



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER  
DISTRICT  
MINUTES  
July 15, 2021**

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Our Mission is to provide our customers and future generations with reliable, safe and high quality water at an equitable price; to create and maintain outstanding service and community relations; to manage and protect the environmental health of the aquifers and watersheds; and to ensure the fiscal vitality of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District.

**Thursday, July 15, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.,** via videoconference and teleconference.

**1. Convene Meeting/Roll Call**

Board Members Present:

Gail Mahood, President  
Lois Henry, Vice President  
Jayme Ackemann, Director  
Bob Fultz, Director  
Mark Smolley, Director

Staff Present:

Rick Rogers, District Manager  
Gina Nicholls, District Counsel  
Holly Hossack, District Secretary

**2. Additions and Deletions to Closed Session Agenda: None**

**3. Oral Communications Regarding Items in Closed Session: None**

**4. Adjournment to Closed Session**

a. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—EXISTING LITIGATION

**5. Convene to Open Session at 6:30 p.m.**

**6. Report of Actions Taken in Closed Session: None**

**7. Re-Convene Meeting/Roll Call:**

Board Members Present:

Gail Mahood, President  
Lois Henry, Vice President  
Jayme Ackemann, Director

Bob Fultz, Director  
Mark Smolley, Director

Staff Present:

Rick Rogers, District Manager  
Gina Nicholls, District Counsel  
Holly Hossack, District Secretary  
Stephanie Hill, Director of Finance and Business Services  
Josh Wolff, Engineering Manager  
James Furtado, Director of Operations

**8. Additions and Deletions: None**

**9. Oral Communications: None**

**10. Directors Reports**

G. Mahood announced that the Director of Finance and Business Services, Stephanie Hill, has resigned from her position effective July 28, 2021. She thanked S. Hill for her years of service to the District. She particularly thanked S. Hill for pushing through our first Biennial Budget and a much more efficient way to collect our delinquent accounts. We wish you all the best

G. Mahood continued that J. Mosher asked that staff prepare a summary for the rate payers of the major issues raised with the EIR that the City of Santa Cruz prepared in support of their water rights petitions. In response R. Rogers called a meeting with C. Blanchard, M. Podlech (fisheries biologist), M. Smolley, G. Mahood, and G. Nicholls. Based on the joint reading of the EIR they concluded that there was very little that bore directly on our water rights. We will write a comment on a handful of minor issues. We will not be producing a critique on the EIR because it would be a poor use of staff time.

L. Henry said that she has been on Boards for many years and has attended many meetings on how Board members should behave. She was very disturbed to hear B. Fultz on KSCO tell people why they should vote against the fire surcharge because she has always been told that as a Board member you can vote no if you don't like something but if the majority vote in favor it is unseemly to go out and fight against your own Board. To undermine what the majority decided should not be done. She is disappointed that Dir. Fultz did that today and it was wrong.

**11. New Business:**

a. DELINQUENT WATER CHARGES TO BE PLACED ON THE COUNTY PROPERTY TAX ROLL

S. Hill presented the final process to the Board.

J. Ackermann said she had no questions and wished S. Hill the best of luck.

B. Fultz also wished S. Hill luck. He said he is in favor of this process.

L. Henry said thank you, we'll miss you to S. Hill. She said that she knows this process works because she has used it in the past. The County "teeters" meaning, if the rate payer doesn't pay their taxes, we still get paid the County will be paid eventually.

M. Smolley questioned the time of service in months that the accounts have been outstanding.

S. Hill said that there are some accounts that go back a decade. We have no way of reaching them and they aren't using water, some are just accruing the basic fee every single month.

M. Smolley asked if we have used this process before and if so, what was the success rate.

S. Hill explained that this is the first time we have used this process. The first time will be the higher balances, future processes will be active accounts.

G. Mahood said that the Board has a recommendation from the staff that the Board adopt a resolution which approves a statement identifying that delinquent water charges should be submitted to the County of Santa Cruz for collection on the property tax roll and authorizes the District to enter into an indemnity agreement required by the County and to provide additional information required by the County.

