

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EDUCATION PROGRAM ADVISORY  
COMMISSION JOINT SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT  
BOULDER CREEK, CALIFORNIA**

**February 12, 2004**

The special meeting of the Board of Directors and Education Program Advisory Commission of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District was called to order by Dir. Ross on Thursday, February 12, 2004 in the District's Operations Building, 13057 Highway 9, Boulder Creek, California at 7:30 p.m.

CONVENE MEETING/ROLL CALL:

Roll call showed Dirs. Ross, Nelson, Prather, Rapoza, Vierra and Commissioners Bruce, Helbush, Millonas and Turner present. Commissioner Ziel arrived at 7:35 p.m. District Manager Mueller and District Secretary Stephens were also present.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Discussion Regarding Implementation of Educational Program

Dir Ross requested that all the Board members present their position on the Education Program.

Dir. Nelson stated that during the sale of the Waterman Gap property period there were feelings expressed to encourage education about the watershed. In addition, he felt that there were other groups doing good work which the Board was supportive of.

Dir. Prather agreed with Dir. Nelson's statement. Dir. Prather stated that the proceeds from the sale of the Waterman Gap property are invested and earning interest which can be used towards education on watershed issues such as restoration, health and vitality. Dir. Prather sees the Commission as an administrative arm to set up the Education Program, screen grant applications and make recommendations to the Board for funding. In addition, Dir. Prather stated that this item is budgeted annually.

Dir. Vierra also stated that during the sale of Waterman Gap property period, education was an important aspect. The Valley Woman's Club inspired the District to reach out to the public and encouraged the program.

Dir. Rapoza asked the Commission to refer to the District's Mission Statement. We need expertise in the community to achieve the Mission Statement. The money will go into schools and community organizations.

Dir. Ross stated that the turnover of Waterman Gap turned into an education endeavor. Based on Board discussions it was agreed to use some of the funds and enter into another venue. Dir. Ross felt that this is a seed starting and the limits are unset. Dir. Ross is looking forward to developing the program.

Commissioner Millonas is a biophysicist at Nasa and has experience in applying for grants and reviewing them. Mr. Millonas is also involved in judging Science Fairs. Mr. Millonas has an interest in the watershed and felt that if the program self organized, the Commission can steer the beast once the basic skeleton is developed.

Commissioner Ziel stated that she has been a resident of the valley for 33 years. Ms. Ziel stated that she is looking forward to getting more involved with the community. Ms. Ziel has worked at San Jose State University in the student affairs and outreach departments. In different capacities, she has served on committees dealing with student scholarships and has some limited experience with grants.

Commissioner Bruce stated that she works on the other side of hill lobbying on environmental issues. Her role includes environmental and sustainable water issues. Commissioner Bruce is knowledgeable in statewide water policy issues and has some experience in working with grants.

Commissioner Turner stated that she moved to the valley a year ago, works as a physical therapist and has a background in science.

Commissioner Helbush is a landscape architect and horticulturist. Mr. Helbush's job is to figure out how things work. In addition, he does a lot of restoration work. Mr. Helbush has some limited experience with public grants and is interested in seeing what people come up with for grants.

Dir. Ross explained the Mission Statement to the Commissioners and emphasized enhancement of the watershed and the environment.

Manger Mueller presented the Commissioners with the framework for the Committee and stated that nothing in the framework was cast in concrete.

Dir. Rapoza recommended that the Commission make a recommendation to the Board for the guidelines and framework of the Commission. In addition, Dir.

Rapoza recommended that the Commission select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Dir. Ross informed the Commissioners that the Education Program is very controversial and meetings may be noisy at times.

Manager Mueller went through some basic housekeeping and provided information to the Commissioners about the Ralph M. Brown Act. In addition, Manager Mueller recommended that the Commission establish meeting times, officers and timetables.

The Commissioner agreed that the preference for meetings would be Wednesday evenings @ 7:30 P.M.

Dir. Prather informed the Commission that the District has a responsibility to ratepayers to manager the watershed responsibly.

Dir. Rapoza stated that wise use of water is very important. The District recently created a rebate program for low flow toilets and high efficiency clothes washers.

Dir. Vierra stated that the goal is to increase the awareness. The projects do not have to be big.

Don Alley, Fishery Biologist offered his knowledge. Mr. Alley has been working on the Watershed Enhancement Plan with the county. John Ricker with the Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Department has a draft available.

Dir. Nelson stated that another issue is how we take care of the forest lands that protect our watershed.

Dir. Ross asked the Commissioners to be without political bias when reviewing the applications.

Bruce Oneto stated that the Board should send the Commissioners to the ecology center. It is a big inspiration.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

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Kelly Stephens  
District Secretary