

Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District
Board Meeting Held
March 11, 2009

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held March 11, 2009 at Casitas' Office, Oak View, California. Directors Hicks, Handley, Kaiser, Baggerly and Word 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 no members of the public in attendance. President Hicks led the group in the flag salute.

1. Public comments.

None

2. Board of Director comments.

Director Word asked about the letter from the customer at the lake. Mr. Wickstrum reported that Suzi had gotten in touch with the individual and offered a pass to return. The issue was a culmination of a lot of things. This was after Labor Day and the customer was concerned that people were drinking and there were people with tattoos. The customer questioned knives being sold in the park store. Director Word then mentioned that these issues probably would not be resolved until there is a host presence in that area. Brent Doan added that it was during daylight hours and involved day use customer going into a campground. One of the issues is that there are no hookups in that part of the park.

Director Word then asked if there was an update on the Matilija Conduit agreement. Mr. Wickstrum reported his discussion with Tom Lagier on Monday and an attorney in Sacramento had looked at the agreement. Mr. Lagier did not share any discussion on it at this point. We will work diligently on it. Director Word then asked about the communication with Michael Jackson. Mr. Wickstrum reported that he would be having a teleconference with Michael Jackson, Bob Epperson, Mike Delamore and Jack Collins on Friday.

Director Kaiser asked about Senior Canyon. Mr. Wickstrum replied that we have attached the letters we have received in the board packet. They are meeting every Friday to formulate their strategy and are putting a surcharge on water users. They have curtailed water use from us over the last two months. Director Word reiterated that we still do not have a plan on how they will retire the debt. We need something in hand to show there is a plan to retire that debt. Mr. Wickstrum added that we have a letter regarding the surcharge and he will ask the auditor if it is adequate. He also informed the board that the \$11,000 delinquency charge was applied. Director Word stated that the only other alternative is to cut the water off. President Hicks added that they are trying this and we should give them a chance.

President Hicks thanked the staff for the tour stating that the system is complicated and how talented our people are that run this.

3. General Manager comments.
Mr. Wickstrum added that PSO Weinerth will report on the trip to the Fred Hall Show.

4. Consent Agenda ADOPTED

- a. Minutes of the February 25, 2009 Board Meeting.
- b. Minutes of the March 3, 2009 Board Meeting.
- c. Recommend approval of a purchase order to Golden Sun Marketing in the amount of \$25,800 for the purchase of two EBAA iron flexible couplings.

On the motion of Director Handley, seconded by Director Baggerly and passed, the Consent Agenda was adopted with Director Word abstaining from item b since he was not in attendance.

5. Bills APPROVED

Director Kaiser questioned the day use hang tags that were ordered in pink and white. Brent Doan reported that white is the current \$10.00 rate and the pink tags are for Easter weekend with the new \$15.00 rates.

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

6. Committee/Manager Reports APPROVED FOR FILING

- a. Recreation Committee Minutes

Mr. Wickstrum asked if there was any additional information on the tour boat. Rob Weinerth stated that Ojai Rotary called Bait and Tackle and said they are the new owners of the boat and will be charged for mooring. Mr. Wickstrum added there should be an agreement with Casitas on an oversized boat on the lake and if they bail on this they take the boat with them. This will be discussed in the Recreation Committee. Because of the size there are requirements for a licensed captain and insurance.

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

7. Resolution awarding a contract to Davis Boats to manufacture and deliver a 22' fiberglass boat to Lake Casitas Recreation Area. ADOPTED

Rob Weinerth reported that last year Casitas requested a grant of \$80,000 to fix the Wilson or get a new boat. Department of Boating and Waterways has determined that they would allow us to purchase a fiberglass boat. We completed the bid process and Davis Boats was awarded the bid. This is the all purpose boat for use in day and night and will provide us with security and protection. We are confident of durability and safety of this boat. Davis Boats is the premier builder on the West. Part of the project was to use the engine and trailer and other materials we bought that came up to

\$25,000 so we were able to incorporate what we had into this new boat. Director Word asked if the proposal included installation of the Volvo engine we already have. Rob Weinerth stated the engine install was included in this. President Hicks asked about the old hull. Rob stated we would like to donate it. It would cost \$1,500 to destroy. We would like to donate that boat to Davis and he can do what he wants with it. Our plan was that whoever was going to get the bid would take the old boat off our hands. If it works out we would like to have a grand opening and put the new boat in a couple of parades.

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

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

Resolution is numbered 09-04.

8. Verbal report from Russ Baggerly and Ron Merckling on their recent trip to Washington DC.

Director Baggerly and Ron Merckling provided their reports on their recent efforts in Washington DC. For the new administration things are different. The rules have changed. Climate change, energy use and health care will drive legislation. The environment is important to the President. The California water situation is bad but they encouraged us by saying we have a friend in Washington. David Hayes is the new water guy at the Department of the Interior. He is a well known environmental guy, knows California and knows our water issues.

There were numerous lobbying meetings held including meetings with Bob Quint at the Bureau of Reclamation, and the offices of Congressman Gallegly, Congresswoman Capps, Senator Boxer, Senator Feinstein, Congressman McClintock, Congresswoman Napolitano and Congressman Baca. The main purpose was to address invasive mussels. Mr. Merckling reported that we were encouraged to draft new legislation for protection in the western states. The most productive meeting was with Jenny Sarabia of Congressman Joe Baca's office from Big Bear area. She is very interested in this and once we provide her with our draft language for legislation she will take it to Legislative Counsel for review. Senator Feinstein is interested in introduction on the senate side. The letter to the Department of the Interior was also discussed.

Director Baggerly included in his handout the review of testimony by Karl Wirkus, Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation with Director Baggerly's comments regarding the testimony. This testimony told them everything was o.k. and they were doing what they should do. President Hicks asked what the purpose of the legislation is. Mr. Merckling responded that it is a federal response to address the Bureau of Reclamation and National Park Service to regulate their water bodies including if they are infected, decontaminating vessels, and requiring educational and public information campaigns in their areas and monitoring. Another component is to assist state and

local private and public operators of water to encourage funding for testing of all water bodies in the west. If any state implements similar legislation as California they must have funding for the testing. Another portion is punitive for interstate transfer of mussels.

Director Baggerly added that the letter to Ken Salazar may pressure the Bureau to do some of these things. The National Park Service needs to take better control of Lake Mead. They have hundreds of access points that can't be controlled. Now, two years later and there are 33 contaminations in the western states. Mr. Merckling added that he got the sense that no one was asking for anything to be done. They said they needed something concrete. Mr. Merckling added that the ACWA committee said they were addressing this issue but they did not get to it. Director Baggerly added that ACWA put our information in their lobbying packet.

9. Information Items:

- a. Letter from Senior Canyon Mutual Water Company
- b. Monthly Cost Analysis for operation of Robles, fisheries and fish passage.
- c. Recreation Area Report for February
- d. News Articles of Interest
- e. Investment Report

Rob Weinerth reported that the Fred Hall show was a great opportunity to inform customers that we are still there and that invasive species are a top priority. We upgraded our booth and were stationed by the speakers, one of whom gave talks about Casitas. We had lots of positive feedback and we are glad that we attended. We have had increased calls for inspections.

Director Baggerly thanked them for the hard work and asked that everybody be told that we appreciate what they have done to pull this Quagga issue. Clean and dry really means that.

10. Adjournment

President Hicks adjourned the meeting at 5:28 p.m.

Secretary