

Merquin County Water District

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Of the Board of Directors
Wednesday, May 24, 2023**

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 6:00 p.m.

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

MOTION APPROVING MINUTES of May 9, 2023

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Director Rick Jones approving Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2023

MOTION APPROVING LIST OF WARRANTS

Moved by Director Rick Jones, seconded by Director Danny Drumonde approving the list of warrants \$43,029.44.

Motion Carried Unanimously

MOTION APPROVING CHECKING ACCOUNT EXPENDITURES

There were no checking account expenditures. A deposit from Merced County in the amount of \$9,108.00. Returned funds from Merced County for Waterford Irrigation District and PG&E Permit

Motion approving Entitlement List 2023

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Director Phil Dores approving Entitlement List 2023, withholding the entitlement for Sandhu Bros until the irrigation pipeline that was broken is fixed.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion approving Maintenance Bill backs.

Tabled

Motion approving SWD Water Wheeling Invoice

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Director Phil Dores approving SWD Water Wheeling Invoice.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Review/Motion approving preliminary report for Water Standby Assessment from Quad/Knof.

If Board accepts report:

- I. Set date for public hearing, July 26,2023**
- II. Send out Notice for Public hearing June 6, 2023 (45 days prior to the public hearing**

Garth Pecchenino consulting engineer for Quad/Knof, attended the meeting explaining the preliminary report, the new standby water fee will gradually be increased from \$9.00 AF to \$20.00 AF. Garth explained the discrepancies in past reports and what updates there were. Garth explained the 218 processes: Notices have to be out for 45 days prior to the public hearing, Ballots to all landowners have to be mailed out, the report will be available in the office for review if landowners would like to review it, as well as on the MCWD website. Ballots along with a notice for property owners to complete will be prepared and sent out. Ballots will have to be turned in prior to the close of the public hearing on July 26, 2023 to be counted. Final tallying of the vote count will be conducted at the close of the public hearing.

Eric Swenson the Districts Engineer, asked if this is an affirmative vote or a protest vote?

Garth responded the general rule is a protest vote, but the last time MCWD had this the legal counsel said because it is an assessment it has to be both ways, so that ballot will be to vote either yes or no, Garth will confirm with legal counsel on the procedure.

Dave Nervino asked if Quad/Knof will be doing the mailers themselves, Garth said they will be furnishing MCWD with the mailers to be mailed out.

Dave Nervino asked what the monies can be used for from the assessment funds? Garth replies to Well replacements, maintenance (pumps motors) the monies are for maintenance and minor repairs. Dave asked if the funds could be used for PG&E invoices? No, the monies are not for PG&E.

Moved by Director Rick Jones, seconded by Director Phil Dores approving preliminary report from Quad/Knof, with setting the Public Hearing Date of July 26,2023 and Sending out Public Hearing Notices June 6, 2023

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion to approve Drip System Irrigator Plan of Operation and Priority Well use Agreements for James J. Stevinson

Removed from the Agenda the Drip System is no longer needed.

Motion approving Agreement for Support Services (Special District) by Merced County

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Director Phil Dores approving the Agreement for Support Services (Special District) by Merced County.

Motion carried Unanimously.

Discussion/Motion MCWD Initiate procedures forming an Independent GSA.

Blake Nervino reported he and Mike Brasil attended TAC (MSGSA Technical Advisory Committee) Committee meeting, in the meeting they did not have a dollar amount for groundwater extraction per AF discuss publicly yet. Hopefully, there will be some discussion on this fee at the next meeting.

Blake does not feel there will be anything favorable coming from MSGSA for MCWD. They did clarify the Land Repurposing Project. Anyone can apply for it.

Mr. Kelley stated in a previous GSA Meeting in the allocation framework being reviewed there would be change in spatial disparity within the basin with different allocations between sustainability zones.

Mr. Kelley stated in a coordinator committee meeting he attended, the GSA has contracted with EKI Consultants to develop an allocation framework to allow for distinct management in the different areas.

Eric Swenson responded the current framework includes sustainable yield plus APA (additional Pumping allocation). Areas that meet the 2015 ground water elevations allocations now, will get an additional APA above the long-term average sustainability yield for the basin, which would stay. What they are looking at is you would have your long-term sustainable yield plus your APA which would stay constant maintain, there would not be transition water.

