



BIG PLAINS WATER SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, REGULAR MEETING

1777 N Meadowlark Dr, Apple Valley

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 6:00 PM

MINUTES

Chairman | Andy McGinnis

Board Members | Frank Lindhardt | Harold Merritt | Ross Gregerson | Jarry Zaharias |

CALL TO ORDER- Chairman McGinnis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Chairman Andy McGinnis

Board Member Harold Merritt

Board Member Ross Gregerson

Board Member Jarry Zaharias

ABSENT

Board Member Frank Lindhardt (Excused by Chairman McGinnis due to being on a trip.)

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Disbursement Listing for February 2023.
2. Budget Report for Fiscal Year 2023 through February 2023.
3. Minutes: February 08, 2023.

The board reviewed the Consent Agenda and item number four will be voted on separately because Board Member Gregerson did not attend that meeting.

Administrator Jauna McGinnis commented on the budget. Percentage used 83% for revenue and 83% expenditures. APRA funds were added and that was not in the original budget. Budget will be done in June and the percentages will be off for three months. We are all in line with funds and expenditures. The Board discussed that there is no need to amend the budget.

MOTION: Board Member Merritt motioned to approve the February 2023 Disbursement, the February 2023 Budget Report, and the draft minutes from February 8, 2023.

SECOND: The motion was seconded by Board Member Gregerson.

VOTE: Chairman McGinnis called for a vote:

Board Member Merritt - Aye

Board Member Gregerson - Aye

Board Member Zaharias - Aye

Chairman McGinnis - Aye

Board Member Lindhardt- Absent



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The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

4. Minutes: February 16, 2023.

MOTION: Board Member Merritt motioned to approve the minutes from 2/16/2023.

SECOND: The motion was seconded by Board Member Zaharias.

VOTE: Chairman McGinnis called for a vote:

Board Member Merritt - Aye

Board Member Zaharias - Aye

Chairman McGinnis - Aye

Board Member Gregerson - Abstain

Board Member Lindhardt - Absent

The vote was three aye and one abstain and the motion carried 3-1.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

5. Open Engineering Services RFP's and Consider Approval of Contract Award.

Two Request for Proposals (RFP's) received.

The first RFP received was from Galloway. The RFP was opened and reviewed amongst the Board.

The second RFP received was from Sunrise Engineering. The RFP was opened and reviewed amongst the Board.

MOTION: Board Member Zaharias motioned to accept Sunrise Engineering based on what I am seeing here.

SECOND: The motion was seconded by Board Member Merritt.

VOTE: Chairman McGinnis called for a vote:

Board Member Merritt - Aye

Board Member Gregerson - Aye

Board Member Zaharias - Aye

Chairman McGinnis - Aye

Board Member Lindhardt - Absent



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The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

6. Consider approval of amendment to the Interlocal Agreement, Resolution BPW-R-2023-01.

Administrator Jauna McGinnis commented this is to add personnel other than administrative as needed. This would allow us to interchange personnel with the Town.

MOTION: Board Member Gregerson motioned that we approve this Interlocal Agreement for use of personnel, BPW-R-2023-01 approving the Interlocal Agreement.

SECOND: The motion was seconded by Board Member Zaharias.

VOTE: Chairman McGinnis called for a Roll Call vote:

Board Member Merritt - Aye

Board Member Gregerson - Aye

Board Member Zaharias - Aye

Chairman McGinnis - Aye

Board Member Lindhardt- Absent

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

7. Washington County Conservancy District Study.

Chairman McGinnis reported the study further confirmed Ensign's study in 2015 that we are mining our aquifer. We are drawing down more than we are putting back in through recharge. Part of our downfall in Apple Valley is we do not have any rivers running through the area to recharge our aquifers. We also do not have any reservoirs in the area to recharge our aquifers. We are dependent on rainfall. What we can catch from the rainfall that runs down the wash is what is used to infiltrate our system. The study was vague in many points because there are other items that need to be added to this study to make it more definite. One of those things is an infiltration study. The District is in the process of communicating with the Division of Drinking Water and seeing if we can get them to initiate a water infiltration study for our area. The study shows on average around six percent of the water that hits our ground here makes it back down to aquifer. Not a whole lot of water is getting back down into our aquifer. As a District this is a tool what we are going to utilize. We are going to confer more with our engineering firm (Sunrise) and have their input on this on how to make a long-range plan for our area for water usage as well as how we can better serve the community. Also, finding other ways for water sources as well as what we need to do help make sure that our current residents have water.



