

Merquin County Water District

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Of the Board of Directors
Tuesday, May 9, 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 Danny Drumonde, Director Rick Jones, and Director Phil Dores Absent: Director Freddy Oliviera,

MOTION APPROVING MINUTES of April 26, 2022

Moved by Danny Drumonde, seconded by Director Rick Jones approving Minutes of April 26, 2023

Motion Carried Unanimously

MOTION APPROVING LIST OF WARRANTS

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Director Rick Jones approving list of warrants \$23,039.61. Director Rick Jones asked how much oil and hydraulic fluid was purchased? After reviewing the invoice Rick stated there were 9-5 gal buckets of product purchased.

Motion Carried Unanimously

MOTION APPROVING CHECKING ACCOUNT EXPENDITURES

None

Motion Approving Financial Report for April 2023

Moved by Director Danny Drumonde, seconded by Director Phil Dores approving Financial Report for April 2023

Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion approving Entitlement List 2023

Moved by Director Rick Jones, seconded by Director Phil Dores approving Entitlement List 2023.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

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

Tabled

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

Tabled

Discussion/Motion MCWD Initiate procedures forming an Independent GSA.

Eric Swenson reported he researched the delay with the letter from DWR issuing their letter of approval on the GPS which was due end of March 2023. There are no answers as to why they are not responding on time, or what the anticipated schedule is. Eric previously reported the GSA will be hiring EKI to develop ground water pumping allocations. Initially it was thought it would take thirty to sixty days to develop. Now it is anticipated their effort may take four months.

Dave Nervino responded that the last time in the discussion was we were putting off our ideas of proceeding with this because we were waiting to see what our allocation and what we would get now that allocation may be four months from now. Adam responded it is not just the allocation, they will initiate a fee for pumping the water out of the ground. Mike Brasil commented the extraction fee may be the killer for it, it may not be the allocation.

Director Jones stated let's keep discussions going.

Mr. Kelley stated in order to regulate ground water extraction there will need to be a fee, there is staffing cost, data collection cost among other things, so as not to not have a fee that is unreasonable.

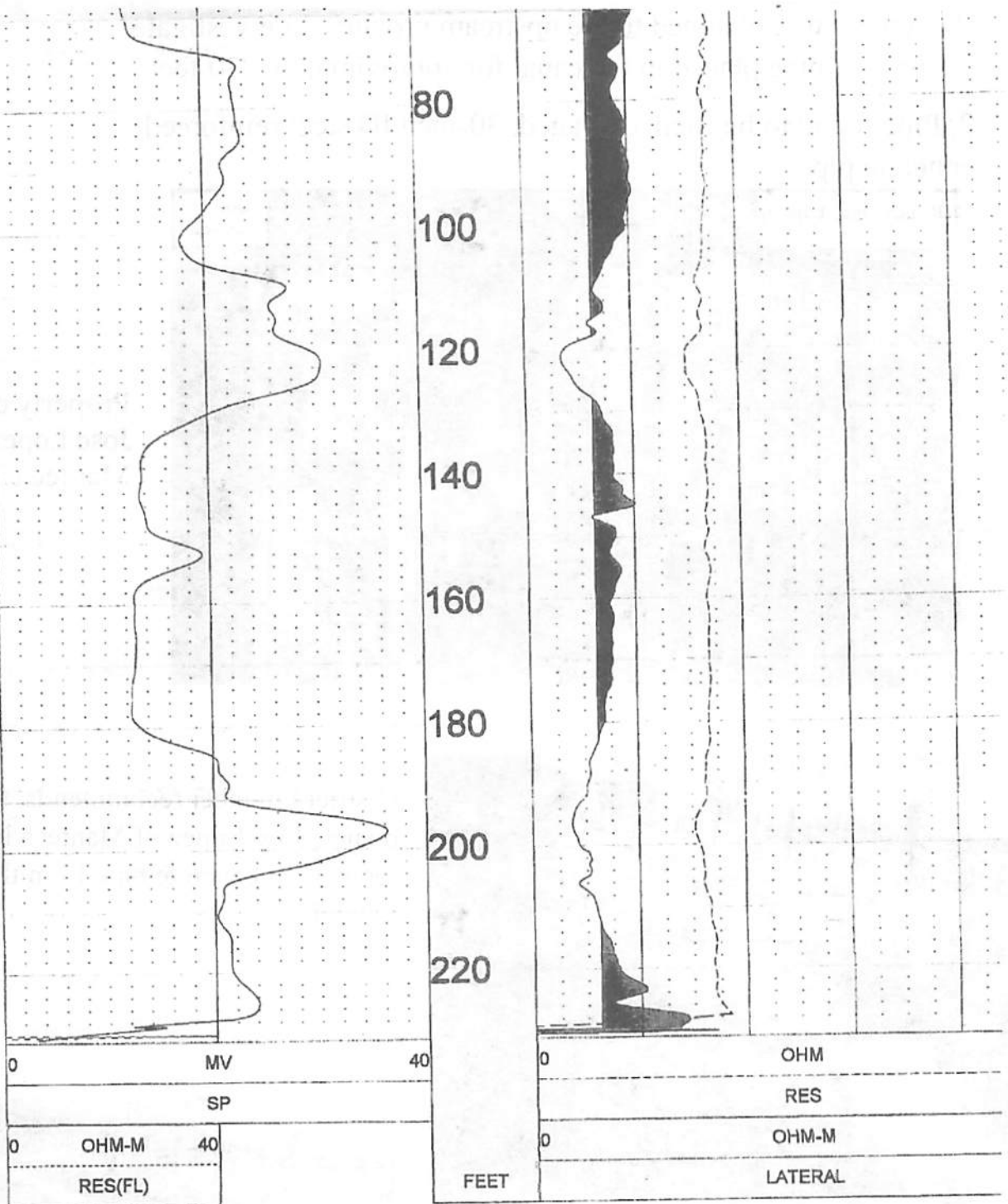
Mike stated his concern is high fees (from the MSGSA) and those fees would be used to pay people not to farm, in order to make their books look good. Mr. Kelley stated he does not believe its that, it makes sense to graduate fees based upon the amount of acre feet used per acre per year. If fees graduate it discourages extraction.

