



BIGHORN-DESERT VIEW WATER AGENCY

Our Mission - "To provide a high quality supply of water and reliable service to all customers at a fair and reasonable rate."

Planning/Legislative/Engineering & Grant Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Committee Members: President Burkhart & Director Close-Dees

BOARD MEETING OFFICE
1720 N. CHEROKEE TR.
LANDERS, CALIFORNIA 92285



Note New Meeting Time

February 21, 2023
Time – 9:30 A.M.

PUBLIC AND BOARD WISHING TO PARTICIPATE REMOTELY

****TELECONFERENCE LINE THRU ZOOM 669-900-6833****

OR

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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Passcode: 905089

Or Dial:

1-669-900-6833

Webinar ID: 829 2902 6602

Passcode: 905089

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burkhart called the meeting to order at 9:37 am.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by David Chapman.

ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Chair Burkhart
Director Close-Dees

Staff Present: Marina West

Public Present: 0 member(s) of the public indicated they were participating via teleconference. 0 members of the public were present in the meeting room. Director Chapman attended as an observer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee approved the Agenda as presented.

Discussion and Action Items -

1. Status Update Goat Mountain Replacement Well, Destruction of GM Well 2

GM West reported that the Board had approved the public works contract PWC22-001 on February 14, 2023 and the Notice of Award is being prepared for review and execution by the contractor and she noted upon further review that the contract was current with their Statement of Information to the CA Secretary of State and the error was on the state side.

The Contractor, upon acceptance of the Agency's Notice of Award, will be required to submit all the necessary documents pertaining to the Contract execution such as insurance and bonds. Once legal counsel reviews and approves execution of a Contract Agreement with Abundant Water Wells, Inc. then a Notice to Proceed will be issued. The project schedule would be submitted thereafter.

She reminded the Committee of the price increases experienced since the application of 2019. GM West discussed a "Letter of Justification" (provided in the Agenda Packet) submitted to the "Grantor" which is the Department of Water Resources (DWR) through our partners at the Mojave Water Agency and its Small Water Systems program. Following submission of our letter, a meeting with the DWR representative was held on February 16, 2023. While the DWR indicated it was open to a change in scope which would remove the requirement to destroy the old Goat Mtn. Well No. 2 and to provide a time extension while still maintaining the primary objective of completing a production well. They indicated that no additional funds would be provided through this grant. The Agency would be allowed to use other grant funds as a match to the \$500,000 to meet the overall project objective.

Staff will continue to evaluate other funding sources. Staff will keep the Committee apprised of the project costs but reminded them that, the Agency Board took action on February 14, 2023 knowing the Agency may have to fund costs beyond the \$500,000 grant award.

GM West answered questions of the Committee.

2. Status Update Water Meter Replacement Program (Drought Grant)

GM West reported on the progress since the last PLEGs meeting. The Agency provided the Engineer, Provost & Pritchard, the site specific inventories to develop more accurate cost projections for this project. As suspected, costs had increased significantly due to inflation, lead times and labor components.

The project specific Categorical Exemption was authorized by the Board of Directors on February 14, 2023 in accordance with the CA Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Regarding the cost overruns, staff sent a "Letter of Justification" (provided in the Agenda Packet) to the "Grantor" which is the DWR Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DACI) Group through our partners at the Mojave Water Agency and its Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. The Letter outlines a new strategy to complete the meter replacements using in-house staff in lieu of contracted labor. No additional funds will be sought but a time extension would be necessary. Staff is awaiting a response from DWR which could take several months.

GM West answered questions of the Committee.

3. Status Report Potable Water Systems Improvements Consolidation of Water Systems

GM West summarized the status with a PowerPoint presentation stating that the Board of Directors' authorized the execution of the funding Agreement No. D2102065/Project No. 3610009C in the amount of \$11,000,000. Next the Agency submits a Legal Opinion Letter, drafted by General Counsel Kennedy, followed by final execution by the State Water Resources Control Board.

The next steps are to proceed on two tracks: Phase 1 implementation and Phase 2 and 3 property acquisition and final design.

To proceed with Phase 1, staff will solicit proposals for materials to install the A-Booster Station upgrade. The Goat Mountain replacement well project (item 1 herein) will be known at Well No. 13. Phase 1 of this grant includes an enclosure for Well No. 13. This would be pursued once the well construction activities are completed.

For Phases 2 and 3 staff will solicit proposals for acquisition of easements necessary for the pipeline portions (approved at the February 14, 2023 Regular meeting). There are approximately 40 private easements, 2 Cal Trans under crossings and the Federal lands crossing the Pipes Wash. An additional proposal will be solicited from engineers for the final design of the pipelines, a pump station and several pressure reducing stations.

GM West answered questions from the Committee.

4. Review Status of All Grants Awarded to Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency

GM West reviewed the Table included in Item 4 which was revised and reposted on Monday, February 20, 2023. GM West explained that the "grant status" report is still being developed for regular inclusion in all agenda packets. As recommended by the Finance Committee (FPREP) the intent is to share this positive news with the community on a more regular basis. GM West sought feedback from the Committee on the current format of the status report.

GM West answered questions from the Committee.

5. Consent Items –

- a. PLEGS Committee Special Meeting Minutes, **December 20, 2022.**

Recommended Action:

Approve as presented (Item a):

Committee approved the Consent Item(s) as presented.

6. Public Comment Period

None.

7. Verbal Reports - Including Reports on Courses/Conferences/Meetings

1. Committee Members' Comments/Reports – None.
2. General Manager's Report – GM West reported that employment offers have been made to two applicants for Water Distribution positions. GM West anticipates no increase to the overall budget but this transfer's one open position from Administration to Operations for the short-term. This will allow sufficient resources at this time to execute on the meter replacement program and the service line material inventory (unfunded mandate due by October 2024). She concluded by noting that both applicants live locally.

8. Adjournment

Chairman Burkhart adjourned the meeting at 11:12 am.

Approved by:



John Burkhart, Committee Chair



Official Seal