



**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SAN LORENZO VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES
October 21, 2020**

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.

Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Convene Meeting 6:30 pm

Roll Call: Pres. Swan, Vice Pres. Henry, Dir. Fultz, Dir. Farris and Dir. Moran were all present.

Staff: G. Nicholls-Dist. Counsel, R. Rogers-Dist. Manger,

2. New Business:

a. LANDSLIDE AND DEBRIS FLOW HAZARD CONDITIONS

Discussion and possible action by the Board regarding landslide and debris flow hazard conditions now threatening the San Lorenzo Valley, caused by the recent CZU Lightning Complex Wildfire.

R. Rogers introduced this item and read from the memo.

S. Swan questioned the status of the Watershed Task Force reaching out to the District.

R. Rogers said that the meeting was facilitated through the County with Supervisor McPherson's office taking the lead. Another meeting is scheduled for October 27th.

B. Fultz questioned what would be the appropriate actions to be taken by the residents and business owners of Boulder Creek in regard to the proximity to dangerous conditions.

R. Rogers said that he can't answer that at this time. The County is working on evacuation mapping.

Discussion by the Board and staff regarding appropriate actions to be taken.

L. Henry questioned the availability of a geologist to work with us.

R. Rogers said that is a possibility.

L. Henry asked if we are getting cooperation from the County.

R. Rogers responded that we are receiving a lot of cooperation with the County to determine if a project is needed and to develop a project.

L. Henry said this is sounding very scary for our community.

R. Rogers said that a lot more information will be coming from the County.

R. Moran thanked the Dist. Manager for being proactive. He was concerned about safety when we try to control nature. He thinks that information getting out to the public regarding safety is the most important facet of the program.

R. Rogers said that the County is focused on early warning for the community.

R. Moran said that rain up here in the mountains is unpredictable and he's happy to see that the County is aware of the possibilities.

S. Swan questioned if the County has developed a plan for public awareness.

R. Rogers said that the County is working on it. He added that he cannot answer technical questions but the meeting is being recorded and we will try to get answers to all questions.

B. Fultz questioned if we can have another meeting on this topic next week.

R. Rogers said that we can do that and Supervisor McPherson is also planning to address this information in a public meeting.

G. Mahood she said that she does not agree with the District/County trying to try to manipulate nature. The early warning is a better plan. Do not take responsibility for an act of God.

L. Ford said he'd like to hear discussion regarding the District protecting its own infrastructure. Our first concern should be to deliver safe water to our rate payers.

G. Nicholls requested that the public address and not use the Chat feature on the Zoom meeting.

E. J. Armstrong said that he appreciates the District. Find somebody to be the point person in this and concentrate on the water district.

B. Thomas questioned whether or not the Fire Dept. and School District are involved.

R. Rogers said that he doesn't know about the School Dist. but the Fire Departments are very involved.

B. Thomas said that she thinks we cannot solely look at the liability.

S. Swan asked if there are plans specifically addressing the District infrastructure.

R. Rogers said that yes, the District is working on diversion control and hardening our structures.

L. Farris questioned if there is an early warning system in place to give us time to evacuate.

R. Rogers said the County is working with USGS to install rain gauges throughout the District.

L. Farris said we should also monitor earth movement.

B. Fultz said safety and property protection is important to Government agencies. Liability is an issue if nothing is done, also.

L. Henry said that there are no easy answers here. This is an act of God we are talking about. What can be done to stop someone from suing the District?

S. Swan we are asking legal questions and we have a legal scholar on the phone.

G. Nicholls hesitates to comment. The key is what can the District do?

S. Swan have you encountered similar situations?

G. Nicholls said that she can try to research that. She believes that the District is doing the best she can with the situation by working with other agencies.

R. Moran said that he thinks that early warning is hard. Debris flows, in his experience, are quick. He thinks an aggressive education program, keeping people informed will be doing something. He lived through a debris flow when he was a child. Make sure that people are safe.

B. Fultz agreed with Dir. Moran. The difference is that we have been informed that there will be a debris flow. The District, the County, and the State need to step up to protect life and property.

L. Farris said soil saturation leads to mudflow. How can we monitor soil saturation?

G. Mahood responded to questions regarding monitoring devices for early warning. The best thing to do is evacuate.

M. Smolley made a comment as a geologist. He said he would identify the areas that are likely to have debris flows, educate the public, and have them prepared to evacuate. K-rail will only work with a very limited debris flow. Educate the public, prepare to evacuate for this season. In the longer term, the District should be looking at other measures.

B. Fultz questioned what should we be educating the public about.

L. Farris made a recommendation that the Engineering Committee schedule a meeting.

Discussion by the Board and staff regarding the Engineering Committee Special meeting.

B. Fultz said that we shouldn't minimize the potential of losing a home.

Discussion by the Board and staff regarding a recommendation by the Board and other agencies.

J. Sherman said that she is on the call tonight to find out about what is happening in individual neighborhoods. Where are the dangers?

J. Furtado said that the County has a map of debris flow potential. Our focus is on our watershed.

G. Mahood said if you look at the WERT report in the agenda you can find your neighborhood.

R. Rogers said that we will be setting up another meeting to keep the Board informed.

3. Adjournment 8:04 pm

Here is a link to the recording of the meeting:

<http://communitytv.org/watch/government-demand/>