



BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER
DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
DECEMBER 7, 2023

Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., SLVWD Conference Room, 12788 Highway 9, Boulder Creek, CA, and via videoconference and teleconference.

1. **Convene Meeting:** 6:30 p.m.
Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Mark Smolley, President
Jeff Hill, Vice President
Jayme Ackemann, Director
Bob Fultz, Director
Gail Mahood, Director

Staff Present:

Brian Frus, Interim General Manager
Barbara Brenner, District Counsel*
Holly Hossack, District Secretary
Carly Blanchard, Environmental Programs Manager/Admin Analyst

*attended remotely

3. **Oral Communications:** taken out of order

E. Martin, Boulder Creek, addressed the Board.

A moment of silence was held in honor of those lost at Pearl Harbor on this day in 1941.

President Smolley welcomed the new Interim General Manager, Brian Frus.

2. **Changes to the Agenda:** taken out of order

Staff had no changes.

President Smolley said that public comment will be limited to 2 minutes due to the large number of attendees.

4. **Unfinished Business:**

- a. 2023 RATE STUDY

B. Frus introduced and explained this item.

The District Secretary made the President aware that CTV was having technical difficulties and the public was unable to view the slides from the presentation. (Presentation slides are attached to the minutes.)

Discussion by the Board regarding:

- Realistic average water usage
- Bulk of the increase burden is on the big users
- Distribution of meters per unit information
- Price elasticity
- Show what bills will look like going forward
- Volumetric rates for industrial/schools
- Peaking rates
- Intertie agreements

The following members of the public addressed the Board:

J. Bahn - Felton, B. Holloway - Boulder Creek, unidentified man, E. Bert - Felton, E. Martin - Boulder Creek, unidentified man, A. Layng - Boulder Creek, Sharscomputer, M. Strudley - Boulder Creek, A. Zilber, and L. Palmer - Boulder Creek

A motion was made and seconded that the Board accept the rate study prepared by Raftelis and direct staff to prepare and mail, as required by law, a notice of public hearing on the proposed water and wastewater rates, with a public hearing to be held on February 15, 2024.

Discussion by the Board regarding:

- Costs
- Prop 218 process
- The District's costs go up also
- "This Board"
- Specific examples and alternatives from Dir. Fultz

The motion passed 4 to 1, Dir. Fultz voted no.

b. PUBLIC OUTREACH

C. Blanchard introduced and explained this item.

Discussion by the Board regarding:

- Community/public meeting an opportunity to learn in a more casual atmosphere
- Big Basin Water and Rate Assistance should not be part of this process
- Admin Committee to move ahead with public outreach
- Send comments to staff by 12/12/23
- 45-day timing
- Mailing appearance
- Communication of the information
- Water Rate Schedule - confirm numbers and dates

A motion was made and seconded for the Board to accept this memo and direct both staff and the administrative committee to collectively complete and carry out the remaining tasks associated with the with Proposition 218 public outreach process.

The following members of the public addressed the Board:

J. Bahn - Felton, E. Martin - Boulder Creek, A. Layng - Boulder Creek, S. Wilbur - Boulder Creek, and C. Dzendzel

The motion passed 4 to 1, Director Fultz voted no.

5. New Business:

a. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR 2024

H. Hossack introduced and explained this item.

Discussion by the Board regarding:

- Except all applicants
- S. Herrick would be welcomed to B & F Committee if interested
- Continue solicitation of volunteer committee members
- What is the process for reaching out to current committee members?
- New names on list of committee members

A motion was made and seconded for the Board to appoint Mark Dolson to the Admin Committee, Jim Bahn to the Budget & Finance Committee, and Ken Lande, Jeff Smelter, and Skye Herrick to the Engineering & Environmental Committee.

A. Layng addressed the Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

B. Frus introduced and explained this item.

A nomination was made and seconded for Jeff Hill for President of the Board for 2024. The nomination passed unanimously.

A nomination was made and seconded for Jayme Ackemann for Vice President of the Board for 2024.

The nomination passed unanimously.

c. CANCELATION OF THE DECEMBER 21, 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

J. Hill introduced this item.

A motion was made and seconded to cancel the December 21, 2023 BoD meeting.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Consent Agenda:**

- a. **DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION PREVENTION POLICY 2024**
G. Mahood requested that this item be pulled from the item. The Policy needs to be reviewed, rewritten and returned to the Board at a later date.

Discussion by the Board regarding:

- Harmonize documents
- Authoritarian suppression by the Board
- Timeframe

A. Layng, Boulder Creek, addressed the Board.

7. **District Reports:**

- **DEPARTMENT STATUS REPORTS**
 - Budget & Finance

B. Holloway, Boulder Creek, addressed the Board.

8. **Written Communication:**

- Letter to Board from D. Loewen 11.29.23
- Letter to Board from Friends of SLV Water 11.30.23

9. **Informational Material:**

- Leak Detection Report

10. **Adjournment:** 8:51 p.m.

Minutes approved: Jan. 18, 2024

Holly B. Hossack
Holly B. Hossack, District Secretary