

**Merquin County Water District**

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Of the Board of Directors  
Wednesday, April 26, 2023**

The Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Merquin County Water District called to order in regular session at 19884 Second Ave., Stevinson, California 6:00 p.m.

Present were, Director Adam Azevedo, Director Freddy Oliviera, Director Danny Drumonde, Director Rick Jones, and Director Phil Dores. (Director Dores attended late)

**MOTION APPROVING MINUTES of April 4, 2022**

Moved by Director Rick Jones, seconded by Director Danny Drumonde approving Minutes of April 4, 2023

**MOTION APPROVING LIST OF WARRANTS**

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Director Rick Jones approving list of warrants \$27,711.22.

Motion Carried Unanimously

**MOTION APPROVING CHECKING ACCOUNT EXPENDITURES**

Credit card purchase of \$622.98 for projector, and \$52.98 for Speaker for Zoom meetings.

Moved by Director Rick Jones, seconded by Director Danny Drumonde approving checking account Expenditures.

Motion Carried Unanimously

**Motion authorizing Quad/Knof to prepare assessment reports, boundary map and preliminary report for Board review.**

Moved by Director Rick Jones, seconded by Director Danny Drumonde authorizing Quad/Knof to prepare assessment reports, boundary map and preliminary report for Board review.

Motion Carried Unanimously

**Motion approving Entitlement List 2023**

Moved by Director Rick Jones, seconded by Director Danny Drumonde approving Entitlement List 2023., as per Jimmys recommendations, One new customer wants water, Jimmy not sure how the irrigation will go. The district will provide one irrigation to see how it works.

Motion Carried Unanimously

**Motion Approving Financial Report for March 2023**

Moved by Director Freddy Oliviera, seconded by Director Danny Drumonde approving Financial Report for March 2023

Motion Carried Unanimously

**Motion approving Drip System Irrigator Plan of Operation and Priority Well use Agreement for Quail H Farms and James J Stevinson**

Moved by Director Rick Jones, seconded by Director Freddy Oliviera approving Drip System Irrigator Plan of Operation and Priority Well Use Agreement for Quail H Farms. Tabled request from the James J. Stevinson landowners.

Motion Carried Unanimously

**Discussion/Motion approving proposal from SWD to MCWD for purchase of additional water.**

The agreement provides for 8 cfs from May 1, 2023 until the end of season at \$60 per AF. It is a take and pay or you lose the water. The district will use this water first.

Moved by Director Rick Jones, seconded by Director Freddy Oliviera approving proposal from SWD to MCWD for purchase of additional water.

Motion Carried Unanimously

**Discussion/Motion MCWD begin procedures to form an Independent GSA**

Discussions took place MSGSA, still awaiting an GSP approval letter from DWR, among other circumstances.

Director Rick Jones stated there should be further discussion with SWD and the sub-committee concerning the formation of a joint MCWD/SWD SGA.

Tabled

**Motion approving Modesto Properties' well appraisal, not to exceed \$2,500.**

Director Rick Jones explained himself and Adam Azevedo met with Modesto Properties regarding Modest Properties purchasing the well at that site. Director Adam Azevedo stated they have the first right of refusal of purchasing the MCWD portion of the well site.

There needs to be an appraisal for the well site in order to sell it.

Director Rick Jones found an appraiser to do the appraisal.

Director Danny Drumonde stated that there was something said that Modesto Properties wanted to take the pumping allocation with them.

Director Azevedo stated we are not selling an allotment of water, were only selling the physical pump structure and electrical service. The pumping history is MCWD pumping history.

Engineer Eric Swenson stated this well is the only well MCWD operates that is pumping sub-Corcoran. The question is: does MCWD want to drill their own sub-Corcoran well because those are the only wells that pump 2,000 gpm?

A consideration for Modesto Properties may be what will happen with allocations for pumping in the future.

Director Rick Jones asked can MCWD transfer the water being pumped from this well?

Eric responded once the allocations are set up, it will be switched to a farmed acre basis on what our allocation is. So having or not having that well will not change MCWD allocation, what can change is the ability to pump that water, there may need to be an additional two and a half above Corcoran Clay wells to replace this well.

Mike Brazil asked what the letter from DWR is for? Eric Swenson responded there is verbal approval DWR has given for the revised GSP.

