absent: None

Agency Personnel Present Who Spoke: DAVID BRENINGER, General Manager; ED TIEDEMANN, General Counsel; CHERI SPRUNCK, Agency Secretary/Clerk to the Board; TONY FIRENZI, Senior Engineer; BRIAN MARTIN, Director of Technical Services; MICHAEL WILLIHNGANZ, Director of Administrative Services; MATT YOUNG, Director of Customer Services

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Roll Call

Chairman Jarvis called the adjourned meeting of the Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors to order at 8:18 a.m. in the American River Room, Placer County Water Agency Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, Auburn, California.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Ed Tiedemann

B. 8:15 a.m. (approximate) RECESS TO TRAVEL TO EAST PLACER COUNTY

The Board recessed at 8:20 a.m. to travel to Northstar Fire Department Station 32, 9100 Highlands View Road, Truckee, California.

C. 10:15 a.m. (approximate) RECONVENE AND CALL TO ORDER AT NORTHSTAR FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION 32

1. Roll Call

Chairman Jarvis reconvened the meeting at 10:16 a.m. at the Northstar Fire Department, Station 32, 9100 Highlands View Road, Truckee, California.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Mike Staudenmayer

3. Introductions and presentations

The Director of Technical Services introduced Mike Staudenmayer, General Manager, Northstar Public Service District (PSD), and thanked him for letting the Agency use the fire station for the Board meeting.

Mr. Staudenmayer noted Northstar PSD is happy to host the Agency Board and he is looking forward to conducting the tour.

There were self-introductions of everyone in the room.

Director Ferreira noted he went to San Francisco and visited the Fiberboard Company when Northstar was just in the planning stages. During his lifetime, he has seen Northstar developed.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No member of the public commented.

E. REPORTS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS

No reports received.

F. AGENDA CHANGES AND REVIEW

Director of Technical Services noted Cindy Gustafson is not here, but Tony Laliotis will speak on her behalf.

G. GENERAL ITEMS:

1. Receive updates from the following districts including presentations and comments.
 - Mike Staudenmayer, General Manager, Northstar Community Services District

Mr. Staudenmayer reported:

- There is currently a drill rig in the valley looking for water. It is their second well. They cannot yet meet turbidity standards. They intend to be done drilling next season and believe the water they find will exceed their expectation. They are tight on water when one of their sources goes out, which is why they sought another source.
- They will upgrade their pipe system to prevent certain bugs that eat iron.
- They accelerated a five-year program to replace all old meters with smart meters. All will be replaced this fall. They are saving 25 percent of their production by monitoring and helping stop leaks.
- They will be refurbishing pipes and removing root balls, which greatly increases flows.

Board inquiry and staff response followed.

- Mike Geary, General Manager, Squaw Valley Public Service District

Mr. Geary thanked the Board for including the construction of a pipeline in the groundwater management plan.

Items his district is involved in right now include:

- The Key Corporation is doing a development project to build 1,200 residential units in a mixed commercial/residential project.
- The Poulson Commercial Group is proposing a 45-unit project.
- Negotiations
- Construction projects: 1) a well 2R reconstruction; 2) connect East Booster Pump Station with backup power and plumb it to their facilities. He thanked the Agency for the grant to assist them in moving forward.
- Providing support where possible to the Squaw Valley Mutual Water Company (SVMWC). SVMWC hasn't put money away into a reserve account to maintain and replace their assets. They are dealing with failing assets and large assessments. They have been approved for a large loan from the USDA and are going to move forward on a \$2 million construction project to replace their water mains, relocate some laterals so they can be served from the street, install meters, and do an \$800,000 project to rehab a well house.

Inquiry and response followed.

- Cindy Gustafson, General Manager, Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD)

Tony Laliotis, Director of Truckee Donner PUD and Director of Utilities of TCPUD, reported:

- TCPUD's biggest challenge is an inefficient and costly disjointed water distribution system. There are 15 private water companies that operate in their area.
- They have five distinct water service areas: Tahoe City, Alpine Peaks, Tahoe Truckee Forest Tract, Rubicon, and Quail Lake/McKinney. They are five separately licensed systems.
- They completed their water meter system project in 2010 and are having success with conservation efforts. With water meters they can now benchmark to see how customers are doing.
- Water sources in future years will become a big issue. They especially need more water for fire suppression. They installed 27 fire hydrants last year.
- They are in eminent domain proceedings to acquire the Lake Forest system.
- Tahoe Park Water System has started to petition to have TCPUD take them over.
- Tahoe Meadows Mutual Water System has a well high in arsenic; its storage tank is a swimming pool with a house built over it. They have sought assistance from Tahoe City PUD.
- They undertook a PCWA-funded study called the Northwest Lake Tahoe Area Water System Master Plan on how to address inconsistency of water service and water delivery around the north and west shores of Lake Tahoe.

