



REGULAR MINUTES
August 21, 2024
ACTION MINUTES

General Manager Bingham reported for the record Eric Rewitzer submitted a letter of resignation from his position as Director and Chairman effective immediately.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Raymond at 6:00 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL: Via Phone**

Director Karla Christensen
Director John Chapman
Director Anita Ebbinghausen
Director Roscoe Raymond

Candi Bingham, General Manager -Via Phone
Leslie Garrett, Office Manager
Gisele Wurzbarger, Board Clerk – Via Phone

ABSENT: None

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Vice-Chairman Raymond led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **AGENDA:**

General Manager Bingham requested the following items be placed on the Agenda.

- a. Appoint new Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
- b. Managerial Consolidation with Amador Water Agency.

Motion by Board Member Christensen, seconded by Board Member Ebbinghausen and carried by a 4 to 0 vote to approve the Regular Agenda dated August 21, 2024, as amended.

AYES: Chapman, Christensen, Ebbinghausen, Raymond
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

4a. **Appoint new Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Discussion/Action**

Motion by Board Member Ebbinghausen, seconded by Board Member Chapman and carried by a 4 to 0 vote to approve the Appoint Board Member Raymond as Chairman and Board Member Christensen as Vice-Chairman.

AYES: Chapman, Christensen, Ebbinghausen, Raymond
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

5. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

None.

6. MINUTES: Discussion / Approval.

a. July 17, 2024, Regular Meeting.

Motion by Board Member Chapman, seconded by Chairman Raymond and carried by a 4 to 0 vote to approve the Minutes dated July 17, 2024, as presented. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Chapman, Christensen, Ebbinghausen, Raymond
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

7. CONSENT ITEMS:

a. Monthly Financial Statements and Bank Accounts - Period Ending July 31, 2024.

Chairman Raymond opened the public discussion. Hearing no comments from the public, Chairman Raymond closed the public discussion.

b. Expenditure Report - Submitted Check Approval through July 31, 2024.

Chairman Raymond opened the public discussion. Hearing no comments from the public, Chairman Raymond closed the public discussion.

Motion by Chairman Raymond, seconded by Vice-Chairman Christensen and carried by a 4 to 0 vote to approve the Monthly Financial Statements and Expenditure Report – Period Ending May 31, 2024 and June 30, 2024. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Chapman, Christensen, Ebbinghausen, Raymond
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

8. MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT: Discussion. Any matter requiring action will be placed on an upcoming agenda for consideration.

a. Monthly Operations Report.

July 1, thru July 31, 2024 Water Production/Sold Information:

Well 2 - 465,190 gallons Total Produced - 1,788,190 gallons

Well 3R – 536,100 gallons Total Sold – 964,719 gallons

Well 6R 786,900 gallons Unaccounted Loss - 46%

Staff Hours: Water 71.50 hours

July 1 thru July 31, 2024 Wastewater Production:

Influent flow: 976,300 gallons Effluent Discharged: 850,600 gallons

Staff Hours: Wastewater 27.50 hours

b. Monthly General Manager Report – Period Ending July 2024.

The Monthly General Manager Report included updates from the General Manager. The following items were discussed - see report for complete details.

1. Distribution Reimbursement
2. Fern Ongoing Leak/Investigation Update

9. BOARD MATTERS: Discussion/Action.

a. **Distribution Project Update.** Discussion/Action.

General Manager Bingham reported the District only received 2 bids for the project. The District's funding award is 7.5 million.

1. Mozingo Construction in the amount of \$14,932,400
2. McGuire & Hester in the amount of \$19,608,974

These bids were forwarded to the State. Our project manager spoke with his supervisor and reported the State will not increase our awarded funds by those amounts. Our District for funding is a level 7, which does not qualify for additional funding in those amounts. The State is only funding districts with levels of 1 – 3 which are districts that have dangerous water levels and/or contamination. Fortunately/unfortunately our district has never received any such testing.

The State is willing to accept and fund a reduced scope project. KASL engineering, Amador Water Agency and General Manager Bingham have been working together to put together a new scope to submit to the State. The new scope would include Circle Tank, new distribution lines, new meters and possibly some fire hydrants. She also noted they will be negotiating cost breakdown with the selected Contractor.

General Manager Bingham requested Board's approval on this new scope and noted it will be presented at the next Board Meeting for consideration.

Chairman Raymond opened the public discussion. Hearing no comments from the public, Chairman Raymond closed the public discussion.

Motion by Chairman Raymond, seconded by Board Member Ebbinghausen and carried by a 4 to 0 vote to approve Staff to move forward with the Distribution Project New Scope Reduction Proposal.

AYES: Chapman, Christensen, Ebbinghausen, Raymond

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

b. **Budget 2024/2025 Suggested Revisions.** Discussion/Action.