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It is paramount on our part as a Board that we consult our engineers and lawyers in the fact that we want to make sure that we are standing on solid ground when we make any decisions moving forward. Everybody in the area that has been paying attention knows that this area has been in an extreme drought for a long time and common sense says the lack of water is going to hit our aquifer at some point. This wonderful water that we are getting now is not going to save us so we have to make some hard decisions. We want our community to know where we stand and the information from which we are working. Hopefully, they know we are trying to manage this the best we can to protect those that are currently utilizing the water, making sure that they are taken care of.

Board member Merritt reported on the conversations he has had with the Washington County Conservancy District. They suggested we do a groundwater study. That would be funded possibly by grants and maybe some assistance from the Conservancy District. He continued, the nature of the beast we must deal with is the long-term recharge is between 5,000-acre feet and 9,000-acre feet per year. We have between 5,000 and 9,000 and that is a big spread so we are left trying to find a happy settling point in there. That is the long-term recharge, however the discharge is 10,500-acre feet so we are mining the aquifer somewhere between 2,000 to 6,000-acre feet per year. We are trying to get a groundwater study and that would give us a better idea of how much water is making it down to the aquifer. Most places, for example, have rivers, lakes, or streams. We sit up here on a Mesa and there is nothing except water from the sky. We know how much it rains and how much it snows. We can take a percentage and that is what is going to the aquifer. Then we can tell about how many houses we have, we know what the flows are of what we are pumping. There are many private wells around that we are going to have to meter. We are trying to husband our resources. We do not really have a dog in this fight anymore or any less than anybody else. We are trying to manage what we have. It would appear that if we continue on this path, we are going to damage the aquifer. We already have encountered issues with different wells we have not had problems with in the past. We have been testing wells every two or three months and still finding concentrated amounts of contaminants that show up. We are going to have to go to some kind of filtration process. We are working on that now, figuring out how to manage these wells that as the aquifer declines in volume, the impurities become more concentrated. We pump those out and we must deal with what we can get out of it because we do not have any options here. We do not have any pipelines or reservoirs. We are trying to work this as best as we can. I would think the current residents do not have anything to worry about. As far as what we can see, it is how we manage an influx. It is not though we do not want you here. The only way to issue a will serve letter at this point is to put a caveat on that if the aquifer starts to fail the last one that came will be the first one that is denied water service. One reason we want to talk about this is we want people to understand that they are taking a risk to expand in Apple Valley to any great degree now and if you hook onto the Apple Valley system, we can only deliver what we can pump. When things start to go south if they do, we are going to have to curtail pumping. People who buy lots or houses in Apple Valley at any large number are taking a risk. I do not know how to be any more honest about it.

Board member Gregerson commented that this report came in similar to the previous report done by Ensign Engineering in 2015. This is the second study that has both said the same thing. That we are taking more out of the aquifer than we are putting in.



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Chairman McGinnis commented the Ensign study was done in 2015 and they showed we were mining at a rate of around 317-acre feet a year and the new study shows more like 2,000 to 6,000-acre feet a year. A considerable increase from 2015.

Chairman McGinnis continued, as a Board we need to get with our engineering firm and have them go through this study. We need a line graph to get this kind of information out. Something that is easy to put your eyes on and see where we are at. What our usage is at, what our sustainable aquifer is at, and let everybody visualize to see what that looks like. Along with that I would like to recommend that soon we have a Town Hall meeting for water for the community. We can get our engineering firm to put on a PowerPoint presentation to help the community better understand what we are seeing in this study. Throughout the area, throughout Washington counties and throughout all of Utah. He asked the Board if they have his support on that then I would like to be able to put our new engineering firm on getting us a line graph that we could put on the monthly water bill. Board Member Gregerson discussed a percolation study. Chairman McGinnis discussed to have a Town Hall meeting after the percolation test. Chairman McGinnis asked staff to add this Washington County Conservancy District Study to the website.

Discussion only. No action taken.

CHAIRMAN | WATER SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

8. January 2023 Water Usage Comparison

Chairman McGinnis reported usage comparable to last year we are using 116K gallons less. But as total system as all usage, we are overusing 166K gallons. Overall, we are still under usage by 5-million gallons which is awesome. Since July 2022 up until now we have been underusing water since we have been asking the community to conserve besides October 2022. Awesome job to the community as to what they have done. This will be standard now. We all need to pay attention to water usage and be mindful. Ten years of drought will hit the aquifer at some point.

REQUEST FOR A CLOSED SESSION

No request.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Board Member Zaharias motioned to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: The motion was seconded by Board Member Gregerson.

VOTE: Chairman McGinnis called for a vote:

Board Member Merritt - Aye



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Board Member Gregerson - Aye
Board Member Zaharias - Aye
Chairman McGinnis - Aye
Board Member Lindhardt- Absent

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Date Approved: 4/12/23

Approved BY: [Signature]
Chairman | Andy McGinnis

Attest BY: [Signature]
Recorder | Jenna Vizcardo

