

Merquin County Water District

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Of the Board of Directors
Monday, February 12, 2024**

The Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Merquin County Water District called to order in regular session at 19684 Second Ave., Stevenson, California 6:00 p.m.

Present were, President Adam Azevedo, Vice President Freddy Oliviera, Director Rick Jones, Director Danny Drumonde, Director Phil Does

President called the meeting to order 6:05 p.m.

Motion approving Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2024

Moved by Director Freddy Oliviera, seconded by Director Phil Does

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion approving list of warrants for February 12, 2024

Moved by Director Phil Does, seconded by Director Freddy Oliviera, approving list of warrants in the amount of \$10,769.05.

Motion Carried Unanimously

**Motion approving checking account expenditures for February 12, 2024
Refund check from PG&E deposited to checking account.**

The District Engineer Eric Swenson made the following presentation

Discussion/Motion: 2024 water rates:

Assumptions:

Total AF of Water Sold= 18,297
(numbers from 2022 water sales data during regular water season)
Total AF 2+AF/Acre= 6882

Approximate. Loss 2023 \$184,023.00

Water Rate 2023 \$ 32.50 per AF

Additional to Balance \$ 10.06 per AF (for 2024 water season)

New rate < 2 AF/Acre \$ 42.56 per AF

Add PG&E Cost \$ 41,766.00 per year
(Anticipated increase in 2024)

Add to 2+ AF/Acre \$ 6.07 per AF

New Rate +2 AF/acre \$ 48.63 per AF

Other Items			
Vehicle Fund	\$	20,000.00 per year	
Dump Trailer	\$	9,500.00 per year	
Subtotal	\$	29,500.00 per year	
Add Cost of water	\$	1.61 per AF	
Final Cost < 2AF/acre	\$	44.17 per AF	Authorized by 218
Final Cost +2 AF/acre	\$	50.24 per AF	\$44.95 per/AF
			\$63.13/per AF

Dave Nervino asked if these number account for pre and post season water. The District Engineer answered that this was only for water sold from April 1 through September 30. Adam Azevedo responded no because the pre and post season water is purchased and sold for the same amount as purchased for.

Director Rick Jones stated he is personally opposed to the increase price at +2AF/acre, he stated he would want water rates to understand step up after 3AF/acre but not 2AF/acre. District Engineer stated the 218 votes set the increase to be at +2AF/acre, the pricing can be set to just one fee for all acre feet of water used.

Director Rick Jones stated he would like to review 2023 season numbers and see how rates would be affected if 2024 was similar to 2023. District Engineer will coordinate with Jimmy and gather usages for 2024.

No decision on water rates for 2024 was made at this meeting,

Correspondence
None

Civil Engineer Eric Swenson:

1. Discussion: Agreement with Frank Amaral private Irrigation Well.
Frank Amaral has decided he no longer wants to allow the District to lease his well at Cemetery Road and Second Ave.
2. Discussion: Well 10R Status Updates
Quality Well Drillers plans to drill the test hole on Thursday, February 15th. PG&E has provided the build drawing for the electrical services. Director Danny Drumonde asked if "well #7 has been hooked up yet. District Engineer stated it may be another week out.
3. Discussion: MSGSA update
 - a. Letter of Intent to Form a New GSA: MSGSA voted to table this item and directed MSGSA staff to develop a path to continue consideration of this request. MSGSA indicated that all participants in the GSP would have to approve of this new GSA formation including Turner Island GSA and MIUGSA.
 - b. Allocation Policy Framework: a DRAFT framework was presented on groundwater allocation.

- c. Contract amendment with EKI. A \$80,000 contract amendment was approved directing EKI to develop groundwater allocations for all sustainability zones for above and below the Corcoran Clay Layer

Matters for the Good of the District

Dave Nervino asked if there are any outstanding billings? Crystal responded that she has sent out demand letters.

Office

Demand Letters have been sent out. PG&E check \$386.25 deposited into checking account. The release for the last lien currently on file is presented for the board to review.

Maintenance Report

Burned brush pile on pump #4, burned weeds on the Highline. Began spraying open ditches.

AllPro finished repairs on the Sprole and the Storke.

Danny Drumonde and Jimmy met with Priority Ag Irrigation MCWD would like to have them do some work for the district but, due to them not holding a current contractors license Merced County will not make payments to them.

District Engineer stated he and Jimmy discussed installing a 24 in stand at well 10R, for the discharge on from the well.

With the excessive weather several trees blew over, they have been cutting up trees.

A couple sweet potato farmers are requesting to use wells for their hot beds. Jimmy asked how the district would want to bill this out. The board replied it has in the past as cost plus 10%.

Priority Well use agreement will be added to the next meeting February 28, 2024.

MOTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Public Employment

California Government Code Section 54957

Titles: Lead Water Tender, Ditch Tender, Secretary and Office manager

Moved by Director Rick Jones, seconded by Director Phil Dores to adjourn to closed session.

Motion Carried Unanimously

MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Moved by Director Phil Dores, seconded by Director Rick Jones to return to open session.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion approving Employee contracts: Lead Water Tender, Ditch Tender, Secretary and Office Manager

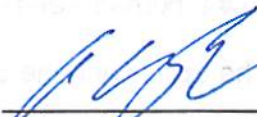
Moved by Director Phil Dores, seconded by Director Rick Jones approving Employee contracts for Lead Water Tender, Ditch Tender, Secretary and Office Manager.

Motion Carried Unanimously

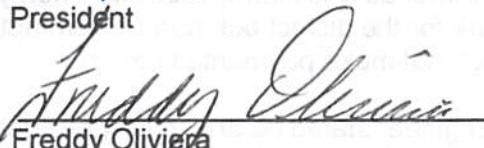
MOTION TO ADJOURN

Moved by Director Phil Dores, seconded by Director Rick Jones to Adjourn.

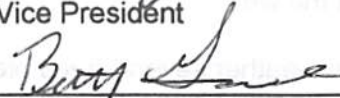
Motion Carried Unanimously



Adam Azevedo
President



Freddy Oliviera
Vice President



Betty Guest
Secretary