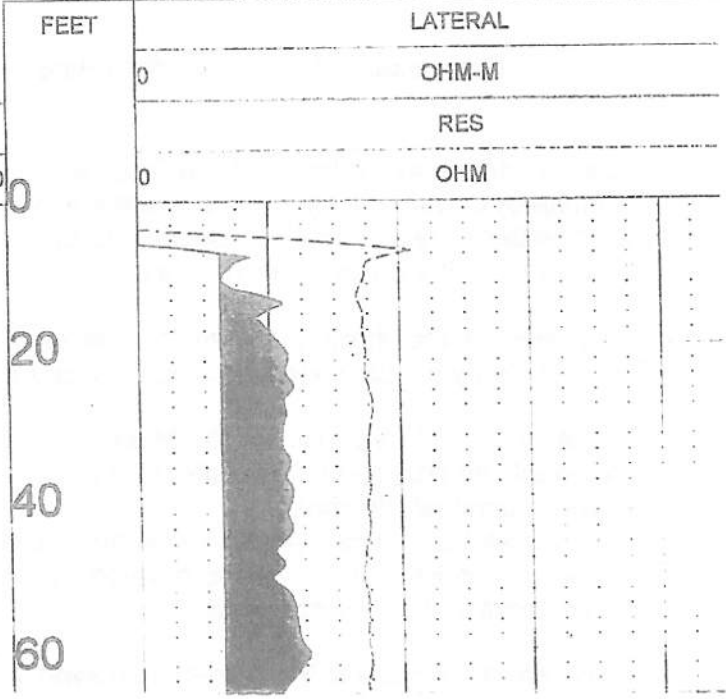
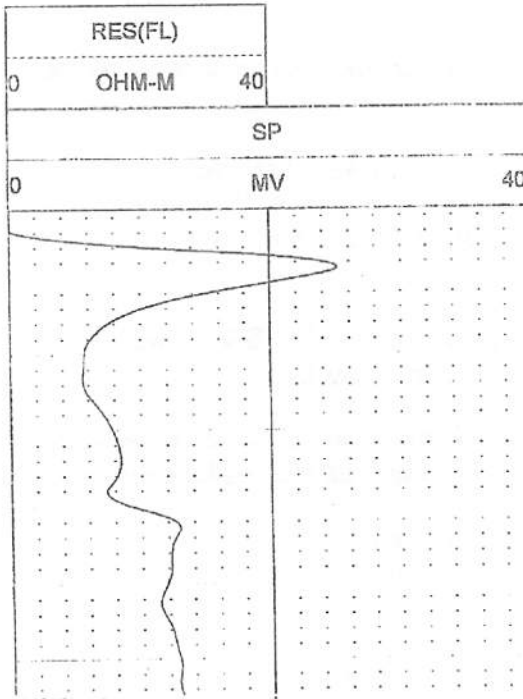
Discussion only no action

