



Approved
September 29, 2008

MINUTES
of the Regular Meeting
Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency
Board of Directors
August 25, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency was Called to Order by Chair Russell at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, August 25, 2008, in the Board Room at 5 Harris Court, Building D, Monterey, California.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Nishi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe Russell, Chair	Del Rey Oaks, Mayor
Dave Pendergrass, Vice Chair	Sand City, Mayor
Ron Stefani	Castroville Community Services District
Ramiro Cortez	Boronda County Sanitation District
Kenneth Nishi	Marina Coast Water District, Vice President
Jeff Haferman	Monterey, Councilmember
Lou Calcagno	Monterey County, Supervisor
Chris Orman	Moss Landing County Sanitation District
Gloria De La Rosa	Salinas, Mayor Pro Tem
Steve Bloomer	Seaside, Mayor Pro Tem
Vacant – Ex-Officio	U.S. Army, Representative

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dan Cort	Pacific Grove, Mayor
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MRWPCA STAFF PRESENT:

Keith Israel	General Manager
Brad Hagemann	Assistant General Manager
Ron Wellington	Legal Counsel
John Tiernan	Director of Admin Services/Deputy GM
Tom Buell	Director of Finance
Bob Holden	Principal Engineer
Jennifer Gonzalez	Lead Engineer
Betty Nebb	Executive Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT: Carl Niizawa – City of Salinas
Bjorn Lundegard – City of Seaside

4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Chair Russell acknowledged the new Board Member, Chris Orman, representing Moss Landing County Sanitation District, and asked Supervisor Calcagno to introduce Mr. Orman to the Board. Mr. Calcagno summarized Mr. Orman's experience and discussed the growth that is planned for the Moss Landing District. He also expressed appreciation to Mr. Orman for dedicating himself to serve on this Board.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 7:06 p.m., Chair Russell opened and closed Public Comments.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Haferman asked to abstain from a vote on Item 6-A, July 28 Board Minutes as he was not in attendance.

ACTION TAKEN: On a motion by Mr. Calcagno, seconded by Mr. Bloomer, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda, Items A through H as follows:

- A. Approve Board Meeting Minutes/Report for Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting of July 28, 2008**
- B. Receive Comparison Percentage of Budget Expended Through July 2008 vs. 2007**
- C. Receive Check Register – July 2008**

- D. Receive Plant Flows and Effluent Quality for Connected Agencies, Plus Flow Charts for Salinas, Monterey Peninsula, Marina Plant, Fort Ord, and Castroville for July 2008
- E. Receive Actual vs. Budgeted Fiscal Year 2008/09 Expenditures for the
- F. Receive Actual vs. Anticipated Fiscal Year 2008/09 Revenues from Capacity Charges
- G. Approve Contract for Biofloc Aeration System Upgrades Study
- H. Receive Biennial Revisions to the MRWPCA Conflict of Interest Code

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RELATED ACTION ITEMS

A. Budget/Personnel Committee

1. Receive and Approve Committee Minutes/Report of August 11, 2008

Mr. Pendergrass stated the Committee met twice in the month to hear further discussion regarding Agenda Item 2 and strongly encourages the Board to approve the action recommended by the Committee.

ACTION TAKEN: On a motion by Mr. Haferman, seconded by Ms. De La Rosa, the Board unanimously approved the Budget/Personnel Committee Minutes for Monday, August 11, 2008, with the following recommendations:

- That the Board approve staff recommendation to negotiate a contract with Automated Funds Transfer Services (AFTS) as soon as possible to begin outsourcing our billing process.
- The Committee agreed to a continuance of Agenda Item 2, Approve Contract Sludge Pumps Replacement Project, to a Special Budget/Personnel Committee meeting to be scheduled next week.

B. Recycled Water Storage Committee

1. Receive and Approve Committee Minutes/Report of August 14, 2008

Chair Russell announced the minutes properly reflect what occurred at the Committee meeting and asked for any questions.

ACTION TAKEN: On a motion by Mr. Pendergrass, seconded by Mr. Calcagno, the Board unanimously approved the Recycled Water Storage Committee Minutes for Thursday, August 14, 2008, with the following recommendations:

- That the Board authorize staff to participate in development of a pilot reverse osmosis (RO) research plan and once completed bring such plan to the Committee for further consideration.

C. Budget/Personnel Committee

1. Receive and Approve Committee Minutes/Report of August 18, 2008

Mr. Pendergrass stated this Item was continued in order to receive additional information.

ACTION TAKEN: On a motion by Ms. De La Rosa, seconded by Mr. Stefani, the Board unanimously approved the Budget/Personnel Committee Minutes for Monday, August 18, 2008, with the following recommendations:

- That the Board approve additional funding of \$138,000 for the Sludge Pumps Replacement Project and contract award to Pacific Infrastructure Corporation in the amount of \$388,000.

8. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Fort Ord Update

No questions or comments.

B. Reclamation Project Status Summary

No questions or comments.

C. Strategic Planning Goals (2008-2011)

No questions or comments.