J. Ackemann moved the motion.

M. Smolley seconded.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: MOTION PASSED**

AYES: G. Mahood, L. Henry, J. Ackemann, B. Fultz, M. Smolley  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None

**b. LOMPICO ASSESSMENT DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

M. LoBalbo, a member of the LADOC, introduced this item and asked if there are any questions.

B. Fultz questioned the service line connections.

Discussion by the Board and staff regarding the service line connections.

L. Henry was recognized as the LADOC liaison. She said that the Committee worked hard on the report and it was her pleasure to work with them. LADOC would like to complete the next report by the end of 2021.

M Smolley questioned the loan amount.

S. Hill explained that certain projects are listed to be paid through the loan. Each year we will be getting reimbursements from the Assessment District that will go toward paying down the loan.

Discussion by the Board and staff regarding the Assessment District loan.

M. Smolley noted that the date on the cover was incorrect.

B. Fultz suggested that the logo be change on the cover of the report.

M. LoBalbo said that she will change the dates and the logo.

G. Mahood made a motion to accept the 2020 Lompico Assessment District Annual Report.

B. Fultz seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: MOTION PASSED**

AYES: G. Mahood, L. Henry, J. Ackemann, B. Fultz, M. Smolley

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

**c. CA HIGHWAY 9 BRIDGES PROJECT**

J. Wolff introduced this item.

M. Smolley agreed with J. Wolff's assessment of the bids.

B. Fultz questioned how we manage bidders. He suggested that in the future bidders receive additional information on how to submit proposals to us to remain competitive. (revised minutes-recording 26:49)

L. Henry said that she has faith in MME.

J Ackemann questioned the relocation of the mains and asked who pays for it.

Discussion by the Board and staff regarding the CalTrans requirements in this project.

G. Mahood stated the recommendation from staff that the Board direct the District Manager to enter into a contract with MME Civil + Structural Engineering for design of a water main relocation plans for bridges of the San Lorenzo River in the the amount of \$152,568 dated July 6, 2021.

M. Smolley made the motion.

B. Fultz seconded.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: MOTION PASSED**

AYES: G. Mahood, L. Henry, J. Ackemann, B. Fultz, M. Smolley

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

d. SYSTEM WIDE WATER LINE LEAK DETECTION PROJECT FINAL REPORT

J. Furtado introduced this item. He asked if there are any questions.

Discussion by the Board and staff regarding when the leaks started, the number of miles checked for leaks, and water loss.

B. Fultz said that he would like to see this done every year.

L. Ford made a public comment questioning the lessons that are learned from this report.

J. Furtado responded that the Water Master Plan and the model have allowed the District to identify problematic areas to replace pipe.

G. Mahood said that we have a recommendation to accept the District's System Wide Water Line Leak Detection Project Final Report.

M. Smolley made the motion.

J. Ackemann seconded.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: MOTION PASSED**

AYES: G. Mahood, L. Henry, J. Ackemann, B. Fultz, M. Smolley

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

12. **Consent Agenda:** Approved

a. BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES 6.17.21

b. SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES 6.28.21

13. **District Reports:**

- **DEPARTMENT STATUS REPORTS**

Receipt and consideration by the Board of Department Status Reports regarding ongoing projects and other activities.

- Engineering

- Environmental
- Finance & Business
- Legal
- COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - Future Committee Agenda Items
  - Committee Meeting Notes/Minutes
    - LADOC Special Minutes 6.9.21
    - LADOC Special Minutes 6.14.21
    - Engineering Committee Minutes 6.15.21
    - B & F Committee Minutes 6.16.21
    - SMGWA Board of Directors Summary May/June 2021

J. Ackemann took this opportunity to acknowledge all of the efforts that the District has been putting into public messaging around conservation.

B. Fultz made another comment on past due balances, a report the S. Hill put together, he said it is looking very stable.

**16. Adjournment:** 7:30 p.m.