



MINUTES
of the Regular Meeting
Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency
Board of Directors
September 25, 2006

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 Shirrel at 7:02 p.m., on Monday, September 25, 2006, in the Board Room at 5 Harris Court, Building D, Monterey, California.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Shirrel invited Mayor Dave Pendergrass to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Peggy Shirrel	Moss Landing Sanitation District
Mayor Joe Russell, Vice Chair	Del Rey Oaks
Director Ramiro Cortez	Boronda County Sanitation District
Director David Lewis	Castroville Water District
Director Kenneth Nishi	Marina Coast Water District
Councilmember Jeff Haferman	Monterey
Supervisor W.B. "Butch" Lindley	Monterey County
Mayor Dan Cort	Pacific Grove
Councilmember Gloria De La Rosa	Salinas
Mayor Dave Pendergrass	Sand City
Councilmember Darryl Choates	Seaside

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Chief Dewey J. Baird, Utilities Branch	U.S. Army, Ex-Officio
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STAFF PRESENT:

Keith Israel	General Manager
Jim Heitzman	Assistant General Manager
Rob Wellington	Legal Counsel
John Tiernan	Director of Administrative Services
Tom Buell	Director of Finance

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Bob Holden	Recycled Water Project Coordinator
Karen Harris	Community Relations Specialist
Mark Malanka	Field Maintenance and CSIP Supervisor
Betty Nebb	Executive Assistant
Lonnie Fredrickson	Administrative Support Specialist II

AUDIENCE: 2

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 7:05 p.m., with no comments received from the public, Chair Shirrel opened and closed Public Comments.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

ACTION TAKEN: On a motion by Mr. Cort, seconded by Mr. Choates (Mr. Haferman indicated he would abstain from voting), the Board unanimously approved Consent Agenda Items A - L:

- A. Approve Minutes – Regular Meeting, August 28, 2006
- B. Comparison Percentage of Budget Expended through August 2006 vs. 2005
- C. Receive Check Register – August 2006
- D. Receive Actual vs. Budgeted Fiscal Year 2006/07 Expenditures for the Capital Improvement Program and Capitalized Equipment Fund
- E. Receive Actual vs. Anticipated Fiscal Year 2006/07 Revenues from Capacity Charges
- F. Receive Plant Flows and Effluent Quality for Connected Agencies, Plus Flow Charts for Salinas, Monterey Peninsula, Marine Plant, Fort Ord, and Castroville for August 2006
- G. Approve Award of the Biosolids Dewatering Replacement Project Construction Contract to Gantry Constructors, Inc.
- H. Approve Award of the Biosolids Dewatering Replacement Project Engineering During Construction Contract to HDR Engineering, Inc.
- I. Approve Award of the Janitorial Services Contract for RTP and Administrative Offices to ABM Janitorial
- J. Approve Purchase of a Three-Quarter Ton Truck

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- K. Reject Bids Received for the Purchase of 125 Kilowatt Generator
- L. Approve Contract for Seaside Aquifer Modeling for Groundwater Replenishment Project

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RELATED ACTION ITEMS

A. Board Resolution Review Committee

1. Receive and Approve Committee Minutes/Report, Friday, September 8, 2006

Chair Shirrel thanked the Committee for their work to date. Board Members' concerns were identified and the Committee was asked to readdress, clarify, or further investigate the following:

- **Term Limits** - clarification of "service in a ten-year period;"
- **Nomination Committee** - membership of a Director wishing to run for Chair or Vice Chair positions;
- **Attendance Guidelines** - what constitutes an "unexcused" absence;
- **Compensation** - payment for mileage over and above the \$100 per meeting compensation;
- **COLA** - appropriateness/justification of additional benefits;
- **Liaison Concept** - authority, accountability issues, legality, quorum requirements;
- **Committee Assignments** – rotation of Chair/Vice Chair

Chair Shirrel encouraged all members to provide the Committee with comments, concerns, issues, etc., for discussion and further consideration. She pointed out that all input will aid members as they work toward developing recommendations.

Attorney Wellington advised the Minutes indicate the Committee noted the liaison concept was dropped; but, based on Mr. Choates' request, it will be re-discussed and brought back to the Board.

ACTION TAKEN: The Board received the Board Resolution Review Committee Minutes for Friday, September 8, 2006, with the following recommendation:

- Information Only – No action taken.

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B. Recycled Water Storage Committee

1. Receive and Approve Committee Minutes/Report Thursday, September 14, 2006

ACTION TAKEN: On a motion by Mr. Pendergrass, seconded by Ms. De La Rosa, the Board unanimously approved the Recycled Water Storage Committee Minutes for Thursday, September 14, 2006, with the following recommendations:

- That the Board approve the contract to NWRI to provide Independent Advisor Panel services for a cost not to exceed \$49,995.
- That the Board approve a \$200,000 contract (in the form of a Request for Service to the existing contract) to RMC to begin final design of the 6 AF recycled water storage pond, the SVRP pump station, and the pipeline from the pump station to the Armstrong Ranch property line.

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Fort Ord Update

No changes or comments.

B. Reclamation Project Status Summary

No changes or comments.

C. Strategic Planning Goals

See Staff Reports Item 8C.

