

Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District  
Board Meeting Held  
February 13, 2008

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held February 13, 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 three staff members and three members of the public in attendance. Director Word led the group in the flag salute.

1. Public comments.

Eric Gillett, Director of the Lake Casitas Rowing Association thanked the board for allowing us to be a part of the activities on the lake. It has been a great start for us. We had a regatta with UCSB and CSULB came to the lake with 12 – 14 boats on the water. It was exciting to see that much energy on the water. There was about two hours of racing. This coming weekend we have our club kick off and we are going to have high school and adult teams. We would enjoy seeing you Saturday at 8:00 a.m. Right now we have eight members. Cate and Villanova has shown some interest. President Word asked if the boats stored at the lake. Mr. Gillett replied that the ones that were used last weekend went through the inspection process. The ones housed at the lake are usable.

2. Board of Director comments.

Director Kaiser commented on the one thing that we have been dealing with for several months; the potential for pending disaster and it is knocking at our door which is the invasive species of Quagga and Zebra mussels. As I have mentioned before. I don't know what it will take for the state to get on the bandwagon to help with this matter. I would be in favor of supporting a declaration of a state of emergency for a state of disaster. Director Kaiser asked district counsel John Mathews what steps would need to be taken. Mr. Mathews explained it would have to place it on a board agenda and make whatever statement on the state of emergency which would be related to the water supply. The code provides a situation where the board can make that type of statement if there is a substantial concern that this could affect the drinking water of this county. Director Kaiser added it is important as a board member representing the district to look at this proactively and declare our serious involvement. Mr. Mathews explained that whatever action you take will be substantiated by finding of fact. Those would be part and parcel of the message to other agencies and the state. Director Kaiser asked if he would suggest this be done by resolution and Mr. Mathews answered yes.

President Word mentioned a letter that was drafted by Director Baggerly which is a call to the Governor for emergency action. This could be followed up by any action we take. We are trying to keep the pressure on and do something

other than talking about it. We are going to have to move quickly one way or the other.

Director Kaiser asked about the sampling that was done and he wondered when the sample was taken. Mr. Wickstrum explained that from the e-mail it appeared that the sample looked suspicious but we don't know what it is. We are going to do sequencing for a series of months to determine if we have the Quagga or Zebra mussel. Susan sampled a few weeks ago probably before the rains. President Word asked if these were independent samples. Mr. Wickstrum explained that they are being independently tested by the Bureau of Reclamation. Susan is equipping a microscope to do her own initial identifications. This individual found nothing that was conclusive. There was some material that looked suspicious, but he couldn't say that it was or it wasn't. The next step is additional testing and then continue sampling in the spring with more potential for Quagga bloom. President Word asked if monthly is sufficient? Mr. Wickstrum replied that it is being prescribed as monthly. Director Hicks asked how long until we have this information. Mr. Wickstrum was not sure when the results would be available.

Director Hicks reported his attendance at an AWA sponsored training meeting on contaminants and handling toxic waste. There are a lot of really scary issues out there; not just the Quagga mussels. He added that he had emphasized to Bob to have an exercise out there. Director Hicks then asked about the calcium levels at the lake. Mr. Wickstrum explained that it is in the range that the Quagga mussels will thrive. Director Hicks added that we need to keep in mind what is the best way to address this and how do we keep the people most affected by this on board to keep the threat away. Director Handley asked if they know the Quagga mussel will destroy the lake. Director Baggerly added if we get the Quagga mussel we will close it immediately.

Director Baggerly reported a call he had received from a farmer regarding the progress on the rate study. President Word replied that we will get our first information on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Wickstrum reported that the rate study is in development and we will probably have something in mid April that would be ready to be available.

3. Consent Agenda APPROVED

- a. Minutes of the January 23, 2008 Board Meeting.

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

4. Bills APPROVED

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

5. Committee/Manager Reports

APPROVED FOR FILING

a. Finance Committee Minutes.

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

6. Staff Presentations:

a. Presentation on Solar Power Purchase Agreements

Mr. Wickstrum discussed the push this past year to harness solar power for electrical power. Investment firms have considered installing the facilities at investor's expense. Some solar facilities take about \$7 million dollars. Power Purchase Agreement help with that payment and the investors are looking to make money. We took a field trip to Hill Canyon Treatment Plant a few months ago and Chuck Rodgers expressed that if solar is an effort to make money it is not the way to go. We have a very low Edison rate and that makes any solar project marginal at best. Mr. Wickstrum's recommendation is that a power purchase agreement is not a good thing for us to decide at this point.

b. Presentation by Fisheries Biologist Scott Lewis on the recent steelhead passing through the fish ladder

Scott Lewis presented information regarding the fish ladder and the steelhead that recently passed through the facility. This past year improvements were made to the fish crowder or shroud so that there is improved fish detection and identification. Additional downstream cameras will be added to confirm upstream fish and capture downstream fish. There have been five steelhead and one rainbow trout in the ladder. The lengths of the steelhead were from 16.5 inches to 25 inches. Mr. Lewis explained the information he uses to determine if the fish are steelhead or rainbow trout. Morphological measurements are estimated from the video clips and compared to other rainbow trout and known steelhead. Also he looked at general physical characteristics such as the shape of the tail, is it long and skinny or short and fat. Rainbows are typically shorter and fat. There is also a comparison of the eye diameter

7. Action Items

a. Resolution awarding a contract to United Sports Surfacing of America in the amount of \$53,613 for resurfacing playgrounds at Lake Casitas Recreation Area.

ADOPTED

The resolution was offered by Director Baggerly, seconded by Director Handley and passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Resolution is numbered 08-03.

- b. Resolution awarding a contract to A.J. Fistes, Inc in the amount of \$99,972 for the Rincon Reservoir No. 1 Interior Coating.

ADOPTED

The resolution was offered by Director Baggerly, seconded by Director Kaiser and passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Resolution is numbered 08-04.

- c. Resolution authorizing an agreement with United Water Conservation District allowing United to purchase a portion of Casitas' State Water allocation during calendar year 2008.

ADOPTED

The resolution was offered by Director Baggerly, seconded by Director Kaiser and passed by the following roll call vote:

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

Resolution is numbered 08-05.

8. Information Items:

- a. Fisheries Report for January 2008.
- b. Monthly cost analysis for operation of Robles, fisheries and fish passage.
- c. News Articles of interest
- d. Investment Report

9. Closed Session

- a. Liability Claims (Section 54956.95 (d))  
Claimant: Suzi Lydick

Agency claimed against: Casitas Municipal Water District

President Word moved the meeting to closed session at 5:30 p.m. regarding Government Code Section 54956.95. At 5:33 p.m. President Word returned the meeting to open session and stated the on the motion of Director Handley, seconded by Director Baggerly and passed the recommendation to accept the settlement for the above referenced liability claim was approved. President Word then adjourned the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

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Secretary