

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF

July 13, 2021

(Meeting held virtually via Zoom, with six attendees also being in person at the District office)

Chairman Sheldon announced at 5:03 PM that the virtual meeting was being recorded and asked for each of the Board members to state their name for the record by roll call:

Board Members Present: (Attending in person) Robert E. Boyd, Jr., Commissioner - Present, Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner - Present and Robert H. Sheldon, Chairman - Present.

Board Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Attending in person District Treasurer Thomas S. Travers, Executive Director Vincent J. Roy, and Customer Service Manager Renee M. Adams; and attending via Zoom representing SL Environmental Law Group Attorney Ashley Campbell and Water Utility Consultant Ted Kenney.

1. REVIEW THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 1st COMMISSIONERS MEETING:

The Commissioners approved the Minutes for the Meeting of June 15, 2021, as amended. The motion for approval was made by Commissioner Fox, duly seconded by Commissioner Boyd, and approved unanimously by roll call:

Robert E. Boyd, Jr., Commissioner - Aye

Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner - Aye

Robert H. Sheldon, Chairman - Aye

2. REVIEW THE DIRECTOR'S JUNE 25th and JULY 9th REPORTS:

Executive Director Roy presented his bi-weekly reports to the Board and addressed questions regarding the following topics:

Dutton Road Bridge Project

Chairman Sheldon asked Director Roy to provide an explanation to the Board for the bridge project start date delay. Mr. Roy stated that some of the material needed for the project to begin was backordered, but all of that material was expected to be onsite for the July 23rd start date. Chairman Sheldon asked Mr. Roy to have it noted at the next construction project meeting that the was not due to any circumstance brought on by the District, to which Mr. Roy concurred.

Administrative Assistant Position

Commissioner Fox asked Director Roy to provide information about the Administrative Assistant position opening. Mr. Roy stated that the District has budgeted for a permanent parttime position to support and assist the senior administration staff.

SCADA System Upgrade Contract

Commissioner Fox asked Director Roy if the cost proposal of \$170,600.00 for the SCADA System Upgrade contract was consistent with the District's expectations. Mr. Roy responded that the cost was in line with the appropriation with the 2021 Annual District Meeting.

Radio Propagation Study for Bigelow Hill and Goodman Hill Tank High Pressure Service Area

Director Roy stated that the results of the propagation study went extremely well, and that the contractor was able to establish communication between all sites. Mr. Roy also stated that the District was conducting a parallel study using cellular technology as a backup means of communication. Commissioner Boyd asked Mr. Roy if it would be necessary to replace the batteries on a weekly basis to which Mr. Roy responded that depending on the transmission rate, the battery life expectancy was one-year.

Commercial Meter Change-outs

Commissioner Fox asked Director Roy who was assuming the replacement cost for the commercial meters. Mr. Roy responded that the District was covering the cost of the replacement meters because they did not have a means to be tested and that moving forward the replacement meters are equipped with test ports and will be tested in accordance with AWWA standards. Commissioner Fox suggested that the District may want to pass a regulation to have a policy in place relating to the sale of commercial properties that encompass large meters to be tested prior to the sale of a property, and if said meter fails testing the meter needs to be replaced at the property owner's expense prior to the consummation of the transaction.

There were no further comments made to the Director's report.

3. DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE PFAS CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT/ PRESENTATION BY SL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW GROUP

Director Roy introduced Attorney Campell and Mr. Ted Kenney (representatives of SL Environment Law Group) to the Board for a presentation regarding class action lawsuits and multi-district litigations directed towards the manufacturers of PFAS compounds. Director Roy provided a brief background of the District's efforts in dealing with PFAS to Ms. Campbell and Mr. Kenney. Ms. Campell provided an overview of the law firm's experience with this type of litigation and presented an explanation about PFAS/PFOA water contamination, outlining cost recovery to the Board.

The Board thanked Ms. Campbell and Mr. Kenney for their time and informed them that the District would make a decision about joining a class-action or multi-district litigation at a later date.

4. DISCUSSION ON PFAS ANALYSIS/ PROPOSED TREATMENT FACILITY

Director Roy presented the latest PFAS test results to the Board. Mr. Roy expressed his concerns with the recent result of 19.53 ppt at the RWTP for the sum of the six regulated compounds, stating that we are very close to the state limit. Mr. Roy also stated that a single test result exceeding 20 ppt would not constitute an immediate MCL violation. A quarterly average at a specific point of entry site exceeding 20 ppt would trigger a violation of the MCL. Mr. Roy also expressed the need to implement a short-term solution to mitigate PFAS levels until a long-term treatment process is fully implemented. Commissioner Sheldon asked Mr. Roy to provide a time frame for completion of both short-term and long-term treatment solutions, to which Mr. Roy responded that the short-term solution could be fully implemented within three months and that the long-term treatment solution would be operational in the spring of 2023.

5. AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE CONTRACT AGREEMENTS FOR SCADA UPGRADE AND PFAS FACILITY DESIGN PROJECTS

Director Roy provided a brief explanation of the Contract Agreements (Contract Nos. 22-3 and 22-6). Commissioner Boyd moved to authorize the Executive Director to execute the agreement between the District and Environmental Partners for the SCADA Upgrade Project (Contract No. 22-3) for \$172,300.00. The motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Fox and approved unanimously by roll call:

Robert E. Boyd, Jr., Commissioner - Aye

Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner - Aye

Robert H. Sheldon, Chairman - Aye

Commissioner Fox moved to Authorized the Executive Director to execute the agreement between the District and Weston & Sampson Engineering for the PFAS Treatment Facility Support Design Services Contract (Contract No. 22-6) for \$179,836.44. The motion was duly seconded by Chairman Sheldon and approved unanimously by roll call:

Robert E. Boyd, Jr., Commissioner - Aye

Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner - Aye

Robert H. Sheldon, Chairman, Aye

6. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

Director Roy informed the Board that the upcoming agenda for the next Commissioners meeting would include the following items:

Executive Session for discussion of employee policies and benefits, and possible PFAS litigation.

Commissioner Boyd moved to adjourn the public meeting. The motion was duly seconded and approved unanimously by roll call:

Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner - Aye

Robert E. Boyd, Jr., - Aye

Robert H. Sheldon, Chairman - Aye

There being no further discussions the meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM