

Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District
Board Meeting Held
March 12, 2008

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held March 12, 2008 at Casitas' Office, Oak View, California. Directors Word, Hicks, Handley, Kaiser and Baggerly were present. Also present were Steve Wickstrum, General Manager, Rebekah Vieira, Clerk of the Board, and Attorney, John Mathews. There were two staff members and ten members of the public in attendance. Director Word led the group in the flag salute.

1. Public comments.

None

2. Board of Director comments.

Director Baggerly informed the Board that CSDA and CASA are reporting the LAO has offered an alternative for the state budget regarding the county taking over parole activities. If the property tax money from water and wastewater agencies are given to the county and stay in the county it is legal under Prop 1A they can take up to 70%. President Word commented that he attended the Government Affairs Meeting of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce and they requested we give our viewpoint on a number of bills. Director Hicks suggested sending a letter on AB 1496 if it is the consensus of the board. Director Handley suggested that it was not a consensus. The Personnel Committee felt we should remain neutral on that. Mr. Wickstrum stated that staff will take a look at it and get back with status.

3. Consent Agenda APPROVED

- a. Minutes of the February 27, 2008 Board Meeting.

On the motion of Director Hicks, seconded by Director Handley and passed, the consent agenda was approved.

4. Bills APPROVED

On the motion of Director Hicks, seconded by Director Kaiser and passed, the bills were approved.

5. Committee/Manager Reports APPROVED FOR FILING

- a. Recreation Committee Minutes
b. Personnel Committee Minutes

On the motion of Director Baggerly, seconded by Director Kaiser and passed, the Committee/Manager reports were approved for filing.

6. Update from the Park Services Manager regarding operations at the Lake.

Park Services Manager Brian Roney discussed a number of issues that have been addressed since the adoption of Resolution 08-08. There have been a lot of rumors that the park is closed or that all boating is banned. They have begun the process of refunding annual permits. They are looking for clarification for boat dealers whose boats are not inside the facility but are valid customers, if space is available can the board authorized procedure be used and is there an exemption for emergency response vessels. Staff has considered tamper proof seals or lock program to accommodate local boaters, expansion of wet/dry storage, request for the LCIF night bass tournament to proceed, sending a letter to the Department of Fish and Game and sponsoring legislation to divert some funding. There was discussion regarding an item in the resolution and if it applied to boats not in the facility. Mr. Wickstrum added it is talking about new boats not already in the facility. The resolution restricts new boat access. At this point we have done that. Now do we allow more boats or other boats that are not there at the point 08-08 was adopted to come into the lake. There are a couple of options. We can create storage. The other option is have an apparatus to go on a boat to isolate it to not be used anywhere else but Lake Casitas so a boat can not be hauled to an infected lake and then launched in Lake Casitas.

Mr. Wickstrum reported that he spoke to Susan Ellis who finally contacted us. She requested a written letter to help them understand what we want. We have sent letters to various representatives and one to Elton Gallegly with seven requested items. Director Baggerly agreed with sending a letter to DFG. He also suggested a letter be sent to the League of California Cities and County Supervisor Association to put pressure on the state to help us with this issue. He suggested having an independent third party review our protection plan. Director Baggerly then asked if there should be specific items for the full Board every two weeks or establish an ad hoc committee.

There was discussion regarding the capacity of dry storage and Brian Roney informed the board that the waiting list for dry storage is at 180. Director Hicks stated that he wants to set some specific criteria to open the lake. A third party is not needed. We need to decide what it will take for this district to reopen this lake. He added that he thinks the float tubers should be exempt, and we could make a storage area for them. President Word added that according to the resolution they are restricted.

Mr. Wickstrum reported that the sample results from the Bureau of Reclamation testing classified the questionable sample as space debris; there was no Quagga or Zebra mussels found. President Word asked about the additional information handed out in our public meeting. Mr. Wickstrum explained that DFG needs to look at these as possibilities to implement at infestation areas. He directed Lane Gergely to speak with Terry Foreman. Brian mentioned he met with Lane and asked for scientific data and they have not provided the data.

Director Kaiser added we have to make sure we don't automatically open up the lake to other types of activity. There is a strong belief that through waders or float tubes the New Zealand mud snails were introduced. President Word liked Ruth Millers idea for security seals. John Mathews added these are items to look at.

Larry Elshere addressed the board and added that at the last meeting there were two items, one is you want is 100% guarantee that you will not get the mussel and the other was the suggestion from Ruth Miller. He suggested connect the boat to a trailer with a part that can not be removed. He reviewed this with Lake Casitas staff. President Word suggested he explore this through staff initially. Director Kaiser added he appreciates this effort.

Doug Hanson added that he has been working with Larry on this security seal and it is an interesting concept. You want the assurance and we have come up with the tamper proof seal. He suggested a concept of Lake Casitas Coalition of Clean Lakes and including this procedure with sister lakes like Cachuma. You control the seals.

Walter Stowe a Ventura resident has been fishing and camping at the lake for 40 years. He is hoping there is a way to allow storage for tubes in a dry storage area. He is willing to purchase an outdoor garden storage unit that can be locked and when the guys we tube with we can show ids and get access to locker and return tubes to the locker. President Word asked how many float tubes use the lake. Brian Roney replied approximately 125. Director Baggerly stated he is one of them. President Word said this is one more element we can address and look at.

Tom Hutchinson informed the board that he has a slip that he can't get his boat in it. The boat was not in the lake on Tuesday. He disagrees with the General Manager's interpretation of the resolution and spoke with Mr. Mathews. Paragraph 4 clearly authorizes placement of boats in storage that is available. That is what I have. I have the slip. I have had appointments to bring it up and get it quarantined. Ultimately it would appear the information I am getting is you are taking the position that this clause does not authorize the placement of vessels in storage made available at the lake. John answered there is some ambiguity as to if the boat had to be inside the fence. Tom disagreed, storage was made available, your agent rented the slip, it was available, there is no problem with quarantine. You let people in there take the boats out. You let them come back in and they go through the ten day quarantine. President Word added without taking any specific action maybe it gets to the intent of the resolution as we all interpreted it. John added you don't have to take any action. It was interpreted that since storage was available and he is using an existing slip then the boat can be brought in, go through clean and dry inspection and wait the ten days for the quarantine.

Don Harding asked about the float tubes and what do you think will happen with that. President Word responded that it has to be agendized and discussed. John Mathews added the float tube issue will be addressed by staff and brought to the board as the board can not take action on it tonight.

Director Kaiser expressed his appreciation to what you are doing and asked that they continue to work with us and that the Board works the best we can to keep our lake clean.

7. Information Items:

- a. Fisheries Report for February.
- b. Letter from Timothy Robinson from UCSB Bren School of Environmental Science & Management.
- c. Monthly cost analysis for operation of Robles, fisheries and fish passage.
- d. Recreation Area Report for February.
- e. News Articles of interest
- f. Investment Report

Director Kaiser supported Director Baggerly's position regarding the creation of an ad hoc committee on the invasive species and volunteered to be on the committee. John Mathews suggested that the next agenda would have an item to set an ad hoc committee.

President Word adjourned the meeting at 5 34 p.m.

Secretary