

Merquin County Water District

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Of the Board of Directors
Wednesday, April 24, 2024**

The Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Merquin County Water District called to order in regular session at 19684 Second Ave., Stevinson, California 2:00 p.m.

Present were, President Adam Azevedo, Director Rick Jones, Director Danny Drumonde,
Absent: Vice President Freddy Oliviera, Director Phil Dores

President called the meeting to order 2:00 p.m.

Motion approving Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2024

Moved by Director Rick Jones, seconded by Director Danny Drumonde, approving Meeting Minutes April 9, 2024,

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion approving list of warrants for April 24,2024

Moved by Director Rick Jones, seconded by Director Danny Drumonde, approving the list of warrants in the amount of \$-5,855.49.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion approving checking account expenditures

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Director Rick Jones approving checking account expenditures. \$894.13 Purchases from Big Creek Lumber.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion approving Financial Report for March 2024

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Director Rick Jones, approving Financial Report for March 2024.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion approving Entitlement List 2024

Moved by Director Rick Jones, seconded by Director Danny Drumonde approving Entitlement List for 2024. River Rock entitlement will be approved contingent on unpaid balance is paid.

Dave Nervino suggested the entitlement list be compared to the GSA listing to determine if property owners are actually the GSA assessment roll.

Motion carried Unanimously

Motion approving Drip Irrigator plan of Operation and priority well use agreement for:

A.V. Thomas

Kandola & Son's Farms

Sandhu

Vincente Cervantes

Gilberto Leon

President Azevedo asked if the farm operators farm more than one parcel are they paying the fees for each parcel? Jimmy answered yes, they do pay for each parcel.

Moved by Director Rick Jones, seconded by Director Danny Drumonde approving Drip Irrigator plan of Operation and priority well use agreements for listed Irrigator Plan operators.

Motion Carried Unanimously

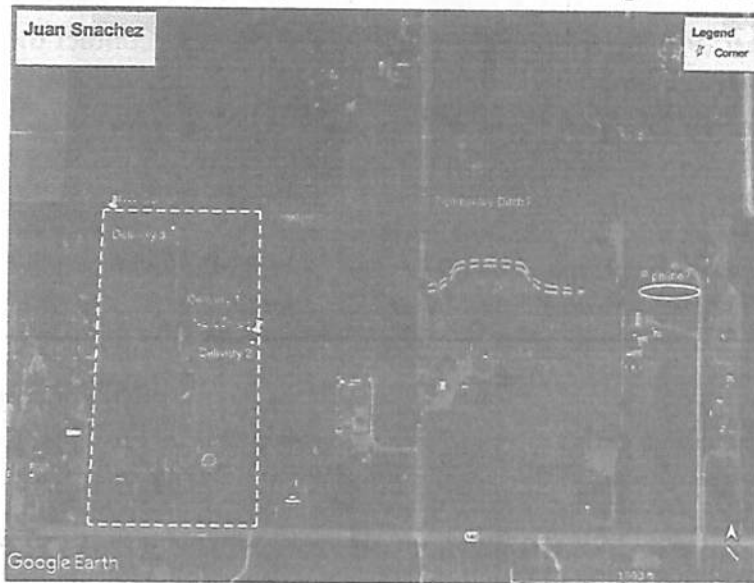
Correspondence

None

District Engineer: Eric Swenson:

1. **Discussion/Action:** Update on status of well 10R and possible contract action regarding well development and bidding for well/electrical for site. Obtained price quote from Shannon Pump for Well Development. Unsuccessful at getting price quote from San Luis Pump Company. Should the District request a development quote from Anderson Pump Company?
Following well development, prices will need to be obtained for well pump and electrical.
How does the Board wish to pursue price proposals for the well pump and electrical? MCWD already has the build drawing from PG&E for the new service. *The board requested to get a quote from Foster's Pump and Director Rick Jones volunteered to contact Forster's Pump.*
2. **Discussion/Action:** Possible assignment of most of the current workload of the District Engineer to District Board Members. The District Engineer is currently providing the following support to the District:
 - a. Serving as MSGSA Board Alternate. Eric is planning to retire at the end of August so another alternate for Dave Nervino will need to be appointed for September.
 - b. Interfacing with Caltrans on new Highway 140/Lander Avenue Round About. Eric will turn the communication over to Quad Knoph and Garth will give the board updates on the progress of the project.
 - c. Reviewing monthly depth to water data for MCWD wells.
 - d. Reviewing monthly well flow meter readings from totalizer.
 - e. Determining sampling schedule for monitoring electrical conductivity of irrigation water.

