

**NORTH MARIN WATER DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
May 15, 2007**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Petterle called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of North Marin Water District to order at 7:30 p.m. at the District headquarters and the agenda was accepted as presented. Present were Directors Jack Baker, Rick Fraites, Dennis Rodoni and John Schoonover. Also present were General Manager Chris DeGabriele, Secretary Renee Roberts, Auditor-Controller David Bentley and Chief Engineer Drew McIntyre.

District employees Doug Moore (Construction Superintendent) and Pablo Ramudo (Water Quality Supervisor) were in the audience.

**MINUTES**

On motion of Director Schoonover, seconded by Director Baker and unanimously carried the Board approved the minutes from the previous meeting as mailed.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Joint NMWD/MMWD Meeting

Mr. DeGabriele reminded the Board of the Special Meeting with Marin Municipal Water District's Board of Directors next Tuesday, May 22, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at Inn Marin.

Community Choice Aggregation Task Force

Mr. DeGabriele advised that the Marin County Community Choice Aggregation Task Force will meet on May 31<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 at the Civic Center. He said that the task force is comprised of elected officials and staff and that President Petterle can determine if a District elected official should attend.

Staff Absence

Mr. DeGabriele announced that Mike McMaster is unable to attend tonight's meeting and that the Board can decide whether to accept the Operations Department third quarter progress report or defer the report to the next meeting.

**OPEN TIME**

President Petterle asked if anyone in the audience or staff wished to bring up an item not on the agenda and the following items were discussed:

### Aluminum Vault Lid Stolen

Doug Moore reported that approximately six months ago the District's aluminum vault lid on Hanna Ranch Road, under Highway 37, was stolen, subsequently replaced, and was again stolen on or about April 30.

### Insurance Reimbursement

David Bentley stated that the driver responsible for hitting a hydrant on Sir Francis Drake has auto insurance and is expecting to reimburse the District. He advised that he is looking back five years to see what percentage of hydrant damage caused by automobiles was recovered.

### Water Rate Hearing

Mr. Bentley advised that the Water Rate Hearing Notice included in the agenda packet Miscellaneous, identified the date for the hearing as July 17 because, under Proposition 218, the District is required to give a 45-day written notice to customers about a rate hearing. He stated that the public hearing notice will be mailed to all non-residential customers to whom the rate increase applies.

### **MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT**

Mr. DeGabriele reviewed the Monthly Progress Report for April and stated that water production is up considerably in Novato from one year ago. He reminded the Board that last year was a wet spring and that water demand for April 2007, compared with April 2004 and April 2002 (both dry months), was very similar. The same circumstances have occurred in West Marin; water production is up from a year ago and there was similar water demand this year as compared to April 2004 and April 2002. Mr. DeGabriele stated that Stafford Treatment Plant continues to produce good quality water and approximately 2 million gallons were produced per day. He advised that the District is soliciting for an Assistant Treatment Plant Operator and a Treatment Plant and Distribution Supervisor. Mr. DeGabriele reported that in Oceana Marin there was no discharge to the fields in April. He further reported that, in Water Conservation, 215 High Efficiency Toilets have been distributed or rebated and that survey results will determine if a larger toilet giveaway will occur in the fall. He advised that there has been an increase in high bill complaints and that the complaints will likely continue due to the Conservation Incentive Tier Rate being in effect.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

On the motion of Director Schoonover, seconded by Director Baker and unanimously carried, the following items were approved on the consent calendar:

**BAR-OR SUBDIVISION, VIENTO WAY, PT. REYES STATION**

This project subdivides an existing 5.41-acre parcel into 5 lots for single family homes. New water facilities required include 200 feet of 1-inch copper and five 1-inch meters and all lots will receive normal pressure water service from the Point Reyes Station tanks.

The Board approved Resolution No. 07-16 entitled, "Authorization of Execution of Water Service Facilities Construction Agreement with Gal Bar-Or and Cheryl Hoppe."

**BRAHMA KUMARIS MEDITATION CENTER – AMENDED AGREEMENT**

The original Water Service Agreement was approved by the Board on May 2, 2006 authorizing the installation of a new 2.5" meter with a 2" lateral in a new location and the existing 1.5" meter with 2" lateral that served the parcel previously were to be removed as part of this agreement. With the exception of removing the 1.5" meter, this project is complete. The applicant has now requested to retain both meters and the proposed amendment to the agreement addresses this request.

The Board approved Resolution No. 07-17 entitled, "Authorization of Execution of Amendment No. 1 to Water Service Facilities Construction Agreement with Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center."

**QUITCLAIM ANTONIOLI EASEMENT IN TRADE FOR NEW EASEMENT**

In 1966 the District secured easements for the Crest Road Extension project from Mr. Antonioli. Mr. Antonioli is in the process of a lot line adjustment for potential development and has requested that the District quitclaim the easement acquired in 1966. Replacement easement documents reflecting the new pipeline alignment have been signed by Mr. Antonioli.

