

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
JANUARY 4, 2010**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - The Communications Committee Meeting of the Rainbow Municipal Water District on January 4, 2010 was called to order by Chairperson O'Leary at 10:36 a.m. in the Board Room of the District, 3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook, CA 92028. Chairperson O'Leary presiding.

2. **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Member Crampton
Member Mathes
Member Vega
Member O'Leary
Member Romani
Member Atkins
Member Sowden

Absent: None

Also Present: General Manager Seymour, Board Secretary Washburn

There were no members of the public present.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no public comments.

COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS

4. **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mrs. Mathes praised the quality and content of a draft press release Mrs. Crampton and Mr. O'Leary had worked on prior to today's meeting. Further discussion of that draft press release was delayed until item No. 8 on today's agenda.

*5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. December 7, 2009

It was noted the date on the adjournment was incorrect.

Action:

The Minutes were approved as revised 7/0.

6. REPORT ON COMMITTEE CHANGES OR POTENTIAL NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER(S)

Mr. O'Leary reported that changes in committee membership had occurred; however, Ms. Washburn reported there had been no expressions of interest in filling either of the two available alternate positions.

7. UPDATE ON THE UPCOMING SECOND PIPELINE SHUTDOWN AND SUBSEQUENT START OF THE NORTHSIDE RESERVOIR COVER PROJECT

Mr. Seymour gave a report on the recent Metropolitan Water District of Southern California pipeline shutdown and the upcoming start of work to cover the Northside reservoir. He reported the Northside work had been delayed by the need to repair erosion damage to a service road that had occurred during recent rains. He also reported of a break in a district line that occurred during the shutdown. He gave a status report on that line-which runs beneath the San Luis Rey River-and told of the amount of water lost, the potential repair costs and the technical issues involved. He reported on the press releases that had been issued thus far and the future public information efforts that may occur. Mr. Seymour also responded to several questions from committee members.

8. STATUS REPORT ON A PRESS RELEASE OR FEATURETTE WITH PHOTOS UPDATING DISTRICT RESERVOIR COVERING EFFORTS, FUNDRAISING ISSUES AND POSSIBLE FUTURE ELECTION

Mr. Seymour gave a status report on district capital improvement issues and funding recommendations made by Rainbow's Budget and Finance Committee to meet the district's open reservoir mandates. He also pointed out inserts that had been suggested for still-in-progress news release that was being prepared to update district customers on the current status. Mr. Seymour noted that a decision may be forthcoming by the Board on January 26 that would set a reservoir funding strategy. After several questions and a short discussion, members agreed by consensus to delay the completion of the news release until after the January 26 Board meeting.

9. UPDATE ON POSSIBLE FUTURE REVENUE-RAISING MEASURES TO COMPLETE DISTRICT RESERVOIR PROJECTS

Discussed under Item #8 herein.

10. DISCUSSION OF A TIMELINE, COSTS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF POSSIBLY SETTING A "PLACEHOLDER" ELECTION DATE IN THE EVENT THAT FUTURE GOVERNMENT GRANTS OR LOANS BECOME AVAILABLE OT HELP OFFSET THE DISTRICT'S REMAINING RESERVOIR COVERING COSTS

Ms. Washburn and Mr. Seymour gave reports on the scheduling, cost, and pros and cons of a potential future election that would seek voter approval of reservoir funding assistance. Setting an election date could serve as a "place holder" in case reservoir-related grants or loans are offered to the district, some committee members said. Mr. Seymour reported the district has been invited to apply for a \$1.2 million low-interest loan that could be used to study dam-and covering/treatment options for Beck Reservoir. He detailed the application process and deadlines and answered numerous questions from committee members.

Action:

Moved by Member Crampton the committee recommend to the Board at the January 26, 2010 meeting that an authorized placement of an item on the June election ballot asking voters if the district should proceed with its application for a \$1.2 million low-interest loan or other reservoir-related funding assistance that might become available in the meantime. Seconded by Member O'Leary. The motion carried unanimously (7/0).

Both Mrs. Crampton and Mr. O'Leary said they would each try to be available on January 26th to answer any questions the Board might have.

11. UPCOMING NEWSLETTER TOPICS

Ms. Washburn reported on several key items that would likely appear in the next newsletter. It was noted that the next newsletter would likely be filled by pending items and no committee submittals would be needed at this time.

12. LIST OF SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT SCHEDULED COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee members cited items discussed earlier in today's meeting as well as a report on the next pipeline shutdown and reservoir funding and election issues as potential items for the panel's February 1 meeting. It was also recommended the committee receive a status report on the district's runoff monitoring group and possibly discuss future ways to publicize that effort.

13. ADJOURNMENT – To February 1, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Tim O'Leary, Committee Chairperson

Dawn M. Washburn, Board Secretary