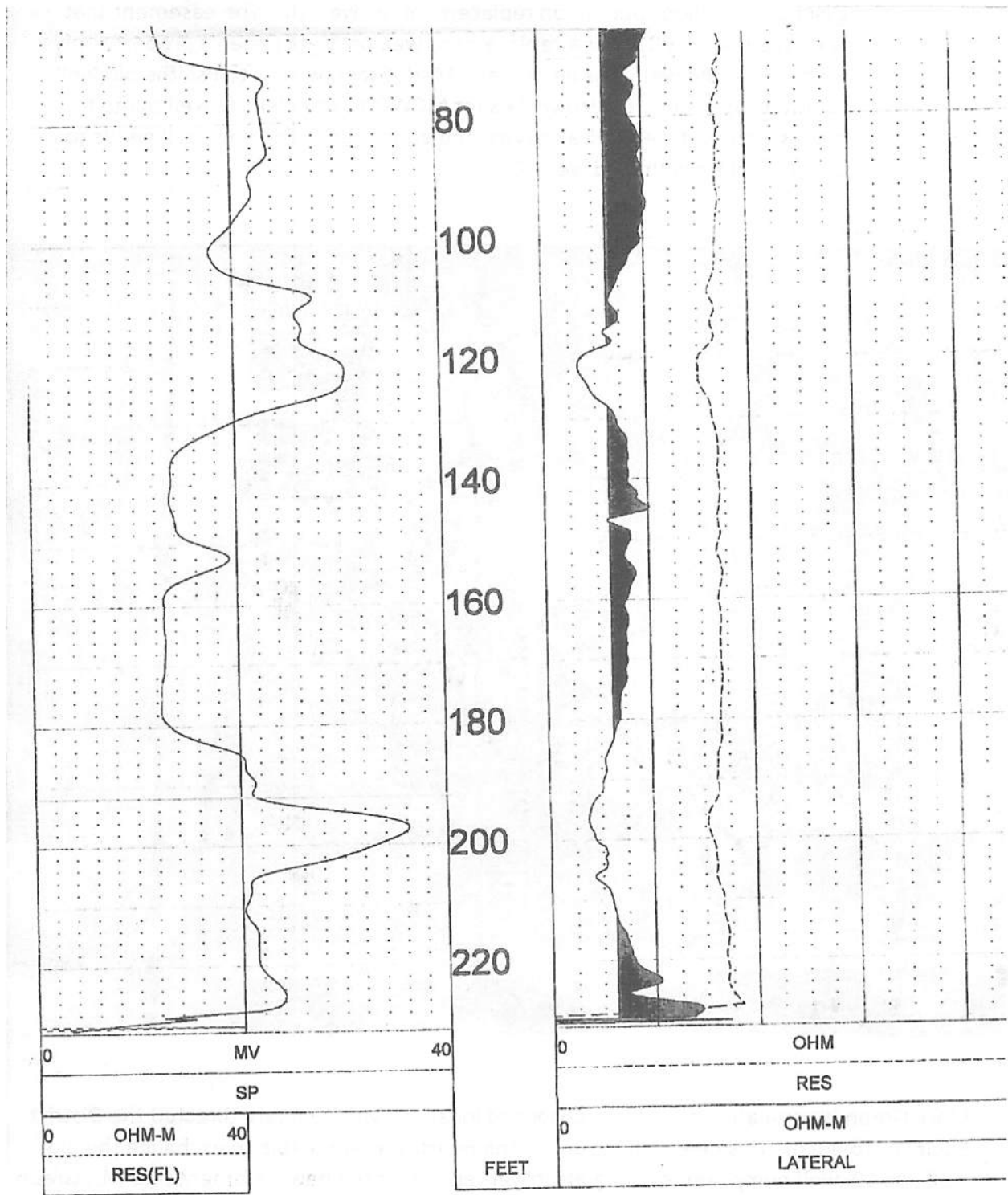
CORRESPONDANCE

None

Civil Engineer Eric Swenson:

1. Discussion/Action: Update on Coelho well. and test boring. Test boring and e-log have been completed. Current evaluation points to pretty saline water (1,500 ppm). Getting cost to conduct a physical water sample to confirm salinity. Not much water below 110 feet. See e-log below:

