

Merquin County Water District

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Of the Board of Directors
Wednesday, January 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, Vice President Freddy Oliveira, Director Phil Dores, Director Danny Drumonde, Absent: Director Rick Jones

President called the meeting to order 2:05 p.m.

Motion approving Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2024

Moved by Director Freddy Oliveira, seconded by Director Danny Drumonde approving meeting Minutes of January 9, 2024

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion approving List of Warrants January 24, 2024

Moved by Director Freddy Oliveira, seconded by Director Phil Dores approving list of Warrants January 24, 2024 - \$11,014.15.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion approving Checking Account Expenditures January 24, 2024

Note: The safe deposit fees of \$45.00 paid on January 10, 2024. will be withdrawn from the checking account.

Motion approving Financial Report for December 2023

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Director Freddy Oliveira approving Financial Report December 2023

Motion Carried Unanimously

**Correspondence
None**

Civil Engineer Eric Swenson:

- 1. Discussion/Action: Modification of MCWD's Irrigation Rules. Initiate Ordinance Process for Rules modification.**

MCWD's Irrigation Rules were last updated in 2006 (about 17 years ago). The District Engineer requested that Crystal and Jimmy review this document and suggest changes. Staff has already identified the following Sections needing updating:

2-5. Water System

2-9. Penalty for Violation

3-1. Creation

3-2. Water Facility, Inspection, Compensation

3-6. Bookkeeper – Change to Office Manager

3-7. Bookkeeper – Modify duties to reflect Office Manager

4-1. Notice to Customers

7-7. Tampering and Damage to District Facilities

7-26. Basic Water Allotment

7-28. Nuisances – control of application and distribution of synthetic fertilizers

Add Sections:

- Prohibition to swimming or bathing in Canal.
- Prohibition of unauthorized vehicles using canal and pipeline right of way for access.
- Definition of authority of Lead Water Distribution Operator.
- Add fines for various unauthorized activities.
- Add when a lien can be placed on a parcel for non-payment.
- Prohibition of farming, land leveling, and other activities by landowners on District Rights of Way.

The Board may wish to assign 2 Board members to serve as a subcommittee to help guide this revision effort. The Board directed staff to continue working on developing revisions to the *Irrigation Rules*.

2. **Discussion:** Well 10R Status Update. A contract with Quality Well Drillers was signed and delivered. Cal Water quote was \$74,800.00 and Quality Well Drillers quote was \$70,333.00.
3. **Discussion/Action:** Approval of contract for the pipeline crossing of the Eastside Canal near DW 7. Request for quotation was sent to 3 contractors: Waterford Irrigation, Independent Irrigation Systems, and Agri-Valley. Only Waterford Irrigation provided a cost proposal in the amount of \$46,665.48. Breakdown was \$26,702 for material and \$19,905 for labor. \$11,356.60 deposit required before start of work. District Engineer recommends that the board approve this contract. The Board declined to approve the execution of this work.
4. **Discussion:** MSGSA update.
 - a. District Engineer presented the letter from MCWD and SWD indicating desire to form new GSA delivered to MSGSA at last Board Meeting on January 11th.
 - b. Initial Groundwater Pumping Allocation Numbers are due to be released to the public at the February 8th MSGSA Board Meeting.
 - c. The Coordination Committee is meeting on January 24th.

- d. District Engineer has been reviewing water balance and farming information for Sustainability Zone 8 and determined the following:
 - i. The total amount of Surface and Riparian Water application likely higher than anticipated.
 - ii. Irrigation efficiency appears to be significantly higher than calculated by Water Resource Model (WRM).
 - iii. Actual farmed acres appear to be significantly less than land identified as "irrigated acres" by using Merced County Tax Assessors database.
 - iv. Sustainability Zone 8 farmed "white area" appears to be about 7,300 acres.

MATTERS FOR THE GOOD OF THE DISTRICT

Frank Amaral asked District Engineer to discuss the usage of fiberglass pipelines. Eric stated in the 80's he had experience using it for water, after some time in use it didn't hold up so it was discontinued.

OFFICE

Crystal reported there is one active lien on record with Merced County, the lien will be released next week. President Azevedo asked how the accounts receivable was? Crystal reported payments are being made.

Maintenance

Jimmy reported he and Eric Vaz have begun work on replacing the siding on the office building. They are spraying weeds on the Gooseneck, Hotel and McCullagh lateral. They will continue spraying the balance of the laterals as weather permits.

Jimmy reported he requested Machado Backhoe removed a gate on the Storke, one of them the rails need replacing and the other one may need a new valve, it leaks water.

Jimmy still needs to evaluate the gates for repair.

AllPro has not been available for completing repairs. Danny offered a phone number for Priority Ag Irrigation from Modesto. Jimmy will meet with them on Friday. Director Drumonde asked if Jimmy had called the contact Dave Nervino offered, Jimmy said he has left messages, has not had a return call.

Kamal of Stevinson Market called complaining regarding the amount of water standing on the parking lot of the store. She was told to be patient, the amount of water that came in the rain fall was more than normal, the pump will pick it up soon.

MOTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Public Employment

California Government Code Section 54957

Titles: Lead Water Tender, Ditch Tender, Secretary and Office Manager and District Engineer.

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Director Phil Dores to adjourn to closed session.

Motion Carried Unanimously

The District Engineer contract was discussed and approved during the closed session. The Lead Water Tender, Ditch Tender, Secretary and Office Manager is carried over to the meeting of February 13, 2024 due to time constraints for other meetings.

MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

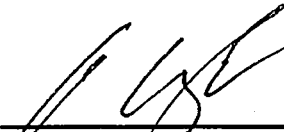
Moved by Director Freddy Oliviera, seconded by Director Danny Drumonde to return to open session.

Motion Carried Unanimously

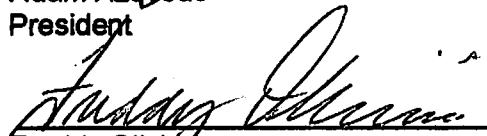
MOTION TO ADJOURN

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Director Freddy Oliviera to Adjourn.

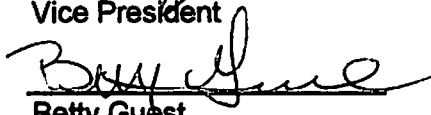
Motion Carried Unanimously



Adam Azevedo
President



Freddy Oliviera
Vice President



Betty Guest
Secretary