He gave a PowerPoint presentation showing how successful water meters are working. They have had 38 percent reduction in water use. They do performance indicators on their system using an Infrastructure Leakage Index.

He gave a review of their Capital Improvement Plan.

Board inquiry and staff response followed.

- Steven Poncelet, Public Information Officer, Truckee Donner Public Utility District

Mr. Poncelet gave a PowerPoint presentation and reported:

- On their leak repair and rebate program.
- They moved to consumption billing.
- They did a five year capital project on replacing leaky mains.
- They rebuilt a major substation at Tahoe Donner.
- They are finishing up the meter replacement program at an accelerated rate.
- They have conservation programs that are going great.

He reported on the current conflicts with Nevada County LAFCo to reduce who Truckee Donner PUD supplies energy to.

Reasons TDPUD believes it is the entity of choice for being the electricity provider:

- They have been transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources and have achieved 27 percent.
- Their cost of service is very competitive.

He reported on opportunities and risks in the energy markets.

He requested a letter of support from the Agency on behalf of TDPUD to be the preferred electricity provider.

Public and Board inquiry and staff response followed.

Motion by Director Allen directing staff to send a letter, signed by the Chair, to Placer County and Nevada County LAFCo Commissioners and Placer County and Nevada County Supervisors by name; motion seconded by Director Mavy and adopted by unanimous vote of Directors present.

- Will Stelter, Planning and Engineering Manager, North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD)

Mr. Stelter thanked the Board for meeting on the East Slope and reported the following:

- Areas NTPUD serve include Dollar Hill, Carnelian Bay, and Kingswood
- They deliver 1,500 acre-feet per year. Deliveries double in the summer.
- Last season they finished a 10,000 linear feet water main in Kingswood West, replaced 5,900 feet undersized water main in Carnelian Bay to provide water for fire suppression, and finished a 1.3 million gallon tank on Hwy 267.

- They have a water main replacement under construction, are upgrading a SCADA system, and rehabbing a main pump station for sewer that serves Kings Beach.
- They are investigating bringing an old lake intake back on-line and looking at a sewer main replacement in Kings Beach.

Board inquiry and staff response followed.

- Wade Freedle, President, Sierra Lakes County Water District.

Mr. Freedle reported about ice formation on Ice Lake and Serene Lakes. They have followed the snow accumulation and have records back to 1879. They received 120 inches of snow which broke the record held since 1879.

Bill Quesnel, Operations Manager, Sierra Lakes County Water District, reported he measured down to 11 feet and still didn't get to the bottom of the ice. The lake intake pipe is down 7-8 feet. Due to the ice, they had a problem meeting their turbidity requirements. They had to go to their standby well to meet the drinking water requirements. Arsenic levels are high in the well. They also had the issue of a house blowing up. When the fire department used the water to fight the fire, it brought the water level down. There is the possibility of multiple houses blowing up without a reliable supply of water. They were able to run the backup system until ice melted.

2. Status report on Martis Valley Groundwater Management Plan and Groundwater Model.

PCWA Senior Engineer gave a PowerPoint presentation. He reported on the Martis Valley Groundwater Management Plan & Model project's organization, partnership, and public outreach plan.

Brown and Caldwell are writing the plan. The Desert Research Institute (DRI) is developing a model via a grant. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is soliciting for consulting services for the Basin Study.

He showed a map of the groundwater basin and the three service areas. All partners have adopted resolutions of intent to adopt the Plan and public outreach is complete. A Stakeholder Working Group has been established and the first meeting and public outreach plan is complete. A working relationship and model parameters have been established with DRI. Compilation of technical data is completed. He went over the objectives of public outreach. He went over the model status and summarized the USBR basin study status.

Inquiry and response followed.

Director Lee stepped out at 12:38 p.m. and returned at 12:40 p.m.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:41 p.m.

3. Tour of Northstar Community Services District membrane water treatment plant

The meeting reconvened at 1:25 p.m. and the Board toured the water treatment plant. (Director Ferreira absent).

H. REPORTS BY DIRECTORS:

Director Mavy noted it was good to meet with the East Slope managers.

I. REPORTS BY LEGAL COUNSEL

No report received.

J. REPORTS BY GENERAL MANAGER

General Manager reported:

- Placer County Fish and Game voted unanimously to oppose the Garden Bar Dam Project and their recommendation will go to the Board of Supervisors.
- The County will hold a public hearing Oct. 11 to determine district boundaries. (Handout provided)

K. ADJOURN

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk to the Board