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Director Fred Oliviera approving Modesto Properties well appraisal, not to exceed \$2,500.

Yeas: Danny Drumonde, Freddy Oliviera, Rick Jones, Adam Azevedo

Phil Does was not present at this time.

Motion Carried Unanimously

## CORRESPONDANCE

### Notice of Vacancy for Lafco

#### **Civil Engineer Eric Swenson:**

1. **Discussion:** Update on Vierra well. One additional form was required by MCDEH for the well permit: Property Domestic Well status declaration. Coordinating with Dave Vierra to sign this declaration.

Eric now has the permit for Vierra well.

2. **Discussion/Action:** Approval of Water Wheeling Agreement with SWD. No action was taken at an earlier Board meeting regarding this item. Proposed fees from SWD for wheeling are \$25/AF for up to 3 miles and \$2/AF for additional mileage. Proposed wheeling losses are 5%/mile with a maximum loss of 15%. There has been some discussion about billing SWD for Wheeling through MCWD laterals. Section 6.3 of the 2007 *Agreement* discusses use by SWD of the Stoerk and Sprole Ditches. Irrigation under Section 6.3 is limited to water applied to a maximum of 260 acres of Stevinson lands located outside of MCWD. A fee of \$6.50/acre is noted in the *Agreement* with no inflation escalator. The *Agreement* does not state what this \$6.50/acre pays for.

Director Freddy Oliviera stated that MCWD needs to talk with SWD for clarification due to the terminology in the agreement.

**Motion approving the Water Wheeling Agreement with SWD.**  
Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Director Phil Dores approving the Water Wheeling Agreement with SWD.

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

3. **Discussion/Action: Prioritize Wells for Replacement between 2023 and 2029.**  
Current list of wells for prioritization:
- a. 2023: Well-7R and 10R.
  - b. Potential wells between 2024 and 2029:
    - i. Azevedo – Discharge to new pipeline between DW 22 and DW 15.
    - ii. Oliveira - Koch
    - iii. Coelho (Well 21 Replacement) - Stoerk
    - iv. Modesto Properties Replacement
    - v. Well 3 Replacement – Nelander
    - vi. Well 6 Replacement – Koch
    - vii. Well 11 Replacement – Clark
    - viii. Well 17 Replacement – Gooseneck Bull Hill

Mark Green will come in to sign paperwork for the replacement of well 10.

The Board directed the District Engineer to submit the application for replacement well 10 electrical services with PG&E.

The Board concurred with proceeding with test well on Coelho property.

President Adam Azevedo requested a meeting just to discuss wells, ad hoc committee meeting. Director Rick Jones, Director Freddy Oliviera and anyone from the public may attend.

#### **Matter for the Good of The District**

Mike Brasil asked if there will have to be another 218 vote if MCWD forms their own GSA? Adam Azevedo stated there has to be funding to support the GSA in some form, so most likely will be.

Jimmy requested Doug Wells to attend the meeting to address if he is interested in the possibility to lease his well to MCWD, they use the well so frequently it does not seem feasible to him.

Frank Amaral stated he would be willing to lease his well on the corner of Second Ave and Cemetery Road to the District.

#### **Office**

Crystal received her Notary Stamps, she will now be available for Notary Services

Crystal uploaded all meeting minutes on the website to make it possible to search the internet for anything they want to look up.

AIG returned the employees retirement funds to MCWD; Crystal sent the check to Merced County so they can deposit the funds to the new retirement account.

The air conditioner is fixed.

#### **Maintenance**

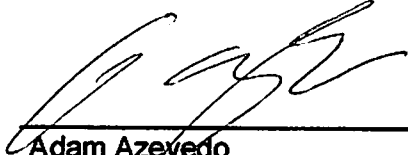
Jimmy presented the Board with SWD Allocation Report for water deliveries.

Jimmy reported he had to run some wells.

#### **Motion to adjourn.**

Moved by Director Freddy Oliveira, seconded by Director Danny Drumonde to adjourn the meeting.

Motion approved Unanimously.

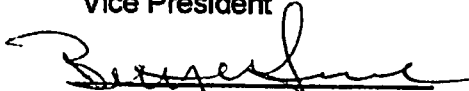


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Adam Azevedo  
President

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Freddy Oliveira  
Vice President



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Betty Guest  
Secretary