The Board approved Resolution No. 07-18 entitled, "Authorization of Execution of Quitclaim Deed to Ronald Antonioli."

**GRAZING AGREEMENT – KRUGER**

George Grossi has removed the 13-acre parcel and 40 acre-parcel from his longstanding grazing lease agreement with the District, and Monte Kruger, owner of Willow Tree Stables, desires to assume the grazing lease for the 13-acre parcel which is adjacent to her stables. The proposed agreement is identical to that of both Grossi and Leveroni and the annual lease is \$192.

**LETTER TO NOVATO CITY COUNCIL RE AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

The District drafted a letter to the Novato City Council supporting the amendment of the Affordable Housing Ordinance which will be heard at the City Council meeting on May 22, 2007. It

is in the District's interest to encourage revision of the ordinance that would enhance opportunities for home ownership for District employees in Novato.

**DISBURSEMENTS**

The Board approved and authorized for payment payroll and accounts payable vouchers totaling \$677,596.38.

**ACTION CALENDAR**

**APPROVE - RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR RETIREE JOE KAUTH**

Mr. DeGabriele stated that Joe Kauth, District Automotive Mechanic, retired in March after 27 years of service and presented a Resolution of Appreciation for Board approval.

On motion of Director Fraites and seconded by Director Baker, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 07-19, entitled "Board of Directors of North Marin Water District Resolution of Appreciation to Joseph C. Kauth."

**APPROVE - NMWD RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NOMINATION OF PAUL KELLEY AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES**

Mr. DeGabriele stated that Paul Kelley has been nominated for Vice President of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA). He advised that Mr. Kelley is a County of Sonoma Supervisor, is on the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Water Agency, and has been Chair of ACWA Region 1 for approximately 4 years. He said that if elected, Mr. Kelley will serve for two years as vice-president and then will serve two years as president.

Director Fraites stated that he would not support the nomination of Mr. Kelley as Mr. Kelley had expressed his opinion that humans had no relationship to global warming and that Mr. Kelley's statement was based on politics and not science.

Mr. DeGabriele commented that Mr. Kelley supports the Water Agency's endeavors in sustainability; i.e., solar energy at the Administration offices of SCWA and sanitary treatment plants, conversion of SCWA's fleet to hybrid cars and protection of the fisheries.

On motion of Director Baker and seconded by Director Schoonover, the Board approved Resolution 07-20 entitled, "Resolution of the Board of Directors of North Marin Water District Supporting the Nomination of Paul Kelley as Vice President of the Association of California Water Agencies" by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Baker, Petterle, Rodoni, Schoonover

NOES: Director Fraites

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**WEST MARIN WATER RIGHT ORDER LICENSE 4324B**

Mr. DeGabriele announced that he received a letter from the State Water Resources Control Board advising that the protest by the Department of Fish and Game of the District's Petition for Change in Place and Purpose of Use for License 4324B has been dismissed. He stated that now the District has the Senior Water Right license for West Marin to appropriate water from Lagunitas Creek and will provide a reliable source of water supply in dry years for the District's West Marin customers.

Director Baker offered his congratulations to Mr. DeGabriele and staff.

**INVERNESS PARK PUMP STATION UPGRADE**

Mr. McIntyre provided a status report on the Inverness Park Pump Station Upgrade and stated that this project is part of the West Marin Long Range Master Plan wherein the pump station was identified as insufficient in meeting the needs of the Inverness Park area system. He said that the improvements to the pump station include larger pumps and motors, Remote Terminal Unit controller, electronic flow meter and a District standard wood-framed building and that these improvements will triple the current capacity, increase pumping efficiency and reduce noise levels. Mr. McIntyre reported that a temporary pump station will be erected before the existing building is demolished and that a purchase order for the replacement building has been issued to Scheller Construction for \$19,852.

**INITIAL REVIEW – WEST MARIN BUDGET**

Mr. Bentley presented the West Marin budget for the Board's initial review. He stated that two large projects, the design and construction of a new water treatment plant in Point Reyes (\$2.7 million) and construction of the Gallagher pipeline (\$1.6 million) places an extreme burden on the West Marin water system and thereby necessitates a 9% commodity increase. He further stated that the Conservation Incentive Rate has generated approximately \$10,000 in the past two years, but that billed consumption in the West Marin Service Area decreased and is projected to come in at 6% below the ten-year average in FY 2007. He said that compiling entitlement data to enable application of a tier rate for all customers is a lengthy endeavor, and staff will make a recommendation to the Board at the end of the year. Mr. Bentley pointed out that irrigation water sales have not been budgeted because the Giacomini Ranch is being reverted to wetlands; therefore, the Downey wells are not expected to operate.

