

Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency



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A Public Agency

www.bdvwa.org

Finance/Public Relations/Education and Personnel Committee Regular Meeting Report

Board Meeting Office
1720 N. Cherokee Trail, Landers, CA 92285
Wednesday, March 15, 2017 - 9:00 a.m.

Committee Members: Michael McBride & Larry Coulombe

Call to Order

Director McBride called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by John Burkhart

Roll Call

Directors: Michael McBride
J. Larry Coulombe

Staff: Marina West
Michelle Corbin

Approval of the Agenda

Director McBride and Director Coulombe approved the agenda as presented.

Mid-Year Budget Review

General Manager West presented the mid-year budget. West reminded the Committee the Agency is at fifty-eight percent (58%) of the fiscal year timeline.

West reviewed new meter sales and discussed how the meter "basic facilities" charge is applied to Agency spending. West also discussed the increase in water sales this fiscal year. West believes the rise in water sales is due to the replacement of old meters within the Goat Mountain Territory. West further explained, how water loss and unaccounted for, has been greatly reduced within the entire Agency because of the service line replacement program.

West reported the Agency is receiving interest, in the form of a credit, through Pacific Western Bank. The Agency is now using these earnings to pay for banking fees, bill processing costs and in-house copies.

The Committee reviewed the Improvement District-Goat Mountain Standby and Water Availability Charge which then led to pending questions about Standby and Water Availability Charges within the Bighorn and Desert View territories.

West detailed the history of the standby charge which was reduced to zero (\$0.00) per acre with the passing of Measures Q S and T in 1998. A subsequent vote in 2003 repealed the measures; however Board Meeting Agendas from 1999 through 2006 do not show a line item discussing the issue. West reviewed the obstacles preventing the reinstatement of the charge. Lastly, West said that after much research and several talks with the Agency Attorney, Dave Wysocki, it appears the Agency would be required to adhere to the Proposition 218 process if it wishes to once again bill the Standby and Availability Charge to the Bighorn and Desert View land owners. West is planning to bring this information to the full Board April 25, 2017.

Administrative expense items reviewed included CalPers contributions, auditor costs, uncollected lien write-offs and employee education.

Lastly, the Committee discussed future energy costs and Director expense.

Public comment: Anonymous commented on the 1998 Measures Q S and T.

Adjourned for a Break at 10:20 a.m. - Reconvened from Break at 10:30 a.m.

Review FY 2016/2017 Capital Projects

General Manager West reviewed the capital projects identified for the fiscal year 2016-2017. At the top of the priority list is the replacement of meters and service lines within the Goat Mountain Territory.

Most recently staff replaced a section of steel mainline and several service lines within the Bighorn and Desert View territories. Pending projects include mainline replacement near Cherokee Road, Cla-Val replacement and eye wash stations at sites where chlorine is mixed.

The Agency is still working on the integration of the Goat Mountain and Bighorn-Desert View Systems.

Public comment: Anonymous asked if the Agency has received any inquiries from Johnson Valley residents requesting a pressurized system.

Waterline/Water Meter Easement Encroachment by Private Owners

General Manager West gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on waterline and meter easement encroachment. Generally the problem begins when a property owner is not adhering to property easement setbacks and/or road easements.

Agency Rules and Regulations address the issue. West explained the Agency will first mail a letter to the customer explaining the Agency's right to access all water infrastructure including meter boxes, followed up with a copy of the Agency Rules and Regulations as it pertains to access.

West brought the issue to the Committee because what was normally an issue every few years has increased to the point that the Agency may need to take the matter up in civil court.

No public comment.

Consent Items

- a. Special FPREP Meeting Report, January 17, 2017

Public comment:

Director McBride and Director Coulombe approved the report.

Public Comment Period

No public comment.

Verbal Reports

Committee Member Comments/Reports – No reports.

General Manager Report

General Manager West announced the upcoming Desert Wise Landscape Tour scheduled for April 22-23, 2017.

Adjournment - Director McBride adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.