

HILMAR COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
August 6, 2024

Members Present – Jim Jones, David Anderson, Jim Gerdes, and Tony Salvador

Members Absent – Frank Hilliard.

Public in Attendance – Mrs. Crystal Casey (arrived @ 5:36 p.m.)

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Action Items

A motion to approve the Consent Items was made by Jim Gerdes and seconded by Tony Salvador. Motion passed 4-0.

A motion to approve Bills Payable: August 2024 was made by Tony Salvador and seconded by David Anderson. Motion passed 4-0.

A motion to approve the continuation of the emergency order the Board approved at the July 31, 2023, Board meeting, based on the conditions continue as per Resolution 565, was made by David Anderson and seconded by Jim Gerdes. Motion passed 4-0.

A motion to approve the Conditional Can and Will Serve Letter for Richard Ellington Subdivision (Richard and Juanita Ellington) was made by Jim Gerdes and seconded by Tony Salvador. Motion passed 4-0.

A motion to adopt Resolution 577: A Resolution Amending and Restating the District’s Conflict of Interest Code for Designated Employees, Which Incorporates by Reference the Fair Political Practices Commission’s Standard Model Conflict of Interest Code and Designating Employees Who Must Disclose and Categories of Disclosure was made by Jim Gerdes and seconded by David Anderson. Motion passed 4-0.

Meeting – 08/06/24
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The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Jim Jones.

Consent Items – A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Items.

Public Forum – None at the time this item was presented.

District Manager’s Report –

Curtis Jorritsma reported that the water loss for the month of July was 9.80%. Water consumption was 35.441 MG. He also reported the TSS average for July was 31.1mg/L and BOD was 34.21mg/L. The levels are back to normal. Total flow at the WWTF was 11.893 MG.

Curtis informed the Board he will be attempting to join the September meeting virtually as he will be on vacation.

Curtis provided an update on the Nitrate exceedance. We continue to send notices with our monthly billing statements. He continues to keep the Department of Drinking Water updated with the current results. Not much response from them. Things remain the same for the most part. Curtis reported he is looking at the various options to redevelop the well or perform zone sampling. What will be more cost effective. Mr. Spencer Supinger, the district engineer, stated that zone sampling might be a better option in the long term, it may reduce the production by a bit.

Curtis informed the Board the sale agreement for the location of the pilot hole/new well is nearing completion. The well drilling company will be pouring the seal and finishing the hole this week. We will be receiving a change order in the amount of \$14,350.00 for the concrete seal. The construction plans for Well #8 are roughly 60% complete. The project will go out to bid in late September or early October.

Curtis provided a financing update from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and USDA. Overall, it's good news. DW states that since we are a small, disadvantaged community, project costs could be 100% covered. USDA may be able to provide one to two million dollars in grant funding. The current interest rate on a loan with USDA is 3.25%. Curtis is working on figuring out a current strategy and the timing of the different opportunities.

Curtis reported he will be attending the CSDA Annual Conference on September 9th to the 12th. He also reported the auditors will be at the District next week on Monday and Tuesday to perform our annual audit.

At this time, we went back to Public Forum - Mrs. Crystal Casey stated that she feels there's a disconnect between the MAC committee and Merced County and the District regarding new development. Curtis stated that the District's role in development is if we have system capacity available when it comes time to build, the District will then issue a can and will serve letter. If we don't have the capacity, we are not able to issue a can and will serve letter. We are not an approving body for subdivisions. None of the current developers who have a conditional can and will serve notice are within our District boundaries.

Director Reports – Mr. David Anderson shared some history with the Board regarding a purchase order book he had from 1953 from Hilmar Waterworks. He provided the book to Dina so she may implement a manual purchase order system 😊.

Action Items –

- A) The bills that are due to be paid in August were presented. A motion was made and seconded to pay the bills presented.
- B) Curtis stated the Board approved Resolution 565 – Finding an Emergency and Authorizing Abbreviated Emergency Procedures for Construction of a New Well on July 31, 2023. As part of this process, the Board needs to analyze the situation and determine if the situation still constitutes an emergency. After a brief discussion, the Board determined the conditions warrant to continue with an emergency order. A motion was made and seconded to continue with the emergency order.

- C) The Conditional Can and Will Serve Letter for Richard Ellington Subdivision (Richard and Juanita Ellington) was presented to the Board. Staff recommended approval of the Conditional Can and Will Serve Letter. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Conditional Can and Will Serve Letter.
- D) Resolution No. 577, a Resolution Amending and Restating the District's Conflict of Interest Code for Designated Employees, Which Incorporates by Reference the Fair Political Practices Commission's Standard Model Conflict of Interest Code and Designating Employees Who Must Disclose and Categories of Disclosure was presented to the Board. District counsel reviewed the conflict of interest code and found there have been a few minor changes made to the standard model conflict of interest code by the political practices commission, and therefore, it is appropriate to amend the District code to conform with said changes. A motion was made and seconded to adopt resolution no. 577.

Discussion Items –

- A) Curtis reminded the Board that the election candidate filing period ends August 9th. He reported that our two incumbents have signed up.
- B) Curtis stated that at the last meeting the subject of water restrictions was mentioned, and legal counsel researched the current State specifications. Currently there are no Water Conservation Emergency Regulations in place. On July 3, 2024, the SWRCB adopted permanent regulations for cities and "urban water suppliers." HCWD is not an urban water supplier. The District has the ability to enact what level we see fit based on our water situation. After a brief discussion, it was determined that the current water restrictions will remain as is.

Closed Session –

The Director's convened to Closed Session at 6:20 p.m. to discuss Public Employee Performance Evaluation per Government Code Section 54957 – Operations and Administrations Annual Employee Reviews.

Directors returned to Open Session at 6:41 p.m.

The Board was provided with input from the annual reviews.

Mr. Anderson inquired into the potential location of the next test hole. Looking at the location the Board has been discussing any prior water quality issues on the south/west side of town and if we would be in the same strata. Curtis will be looking at potential options in regard to the prior wells the District had in the south/west side of town.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doria Borges

Approved by:

Jim Jones

Board Member

9-3-24

Date