

Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District
Board Meeting Held
April 23, 2008

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held April 23, 2008 at Casitas' Office, Oak View, California. Directors Word, Hicks, and Handley were present. Directors Kaiser and Baggerly were absent. Also present were Steve Wickstrum, General Manager, Rebekah Vieira, Clerk of the Board, and Attorney, John Mathews. There were two staff members and one member of the public in attendance. President Word led the group in the flag salute.

1. Public comments.

None

2. Board of Director comments.

Director Hicks reminded the Board of the Shoreline clean up at the Lake on April 27 from 9 – 12.

3. General Manager comments.

None

4. Consent Agenda

APPROVED

- a. Minutes of the April 9, 2008 Board Meeting.
- b. Recommend Rejection of all bids for the Pressure Filter Vessel Runway System Specification 07-308 and direct staff to re-advertise the project.

The Clerk of the Board informed the Board of a correction to the minutes regarding a motion that was made by Director Hicks and seconded by Director Handley.

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

5. Bills

APPROVED

President Word mentioned that he had seen only about 12 refunds for annual boat and annual car passes. Mr. Wickstrum added he had signed about five today. Brent Doan added that there have been 95 boat refunds which are 13% of the total annual passes sold for the year and 53 refunds for the vehicles which is 4%.

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

6. Committee/Manager Reports

APPROVED FOR FILING

- a. Executive Committee Minutes
- b. Personnel Committee Minutes
- c. Water Resources Committee Minutes

Director Hicks mentioned his concern about the bill that was introduced regarding providing benefits to employees that are working half time. President Word stated his opinion is we should certainly try to voice our opposition to the legislation. Ron Merckling reported that he looked at the bill today and it has not moved. President Word added we have to staff to our need for part time or full time employees.

Director Hicks then asked for Scott Lewis to get us more information on the Quagga mussel. He then asked why we are not seeing fish in the river. Mr. Wickstrum replied that we are getting permits to install traps in the river. We are still in process with National Marine Fisheries to get permits to do things in the river. Director Hicks thought we should have an exemption to be able to rescue fish that are trapped. Director Handley added that Scott is going to apply for a permit. Mr. Wickstrum cautioned the board that we have to be careful and define our scope of work.

On the motion of Director Hicks, seconded by Director Handley and passed, the Committee/Manager Reports were approved for filing.

7. Recommend approval of leak relief to Joseph Macaluso in the amount of \$504.68.

APPROVED

On the motion of Director Hicks, seconded by Director Handley and passed, the above recommendation was approved.

8. Recommend denial of a request for leak relief to Socorro Cule as she had been provided relief within the last five years.

REQUEST DENIED

President Word explained that this customer received a \$437 leak relief in 2004. Five years is our time period for leak relief. Mr. Wickstrum explained that Mr. Johnson authorized that as leak relief in October of 2004. Director Hicks stated we can't change the policy.

On the motion of Director Hicks, seconded by Director Handley and passed the motion to deny leak relief was approved.

Mrs. Cule arrived at 4:42 p.m. after this item had already been decided. President Word explained to her the action of the board was to deny the request for leak relief due to it being the second or third one in five years. Mrs. Cule

responded stating the first one was for a meter default. This is the actual first leak. She continued to state that the meter had been wrong. Mr. Wickstrum explained that the meter was checked and it was performing to standards. President Word added that at that time the entire bill was adjusted. Mrs. Cule stated there was not a leak at that time, there was no water anywhere. This time it was a leak.

Director Handley added that we have a policy of leak relief every five years. It looks to me that when you did receive leak relief in 2004 it was considered leak relief. The General Manager at the time counted that as your leak relief for your five year period. We have to follow our criteria. We granted you leak relief and we can't grant it to you again in a five year period. The Board stated they could not make an exception and that the request for leak relief was denied.

9. Request for leak relief to Kenneth Rose for a leak at a backflow device that was struck by a car.

APPROVED

Mr. Wickstrum explained that this is a case where the customers house is located a good distance from the back flow device. One night a car veered off the road and hit his backflow device. Mr. Rose did not recognize it until he woke up the next morning. We have offered him the normal leak relief. Mr. Rose is questioning if any other leak relief should be offered. This is similar to having a hydrant knocked off. Mr. Wickstrum suggested looking at his normal bills and charge him along the basis of what he has typically been charged.

On the motion of Director Hicks, seconded by Director Handley and passed the above recommendation was approved.

10. Request from the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency for funding assistance in paying for their participation in the Watershed Coalition of Ventura County.

APPROVED

Mr. Wickstrum explained that this is part of helping out an agency that we are a part of to be involved of with the Watershed Coalition of Ventura County. OBGMA is unable to pay the \$6,420 fee. They are looking to share this with six other agencies and have asked us to help by providing funding in the amount of \$1,500. Jim Ruch explained that OBGMA can not fund this until they have their approval to raise their rates and that money won't come in soon enough.

On the motion of Director Hicks, seconded by Director Handley and passed the recommendation to provide assistance in funding was approved.

11. Information Items:

- a. Fisheries Report for March, 2008.

- b. Letter of appreciation for Kids Fishing Day.
- c. Letter from the Bureau of Reclamation declining the grant request for Water Conservation Field Services Program for Lake Casitas Recreation Upgrades Project.
- d. News Articles of interest
- e. Investment Report

President Word adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Secretary