

**MINUTES OF THE ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
APRIL 3, 2012**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Engineering Committee Meeting of the Rainbow Municipal Water District on April 3, 2012, was called to order by Chairperson Saxon at 3:02 p.m. in the Board Room of the District, 3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook, CA 92028. Chairperson, Saxon presiding.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Member Brazier
Member Fekete
Member Taufer
Member Saxon
Member Strapac
Alternate Rhyne

Absent: Member Prince
Alternate Roth

Also Present: General Manager Seymour, District Engineer Lee, and Assistant Rubio

There was one public member present Mr. Jeff Heden from J.C. Heden and Associates.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT RELATING TO ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

There were no comments.

COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS

*5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. March 6, 2012

Action:

Moved by Member Fekete to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Member Brazier.

After consideration, the motion CARRIED by the following vote:

AYES: Member Brazier, Member Fekete, Member Taufer, Member Saxon,
Member Strapac and Alternate Rhyne.

NOES: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

ABSENT: Member Prince and Alternate Roth.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING START TIME

Mr. Lee said there was a request to start the Engineering Committee Meetings at 3:00 p.m. He said in order to establish the new start time a vote should be conducted. He mentioned starting at 3:00 p.m. was a reasonable amount of time for the committee to accomplish necessary work. Mr. Fekete would like to keep the time to 2:00 p.m. Ms. Brazier pointed out if the meetings were kept on course they would end at the regular time and Mr. Fekete would not have to worry about the meetings ending late.

Action:

Moved by Member Brazier to set the Engineering Committee start time to 3:00 p.m. and to be adjusted when needed. Seconded by Member Strapac.

After consideration, the motion CARRIED by the following vote:

AYES: Member Brazier, Member Fekete, Member Taufer, Member Saxon, Member Strapac and Alternate Rhyne.

NOES: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

ABSENT: Member Prince and Alternate Roth.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLY STUDY

Mr. Lee said the Board voted to authorize the contract with J.C. Heden and Associates for the Alternative Water Supply Study. He said he invited Mr. Heden here today to hear from the Committee Members regarding what he should focus on.

Mr. Lee notified the Committee Members he would be sending weekly updates regarding the Supply Study and Water Policy providing information for discussion at the next meeting.

Mr. Saxon asked Mr. Lee what role the Committee Members were to provide in regards to the Supply Study. Mr. Lee said the Consultant was asked to review various issues relating to alternative water supplies and he would like the Committee Members to point out the primary areas with the best options so there was not any time spent on invalid areas. Mr. Strapac mentioned one of the items he saw in the proposals was reverse osmosis as a supply which was expensive and not immediately available. He said one of the requirements was to supply agricultural water, which would place reverse osmosis behind well water and reclaimed water supplies.

Mr. Lee said to sum up the goal of the Supply Study would be to eliminate the 100% reliance on imported water. He said in an emergency situation where the District would lose its imported water supply if a local source were available there would still be some water available to the customers. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Lee introduced Mr. Heden who would be providing a brief explanation as to his approach to the Water Supply Study. Mr. Heden said their proposal directly responded to the requirements of the Request for Proposals to ensure the District's needs were addressed. He

said if the Committee Members would like to scale back on some of the requirements this would be the time to inform him so there was not a lot of time and effort spent on requirements that were not high priority or too costly.

Mr. Strapac said he was very interested in the availability of agricultural water which would increase the revenue source. He said if the District can provide growers lower water prices it would provide an incentive for agriculture customers to expand their planting and the District would increase its water sales. Ms. Brazier said if the District could build a dual system to provide agriculture water at a lower rate and have these customers pay for the infrastructure this would be an ideal situation.

