

Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District
Board Meeting Held
January 9, 2008

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held January 9, 2008 at Casitas' Office, Oak View, California. Directors Word, Hicks, Handley, and Kaiser were present. Director Baggerly was absent. Also present were Steve Wickstrum, General Manager, Rebekah Vieira, Clerk of the Board, and Attorney, John Mathews. There were five staff members and 78 members of the public in attendance. Director Word led the group in the flag salute.

1. Public comments.

Director Word introduced our new counsel John Mathews and then stated this is the time for public comments to address the board on any items not on the agenda. Anything that is not on the agenda we are happy to receive but we can not take action on it.

Rob Sawyer, 1217 Woodland Drive, Santa Paula, former agency counsel and continuing special counsel to the District. First, I want to congratulate John Mathews as he takes on the position of Agency Counsel, and to compliment the Board and management for retaining him and his firm. I have known John for over 30 years. He is knowledgeable, thorough, loyal, and everything else that is the hallmark of a good attorney, but equally important, he has an easy sense of humor and the rare ability to distinguish urgency from panic. Second I want to wish all of you success as you face the challenges that are emerging in this 21st Century. In the stark language of the California Water Code your function appears very simple: Acquire, control, distribute, store, spread, sink, treat, purify, recapture, salvage, sell, distribute and conserve water. But in doing so you must recognize your obligations and opportunities to respect and enhance the lives of your customers, your employees, and the broader community and to protect and improve the very basic gifts of the earth that have been given to us in trust for our grandchildren's grandchildren. Third, from nearly 15 years of working with the District in one capacity or another I have learned first-hand that this agency has always been – and continues to be – distinguished by the type of men and women who have served as its Directors, management and staff as well as by those of your customers, community and electorate who play a very active and important part in your fulfillment of your duties, many of whom are here today. Whether it be a general manager, a Director, a staff member, or a representative of the District's various constituencies among the agriculture, business and residential communities and environmental, recreational and taxpayer groups, I have yet to meet a one who did not place the good of the broader community and this District's responsibilities above his or her own personal considerations. And finally, it is because of the type of people affiliated with this District, Directors, staff and the public alike, that it has been so enjoyable to have served you as Agency Counsel for the past few years, and I thank each of you for having been given the honor and privilege to do so.

2. Board of Director comments.

President Word reminded the board to establish their list of priorities to review and discuss at a later meeting.

3. Consent Agenda

ADOPTED

- a. Minutes of the December 12, 2007 Board Meeting.
- b. Recommend approval of a purchase order in the amount of \$24,800 to K.W. Inc. Economy Wise Tree Service for tree trimming and removal at Lake Casitas Recreation Area. This is an unbudgeted expenditure.
- c. Resolution authorizing memberships for Casitas Municipal Water District and Lake Casitas Recreation Area for 2008.

The consent agenda was offered by Director Hicks, seconded by Director Kaiser and passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Kaiser, Handley, Hicks, Word
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	Baggerly

Resolution is numbered 08-01.

4. Bills

APPROVED

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

5. Committee/Manager Reports

APPROVED FOR FILING

- a. Recreation Committee Minutes.
- b. Finance Committee Minutes.
- c. Executive Committee Minutes.

President Word presented a plaque that was awarded to the Recreation department for honorable mention for brochure of the year. Director Kaiser added it is a national award and good work by staff.

Director Hicks questioned if the rowing club is doing the clean up on the lake? Brian Roney stated they have not been in two months because they had built up enough credit.

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

6. Action Items

- a. Recommend authorization of the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Wood Rogers to perform the Robles Fish Passage Post Construction Hydraulic Performance Evaluation for a fee of \$66,000. APPROVED

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

- b. Recommend approval of a purchase order to Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc for the Water Rate Study in the amount of \$67,498 for the primary scope of services and an additional \$5,700 for training and manuals for the rate model. APPROVED

Mr. Wickstrum reported that this is something that came out of our last rate increase, the desire to look at the rate model and look at it closely. We solicited seven firms to provide us proposals. We received two which are both comparable in price. Raftelis is better for our needs with Ag. We put \$35,000 into the budget for the project but the cost is double that at this time. President Word added that the Finance Committee went through both of the proposals and feel comfortable with both but this one can give us and is more familiar with our diversity with Ag and residential. Timing is an important and critical factor. The City would like to have their rates by March. Director Kaiser added this is long overdue to establish a good rate method by an independent consultant.

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

7. Information Items:

- a. Recreation Area Report for November, 2007.
b. Monthly cost analysis for operation of Robles, fisheries and fish passage.
c. News Articles of interest
d. Investment Report

President Word stated that item b will be on the next meeting agenda. President Word then adjourned the regular meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Secretary