CORRESPONDANCE

Letter from Lafco presenting their budget of \$325,000.

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.
Approximate cost to obtain water sample is \$34,700.
 - Not much water below 110 feet.
 - Estimated Well Production 1,500 gpm.
- Director Azevedo tabled this item until the next Board meeting.



2. Discussion/Action:

1. Access was obtained to the upstream property to investigate precast pipe placed in the canal for approximately 230 feet.
2. Pipe found to be used, damaged, 30-inch ID steel reinforced concrete pipe.



Property owner,
Jose Lopez, of
Manteca



District Engineer recommends, the property owner, Jose Lopez of Manteca be required to remove all concrete pipe from the District Lateral

Jimmy and the District Engineer are working with Mark Green to obtain a Cost proposal to replace canal section through Shelly Gibson Property



The board requested to draft a letter requiring the pipes be removed from the district ditch.

3. **Discussion/Action:** RFP for New Water Rate Study. The Request for Proposal (RFP) was completed and sent out to 4 initial companies (QK, Provost and Pritchard, Bartle Wells Assoc., and HF&H Consultants) and will be posted to the District's website. Request for completed proposals by or before June 14.

4. **Discussion/Action** Irrigation Well prioritization ranking by Board Ad Hoc Committee. The Ad Hoc Committee met on May 3rd and created the following prioritization list of wells:
 - a. 2023: 7R and Coelho (replace well 21)
 - b. 2024: 10R (replace well 11) and 4
 - c. 2025: 3 and 6
 - d. 2026: 11 and 17
 - e. 2027: 2 wells to be determined.
Discussion regarding moving well 10R forward to 2023 installation if Coelho well is not drilled.

5. **Update on MSGSA Activities.**
 - May 11th MSGSA Board meeting.
 - Land Repurposing Program
 - Proposed \$124,000 contract with Eki Consultants to study Groundwater Allocation Framework Analysis.
 - Revision of Sustainability Zones
 - Allocation Program Framework
 - Modeling Analysis
 - Timeframe: Total time 4 months.

Matter for the Good of The District

Nothing

Office

Invoices for water billing were sent out on May 3, 2023.

Request for metal shelving for the container, Board approved purchase of metal shelving for storage container
Request for new blinds in front office, Board approval new blinds in front office.

Maintenance

Current water is running at 7.5 cfs,
Pumped the Koch pipeline, a few leaks in Mitch Dominique's field, the pipeline is fixed.
Tony Cabral did backhoe work on the gooseneck, several trees on that stretch.
Working on 2022/2023 maintenance bill backs.

Mario notified the District that up to the 8cfs water is not being charged on the handheld, so he enters it into the computer daily.

Motion to adjourn to closed session 54952.2.

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

Motion approved Unanimously.

Motion to return to open session.

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

Motion approved Unanimously.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Motion approved Unanimously.

Adam Azevedo
President



Freddy Oliviera
Vice President



Betty Guest
Secretary