- f. Calculate electrical cost for each District well (\$/AF).
- g. Propose new pipelines to improve District operations. Create drawings and specifications for bidding work. Gather quotes for work from contractors.
- h. Recommend new/replacement wells. Assist in obtaining drilling permits from Merced County. Obtained Easements for new wells. Obtained quotes for well development, pump installation, and pump electrical. Coordinate with PG&E for new service requests for new wells.
- i. Recommend water and standby rate.
- j. Develop *District Standards* of construction.
- k. Update *Irrigation Rules*. Draft approximately 50% complete.
- l. Assist with request by Juan Sanchez for new irrigation deliveries.



- m. Develop Strategic Plan for improving District.
- n. Started to work with Merced County on Storm Water Agreement.
- o. Work with Legal Counsel to develop Board Resolutions as needed.
- p. Help coordinate insurance renewal for District.
- q. Create Supplements to Integrated Water Resources Plan. The last Supplements to Integrated Water Resources dated Nov. 8, 2021 included selected data through summer of 2021.

The response to this presentation by the District Engineer was that each Board member would assume responsibility for projects and issues in one area of the District. Crystal volunteered to increase the amount of record keeping and analysis of PG&E costs. No recommendation was made by the Board regarding a replacement alternate for the MSGSA Board.

3. Discussion/Action: Update on the activities of the MSGSA.

a. New GSA Formation activities relating to a new MCWD/SWD GSA are currently paused by the MSGSA as discussions regarding remaining in the MSGSA continue.
Lafco reorganization of SWD likely will not be completed until September 2024.

b. It appears a number of landowners who are farming irrigated agriculture within MCWD may not be paying phase 1 assessment fees to the MSGSA and therefore would not get a pumping allocation under the proposed rules. Does the MCWD want to direct staff to pursue contacting these landowners and explaining the potential impact of not being included in Phase 1 fees? The Board has requested the landowners be sent letters explaining the Phase 1 fees. MCWD Board directed the District Engineer to contact the affected landowners and advise them of the potential impact regarding not being characterized as "irrigated farmland".

Should our MSGSA Board Representative ask staff about a procedure to bring these parcels into the "Irrigated Lands" designation and pay back phase 1 fees?

Matters for the Good of the District

Dave Nervino brought to the board's attention San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control Quality Resources Board will discontinue ag burning in 2025. He did share that there is an Air Curtain Burner which burns wood and does not exhaust particulates into the air.

Blake Nervino reported at the last MSGSA board the decision was made that farmers will have access to the groundwater accounting platform. Blake Nervino worked with Adam Azevedo, on behalf of Mike Brasil to create comments on the groundwater accounting platform. They created a four or five page document and presented them to the MSGSA Board, listing changes they would like the board to take into consideration for change.

Blake stated when the accounting platform is rolled out, growers will need to create their own profile and get used to using the program. According to the MSGSA a letter will be sent to landowners to enable the landowners to access the accounting platform.

Blake Nervino reported there are 7 GSA's using the accounting platform. Eric Swenson reported the program will be rolled out to the entire state of California.

Office

Crystal verified the entitlement list and called the clients who owned monies. Crystal will be taking over some of the job duties of Eric Swenson.

Rick Jones stated in the past the board members used to do all the things that Eric Swenson is currently doing. Based on the area the board member is in would determine which board member did the task.

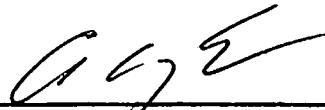
Maintenance Report

Purchased 29.AF of water from SWD. Jimmy and Eric removed and replaced the siding on the MCWD office building and are preparing for painting. Jimmy reported the cost is approximately \$3,047.00 for materials. The handicap ramp will need replacing in the future, Jimmy is suggesting installing a metal ramp.


MOTION TO ADJOURN

Moved by Director Rick Jones, seconded by Director Danny Drumonde to Adjourn.

Motion Carried Unanimously



Adam Azevedo
President

Freddy Oliviera
Vice President


Betty Guest
Secretary