General Manager Bingham provided the revised Profit & Loss Budget Overview July 2024 through June 2025. She reported 20 percent was added per the Board's request. She stated the bottom line for the Budget for Sewer and Water were both negative figures.

Chairman Raymond stated once the Distribution repairs are made the figures should improve.

Chairman Raymond opened the public discussion. Hearing no comments from the public, Chairman Raymond closed the public discussion.

Motion by Chairman Raymond, seconded by Board Member Ebbinghausen and carried by a 4 to 0 vote to approve Budget 2024/2025 with a condition that the Distribution Project repairs will improve the Budget figures in the near future.

AYES: Chapman, Christensen, Ebbinghausen, Raymond
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Vice-Chairman Christensen inquired if the Annual Audit had been scheduled. General Manager Bingham stated it should be done by October.

c. Rate Increase/Proposition 218 Procedure. Discussion/Action.

General Manager Bingham provided a five-year rate increase plan. She stated the District cannot continue to operate with the current rates versus current and increasing expenses. Ten years ago the District had a rate study conducted and the rates are approximately \$10 behind what they should have been. There has been only one successful rate increase in the last 15 years.

- Yearly loss per the current proposed Budget for the first-year rate increase, then added 10% yearly for each year after.
- Yearly loss divided by 12 months to get the monthly shortfall divided by 215 water customers. This provides the amount each customer needs to pay to cover the District's first year shortfall as proposed in the 2024-2025 Budget.
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- For the base rate – added 10% for each consecutive year's rate increase.
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- For the first tier – added \$1 for each year's rate increase (most customers fall with the first and second tier).

Also provided was a detail breakdown of the proposed Water Rates and Water Usage Rates for the 5 years rate increase plan. In order to meet a January 1, 2025 Rate Increase the District needs to start the Proposition 218 process.

Chairman Raymond opened the public discussion. Hearing no comments from the public, Chairman Raymond closed the public discussion.

After considerable discussion the following motion was made:

Motion by Board Member Ebbinghausen, seconded by Chairman Raymond, and carried by a 4 to 0 vote to start the Proposition 218 Process for the Proposed Water Rate Increase with an effective date of January 1, 2025. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Chapman, Christensen, Ebbinghausen, Raymond
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

d. Managerial Consolidation with AWA. Discussion/Action.

General Manager Bingham reported she received notice from Larry McKenney about a letter being sent to Brian Kidwell, Water Resource – SAFER Northern Engagement Unit regarding Technical Assistance for Potential Managerial Consolidation of River Pines Public Utility District into Amador Water Agency.

General Manager Bingham stated Briain Kidwell is requesting a letter from the District approving Amador Water Agency's request for Technical Assistance for Potential Managerial Consolidation of River Pines Public Utility District into Amador Water Agency. General Manager Bingham stated she would provide the Water Resource – SAFER Northern Engagement Unit link on the District's website.

Consolidation is the joining of two or more water systems, which commonly includes a smaller system being absorbed into a larger water system. When a physical consolidation occurs, one water system is dissolved, and its customers are provided service by another existing water system.

If the Board doesn't approve this consolidation with Amador Water Agency, Amador Water Agency could stop their current services and the District would have to hire Wastewater and Water Operators level 4/5.

General Manager Bingham stated the District can negotiate all District properties and what ownership could be transfer to the RPRA. Chairman Raymond stated he would assist the RPRA in determining what needs to be done. Board Member Ebbinghausen requested a list of all District properties. General Manager Bingham stated she would provide the list.

Chairman Raymond opened the public discussion. Hearing no comments from the public, Chairman Raymond closed the public discussion.

After considerable discussion the following motion was made:

Motion by Board Member Ebbinghausen, seconded by Board Member Chapman, and carried by a 3 to 1 vote to approve General Manager Bingham drafting the letter to Brian Kidwell, Water Resource – SAFER Northern Engagement Unit approving Technical Assistance for Potential Managerial Consolidation of River Pines Public Utility District into Amador Water Agency. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Chapman, Ebbinghausen, Raymond
NOES: Christensen
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

10. BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS/REPORTS: Discussion Only.

- a. Capital Improvements and general repairs necessary at the District. Continued Item.
None.

11. COMMITTEE COMMENTS/REPORTS: Continued Item.

- a. Water Rights Committee. Discussion/Possible Action.
Vice-Chairman Raymond reported the dam was taken down. He is currently trying to fix some of the boards. General Manager Bingham stated she would prepare the report to the State that the dam has been taken down August 3, 2024.

12. FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS:

1. Distribution Project Update. Discussion/Action
2. Proposition 218 Procedure. Discussion/Action

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m. to the scheduled meeting on September 18, 2024.