Mr. Heden asked if the District would consider obtaining raw water from Metropolitan as an alternative source. Mr. Lee replied yes. He said raw water was an excellent starting point because if the infrastructure was built it would provide the back bone to use local sources. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Strapac mentioned there should be a review of the water rights within the District. Mr. Heden said he has contracted with a water rights attorney to investigate the potential for the District to acquire surface water rights on the San Luis Rey River, as well as the potential to transfer or exchange all or a portion of one or more existing surface water rights. Mr. Strapac said there are wells within the District and the water table was very high in certain areas. Mr. Heden said he would welcome more information from the Committee Members regarding these water tables. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Saxon asked the Committee Members to prioritize the top goals of the Supply Study for Mr. Heden. Mr. Lee listed the goals of the Supply Study as mentioned in the Request for Proposal:

Delivery: Analyze the cost of a new parallel water system.

Delivery: Repurpose Beck / Bonsall Reservoirs for raw water.

Funding: Evaluate the restriction of Ordinance 95-1 and provide funding options.

Source: Rainbow Valley - Pumping and zoning analyzes.

Source: San Luis Rey River - Identify and analyze acquisition of water rights.

Source: Reclaimed water from neighboring agencies, including quantities, prices and return on investment.

Treatment: Analyze reverse-osmosis water from other agencies or partnerships with other entities.

Mr. Saxon asked if there was any funding amount that would discourage pursuing a certain area. Mr. Lee suggested looking at the Bonsall Reservoir first because there was a raw water line near it. He also said the next area to look at was the Rainbow Water Basin. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Heden said he would concentrate on water rights and agriculture water. Mr. Lee pointed out supply and distribution were the two primary concerns. He said financing and treatment should wait until there was a clearer focus on the project's direction. Mr. Heden said he would

concentrate on the areas the Committee Members pointed out and provide an evaluation matrix after he has collected and analyzed all the data then the potential options would be reviewed for cost, permitting, legal framework and public acceptance.

Mr. Strapac said currently the water usage is 19K and he suggested looking into targeting the usage to 30K instead. He pointed out if the District can lower the water rate it would bring growers back on line and encourage current growers to expand. Discussion ensued.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE WATER POLICY

Mr. Lee said there are 57 Pages in the current water policy and he has made a number of revisions. He mentioned he would start sending the Committee Members ten Pages at a time for review and comments. He pointed out he would like to finalize the Water Policy by the June 2012 Engineering Committee Meeting and have it ready for recommendation to the Board at the June 2012 Board Meeting.

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ENGINEERING UPDATE

Mr. Lee said he would like to start by going over the accomplishments from the March 2012 Board Meeting. He said the District approved the extension of Mr. Seymour's contract as General Manager to December 14, 2014. He mentioned Mr. Sneed retired on March 30, 2012 and his position has not been filled. He said the District reinstated the 5/8" and 3/4" meters. He said the Alternative Water Supply Study contract was approved as well as two Caltrans contracts for the Highways 15 and 76 Interchange. He said a Holding Agreement between the developer and the county was approved. He mentioned the developer wanted to delay construction of the development and would be putting the property as collateral to ensure the project met with the terms of the County and since the District was the rider to the County's requirements approval from the Board was necessary. He said the Board approved the new division boundary adjustments based on the 2010 census. He mentioned Ms. Brazier was the representative for the San Luis Rey River Working Group.

Mr. Lee provided the following CIP Updates:

- Pala Mesa Tank Phase 2: The placement of the first two quadrants on the tank went well and once all the quadrants are in place the removal of the interior scaffoldings would begin. The wrapping should begin in May 2012.
- Morro Reservoir: The cover was 45% complete. The current estimated project completion was July 2012.
- Morro Reservoir Chloramination Station: There will be a temporary station set up due to the long lead time for the tanks.
- Lift Station #2: The final punch list items have been completed. The project should be completed soon. A separate contract to install the fence should start next week.

10. LIST OF SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT SCHEDULED ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Lee suggested the following agenda items for the next engineering committee meeting:

- Water Policy
- Alternative Water Supply Study

11. ADJOURNMENT

Action:

**Moved by Member Saxon to adjourn the meeting Engineering Committee Meeting.
Seconded by Member Strapac.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Kurt Saxon, Committee Chairperson

Dawn M. Washburn, Board Secretary