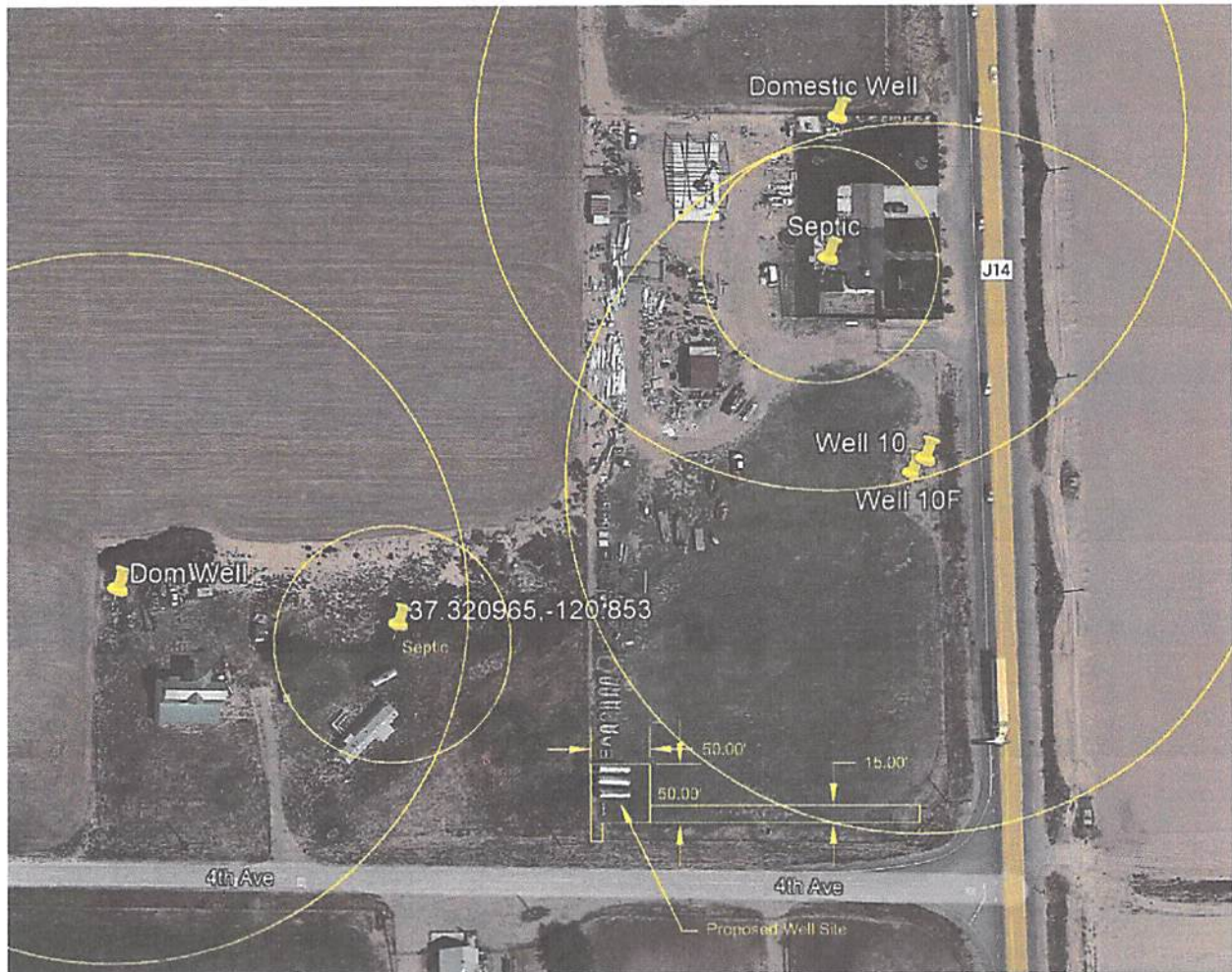




Motion made by Director Rick Jones, seconded by Director Phil Dore for the cancellation of this well site to be drilled of the Coehlo well, reason is high salinity counts.

Motion carried Unanimously.

2. Discussion/Action: Update on replacement for well 10. The easement that was **laid** out in 2013 for a replacement well on Mark Green's property only works if the old well 10 is destroyed. Mark Green wishes to use the old well for fire protection. He also wishes for MCWD to transfer the well pump to him as well as the electrical service and equipment. The new well needs to be 300 feet from the old well 10.



Mark Green is agreeable to this new proposed location. MCWD Board directed the District Engineer to pursue this new well location. The Board was agreeable to exchange the old well site 10, well pump, and existing electrical service for the new easement plus Mr. Green providing a chain link fence around the new well site.

3. Discussion/Action: Update on MSGSA Activities:
 - a. MSGSA Board action approving work by EKI consultants to develop groundwater pumping allocations. The MSGSA Board

voted to approve a contract with EKI and also added a task to collect additional existing groundwater data before starting additional work. Adjustment of boundaries of sustainability zones is part of the scope of work. Total time to complete work is 5 months. Completion of work should be early October 2023.

- b. District Engineer proposed MCWD transmit of historical MCWD groundwater data to EKI consultants for DW 9, DW16, DW17, and DW 18. Significant historical data is available for each of these wells.

Well No	Data Start	Depth to Water (ft)		
		11/1/2014	10/24/2022	1/23/2023
9	4/2006	12.4	15.01	9.42
16	11/2014	12.5	15.23	11.02
17	11/2014	10.7	11.35	6.35
18	4/2006	21.2	27.08	21.87

Discussion on Development of Employee Handbook. The board requested the handbook be developed and presented for further discussion.

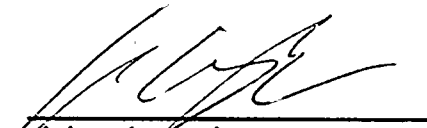
Maintenance

Jimmy Rayo was not in attendance, Eric Vaz presented they have been spraying ditches, Eric reported Sandhu Bros. employees damaged the irrigation system. The board stated to have the damage fixed and bill the landowner for the work to be done.


Motion to adjourn.

Moved by Director Rick Jones, seconded by Danny Drumonde to adjourn the meeting.

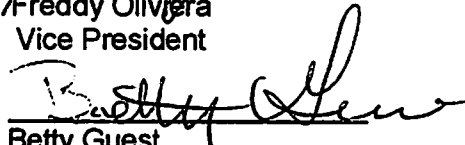
Motion approved Unanimously.



Adam Azevedo
President



Freddy Oliviera
Vice President



Betty Guest
Secretary