Mr. Bentley noted the two top improvement projects as Treatment Plant Chemical Feed Line & Contact Tank Replacement (\$50,000); Upgrade Inverness Park Pump Station (\$100,000); and advised that the Treatment Plant Conceptual Design/Construction scheduled for the FY 2010 and FY 2011 budgets in the amount of \$200,000 and \$2.5 million respectively will be major projects unaffordable to the small West Marin water system and that grant money or federal funding will be sought. Mr. Bentley said that several projects have been budgeted for in Oceana Marin including an Infiltration Study and Repair (\$15,000), and Disposal Trench Repairs (\$30,000). Mr. Bentley confirmed that a public hearing and approval of the West Marin Budget is scheduled for July 3<sup>rd</sup> in Point Reyes Station.

Director Rodoni said that it was his understanding that a public hearing will be held in January on the conservation tier rate in West Marin and expressed concern that the compilation of entitlement data may delay the notification of customers at the July meeting of the public hearing in January. Mr. McIntyre assured the Board that there is adequate time to complete the data gathering and notice the public of the proposed tier rate hearing.

Mr. DeGabriele advised the Board that an item omitted from the Improvement Project's budget concerns staff and legal time to be spent on water rights in FY 08 for dedicating one junior right permit to instream purposes.

#### **QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT – OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT**

Mr. McMaster was not present at the meeting, and the Board accepted, without comment, the Quarterly Progress Report for the Operations Department.

#### **QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT – WATER QUALITY**

Mr. Ramudo reported that both Novato and West Marin water systems met all state and federal standards during the third quarter.

##### Novato

Mr. Ramudo stated that Stafford Lake provided excellent drinking water and that the total numbers of algae were relatively low. He further stated that the Solar Bees' effectiveness in turning oxygenated water to the deeper levels of the lake thereby keeping manganese and other metals solid will be evaluated. Mr. Ramudo explained that total organic carbon (TOC) removal is falling due to degradation of the granular activated charcoal (GAC) filter media and that the operators are currently experimenting with different coagulants to try to achieve greater removal of TOC without using GAC. Mr. Ramudo reported that the flushing program in Novato went well; however, a valving error on January 29<sup>th</sup> caused a water outage and that a precautionary water quality alert

was issued to 50 customers because pressure in the mains dropped below 5 psi. He said that the water quality alert was cancelled on January 31<sup>st</sup> after tests revealed no bacteriological contamination of the water.

#### Point Reyes

Mr. Ramudo reported that water quality in Point Reyes was excellent and that there were no salt water intrusion problems, no iron and manganese were detected and no coliform bacteria found in the raw water or in the distribution system. He said that there were no complaints during the flushing program and that clean water came quickly through the hydrants.

#### **DRAFT AGENDA FOR NMWD/MMWD BOARD MEETING – MAY 22, 2007**

Mr. DeGabriele provided the draft agenda for the joint Board of Directors meeting between Marin Municipal and North Marin Water Districts scheduled for May 22, 2007 at Inn Marin. Director Rodoni suggested that opportunities for cooperation between the two districts be discussed.

#### **ABAG AGENDA – MAY 17, 2007**

Mr. DeGabriele presented the Association of Bay Area Governments agenda and noted that the agency is becoming more involved in water and water quality issues, not just land use and transportation.

#### **NORTH BAY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION MEETING – MAY 4, 2007**

Mr. DeGabriele presented the agenda and handouts from the North Bay Watershed Association meeting held on May 4, 2007. He said that the County of Marin made an interesting presentation on the Ross Valley Watershed Program. Director Fraites commented that the attachment to the agenda provided a lot of information on the North Bay Watershed Association activities, projects and goals.

#### **WAC AND TAC MEETING – MAY 7, 2007**

Mr. DeGabriele reported on the Water Agency's Temporary Urgency Change Petition in the instream flows in the Russian River that was submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board on April 26<sup>th</sup> and was approved and that reduced flows began on May 11<sup>th</sup>. He said that on June 5<sup>th</sup> the State Board will take public comment on the flow reductions. He stated that he attended the Sonoma County Water Agency Board meeting wherein the Board gave authority to the Agency to begin the process to request to modify flows permanently.

Mr. DeGabriele highlighted other WAC meeting items including an update on the Water Conservation Education Program, a status report of the South Transmission System project activities and stated that a draft biological opinion is expected by the end of May.

Mr. DeGabriele further informed the Board of the TAC meeting highlights and said that the TAC was asked by the WAC to put together a regional water conservation program target to reduce consumption on a voluntary basis but the TAC failed to reach a consensus. However, the TAC did recommend developing a top ten list of water conservation activities to voluntarily save water and develop a marketing strategy for the region.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

The Board received the following miscellaneous information: Letter from satisfied customer, Letter to Huffman Re AB 1260. The Board also received the following news articles: Suburban Habitat and NMWD Team Up for Garden Advice (5/9), Water Woes Return (5/6), Raising Coyote Dam Revisited (5/5), Water Board Fears Another Dry Year (5/4), The Eel River – A Tour Through a Critical System (2-parts) (5/3 & 5/4), The Sonoma County Water Agency's Top 10 Water Reduction Tips (5/3), Property Owners OK to Drill Wells in River (5/2).

### **ADJOURNMENT**

President Petterle adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by

Renee Roberts  
District Secretary