8. STAFF REPORTS

A. General Manager/Assistant General Manager/Legal Counsel

Mr. Israel thanked representatives from Sand City and Seaside for their help with "setting the stage" for the MRWPCA to schedule a Water Replenishment Presentation for the Water Master Board at Seaside next week.

He also advised that he has been invited to moderate a panel session on September 27 at the half-day AMBAG Desal Conference at the Monterey Beach Hotel.

Additionally, Mr. Israel congratulated Sand City for being awarded a \$2.9 million grant for their Desal Project. Chair Shirrel pointed out it was the first award on the Coast and Mr. Israel commented Sand City is getting a lot of recognition.

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B. Department Head(s)

Nothing to report.

C. Presentation: Salt Reduction and Water Safety Issues

Mr. Heitzman gave a presentation providing information and updates on activities associated with the strategic goals for:

- Salt Reduction;
- Water Safety; and
- Endocrine Disruptors.

In response to questions regarding E. coli O157:H7, Mr. Israel and Mr. Heitzman advised the daily coliform tests would immediately alert staff of the presence of E. coli strains. The Directors were impressed to learn the Agency is constantly exploring what more can be done to ensure the water is safe.

Mr. Lindley expressed his pleasure in learning that tests show no evidence of E. coli O157:H7 in incoming effluent. He indicated it would be very helpful if Mr. Israel would compile basic information on the operations, processes and testing done by the Agency for dissemination to the growers.

Mr. Heitzman noted that industry leaders are working on wastewater and water problems and solutions. Mr. Cort suggested creation of an international data base and Mr. Heitzman noted the availability of information on websites. Mr. Israel shared there are approximately 75K food-related national illnesses per year, with less than 200 fatalities per year. He also noted that 75-80% of problems occur during food preparation/handling within the home.

D. Update: E. coli O157:H7/Spinach Investigation

Mr. Israel presented an update on the recent outbreak of E. coli O157:H7 in spinach.

He talked about the history of E. coli outbreaks and how sometimes media/reporters use information/misinformation. He also told of the overwhelming support the MRWPCA received from other agencies.

He informed the Board that the Agency's proactive response to the potential escalation of issues was the creation of an internal Crisis Response Task Force and development of *key media messages*. The *key messages* were very helpful in dealing with the CNN interviewers who were disappointed not to find a story.

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Mr. Israel suggested it may benefit Directors to review the *key messages* to assist them in dealing with reporters (who often want to interview policy makers).

Mr. Israel also shared information about the development of best practice measures. He advised that E. coli O157:H7 has specifically been connected to grain-fed cattle. It was interesting to note, however, that feeding cows hay for seven days reduces E. coli O157:H7 by 1000 fold.

Following the presentation, a question was raised about the likelihood of E. coli O157:H7 being carried by birds. Mr. Israel advised that a bird which had contact with animal waste could potentially carry E. coli O157:H7 to another source. Mr. Heitzman advised that several years ago, during an E. coli O157:H7 outbreak, geese were tested but showed no evidence of being a carrier.

In closing, Mr. Israel expressed his heartfelt concern for the economic and public confidence losses experienced by the agricultural community and advised the Agency stands ready to cooperate and assist in whatever manner may be appropriate.

In response to Mr. Cort's question about whether spinach is one of the crops being irrigated by the Seawater Intrusion Project, Mr. Israel advised spinach occupies less than 1,000 of the 12,000 acres involved in the project. Mr. Cort asked if E. coli has been more prevalent in regular or organic products. Mr. Israel indicated organic farming may more likely be at risk because of the limited types of acceptable growing aids. He added, however, that organic farms generally apply their own best practice measures. Mr. Cort asked if certified organic farms (growing chemical free product) can irrigate with recycled water and Mr. Israel said they can. Mr. Cort pointed out that endocrine disrupters (i.e., chemicals) are present in recycled water. Mr. Israel added that well water contains some of the same compounds and that any levels present are many times lower than concern.

Discussion ensued about the safety of recycled water from a scientific viewpoint vs. public perception. Mr. Israel suggested, at some point, he would ask the lab to run a GC Scan ("Pure Water") to illustrate the number of unidentified concentrations of compounds present. He stressed that education is key.

At the request of Mr. Haferman, Mr. Israel shared information about the E. coli O157:H7 scare in 1995.

Mr. Cort asked about the Agency's insurance in regard to limit of liability. Mr. Israel explained that the Agency is indemnified by MCWRA and has liability insurance (secondary to Monterey County insurance) through Special Districts.

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Mr. Lindley congratulated the Agency on developing a Crisis Management Plan. He said that there are a lot of other agencies that are not prepared to control the inflow/outflow of information. He asked Mr. Israel to compile data and other information that could be shared with fellow growers.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Pendergrass expressed his pride in the Agency. He said that the Water Master Board is interested in learning about replenishment. He also expressed pride about the Agency's clean record and its ability to react positively to the E. coli O157:H7 situation. He also indicated that the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District developed a strategic planning goal for ongoing project cooperation with MRWPCA.

Chair Shirrel thanked Mr. Pendergrass for his important work and the time he has spent serving the Agency by building relationships and serving on the Board and other committees.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Shirrel adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m., to the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting in the Board Room at 5 Harris Court, Building D, on Monday, October 30, 2006, at 7:00 p.m.

Keith E. Israel
General Manager/Secretary to the Board

Margaret Shirrel, Ph.D.
Chair of the Board of Directors