D. Update on Process to Renew MRWPCA Ordinance Allocating Wastewater Treatment Capacity

Mr. Hagemann stated that a recommendation will be presented to the Board in September to consider extending existing Ordinance 2004-04 through February 2009 in order for staff to work through the recently published AMBAG projections and to complete some CEQA requirements. Mr. Hagemann anticipates the updated allocation plan will be presented to the Board in January.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Letter from California Department of Food & Agriculture in appreciation for the tour and presentations by staff at the Regional Treatment Plant in July.

- B. MRWPCA response to MCWD regarding alleged violation of Brown Act and attached Statement
- C. Letter of Resignation from Mr. Gage Dayton, Member from Moss Landing Sanitation District
- D. Notification of Appointment of Mr. Chris Orman to the MRWPCA Board representing Moss Landing County Sanitation District
- E. Notification of Appointment of Ms. Marilyn Lynds to the MRWPCA Board as Alternate representing Moss Landing County Sanitation District

10. STAFF REPORTS

A. General Manager Legal Counsel

Mr. Israel noted there have been quite a few articles about recycled water, and groundwater replenishment in particular, printed recently. He called attention to an article distributed to the Members: "A Tall Cool Drink of Sewage" published by the New York Times Sunday Magazine. He explained the article was a result of a trip by the author to see the modern, expanded facilities of the Orange County replenishment facilities. Mr. Israel also received word that 60 Minutes may be preparing a story on the Orange County facilities. Also distributed to the Members was a publication from the Water Education Foundation: "Drought-Proof Supply – the Promise of Recycled Water."

Mr. Israel reported on the CASA Conference held last week in Monterey. Agency staff members provided a couple of presentations and the conference was very well attended. The next CASA Conference in Monterey is scheduled in two years.

B. Department Heads

No reports.

C. Presentation: Digester Heat Loop System Repairs

Ms. Jennifer Gonzalez, Lead Engineer, provided an update on the recently completed digester heat loop system temporary bypass repairs. She explained that on Monday, July 28, staff identified a problem with the hot water system. The make-up tank kept emptying itself. Staff became aware that there was a problem with the digester hot water loop and found that some of the pipe was corroded with small pin holes. Ms. Gonzalez provided photos of the Power Generation Building illustrating the various parts of the process that provide hot water to the digesters to ensure efficient and complete digestions of solids. The methane that is produced from the digestion of the sludge goes back to the co-generation building and is used to run the engines to produce electricity to run the plant.

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She explained that a break down in this system is a major concern – in order for the digester to run properly, temperatures in the digester have to stay in the range of 90 to 98 degrees Fahrenheit. Once the temperature goes below 90 degrees, the anaerobic bacteria begin to die and that will cause upsets in the system. Once the system is upset, it can take several weeks to get it back going again and to make sure that all the bacteria are happy. Without proper sludge digestion and the associated methane production, the regional treatment plant co-generation system would be required to run on natural gas from PG&E or directly on electricity from PG&E – either of those options is very expensive. It would basically raise operation costs by about \$150,000 a month. It was very important to get the temperatures back up quickly.

This was a very well coordinated effort – the maintenance staff was extremely professional and efficient and their quick response averted what could have been a major expense to the Agency. The Engineering Department has started working on a permanent fix and will be returning to the Board once plans and specifications are prepared for taking the project out for bid.

Ms. Gonzales continued by stating the need for this project highlights some of the aging infrastructure that we are dealing with at the plant. We have 20 years of service life on most of the plant equipment. Pipelines, such as the digester hot water loop that experience high temperatures and a corrosive soil environment, are beginning to show problems. The As-Built Project is in its third year and is documenting pipe diameters and lengths and materials so that staff can better anticipate future potential problems. During the past three years, corrosion projects have been completed on the Castroville line and also on the Salinas line to keep the pipes in good shape. The Coating Project (third year) continues to monitor all the above-ground facilities and keeps surfaces coated to prevent future corrosion problems. Staff has identified the need to inspect and identify potential problems by assessing what is learned through some of these other projects.

To Mr. Haferman's question, Ms. Gonzalez responded that Granite Construction started the excavation and pipeline repair work, but when we discovered that the integrity of the entire pipe was compromised, Granite stopped work and in-house staff was utilized to design and install a temporary bypass line for the unit. Mr. Hagemann commented the maintenance staff did an outstanding job – special fittings were fabricated as needed and welding expertise was evident in joining 4" pipe to 6" pipe to 8" pipe.

Mr. Bloomer stated that in reviewing the chart showing the Digester Temperature, it was quite impressive to see that the bypass installation was completed in seven days and that within only four more days the operation was back up to standard - "That is incredible work by everybody."

Chair Russell stated this situation points out that we really do have the capabilities and a very able staff that averted a very, very serious matter. He thanked Ms. Gonzalez for a job well done.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Chair Russell noted that the date for the next Board meeting shown on the agenda should read September 29, 2008. No other comments received.

12. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Russell adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m. to the next scheduled Board Meeting, in the Board Room at 5 Harris Court, Building D, on Monday, September 29, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

Keith E. Israel, General Manager
Secretary to the Board

Joseph Russell, Chair
MRWPCA Board of Directors