

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
NOVEMBER 3, 2014**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Communications Committee Meeting of the Rainbow Municipal Water District on November 3, 2014 was called to order by Vice Chairperson O’Leary at 3:31 p.m. in the Board Room of the District, 3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook, CA 92028. Vice Chairperson O’Leary, presiding.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Member Daily
Member O’Leary
Member Meadow

Absent: Member Romani

Also Present: General Manager Kennedy
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary Washburn
Director Brazier
FPUD General Manager Brady

No members of the public were present.

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

Jeanne Meadow introduced herself to the committee. She mentioned she has always been interested in water and wanted to get involved to learn even more about it.

5. **GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS**

Mr. Kennedy had no comments on anything not already on the agenda.

COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS

6. **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

There were no committee member comments.

*7. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. September 8, 2014

Action:

Moved by Member Daily that the minutes of September 8, 2014 be approved. Seconded by Member O’Leary.

After consideration, the motion CARRIED by the following vote:

AYES: Member Daily, Member O'Leary and Member Meadow.
NOES: None.
ABSTAINED: None.
ABSENT: Member Romani.

8. BECK RESERVOIR UPDATE

Mr. O'Leary noted this item was discussed at the last meeting and was on today's agenda to discuss how the Committee may be able to assist.

Mr. Kennedy mentioned the design right now was at approximately 75%, but he had the engineering firm put on hold while staff takes another look at the costs on ultraviolet versus a cover. He also noted he wants to look at a "do nothing" analysis to see if there is another way to operate the system without the reservoir.

Mr. Kennedy explained right now RMWD was about to get started with updating the Master Plan to reflect the current status to include all of the development. He noted once this is done it will give RMWD a capital plan for the foreseeable future.

It was noted sharing with FPUD could happen with or without a merger of RMWD and FPUD.

It was determined at this time there was not much the Communications Committee could do to help with the public relations portion of the Beck Reservoir design matter until a final decision is made based on the analysis being performed. Mr. Kennedy noted the final analysis has not yet been presented; however, he hopes to have a more formal update once the analysis is received.

Discussion ensued regarding why some people who live near Beck Reservoir were against the proposed UV building.

9. DELINQUENT ACCOUNT POLICY UPDATE

Mr. Kennedy reported the Board adopted Title 8 of the RMWD Administrative Code which addressed delinquent accounts. He noted once decided, the Communications Committee will be brought in to discuss how it will be best to communicate the new practices with the ratepayers.

Mr. Kennedy confirmed this was a housekeeping item that would provide the District with a means with some standing with which to collect on delinquent accounts. Mr. Kennedy noted it also clarifies the obligations for property owners and goes through what happens when a foreclosure is placed on a property.

Mrs. Meadow recalled this being discussed at the Board meeting. She stated what is bothering the system are the big accounts that have been given repeated leniency. She asked whether or not it would be prudent to focus on those larger accounts that habitually do not pay their bills on time rather than the smaller accounts who are struggling with all the current water situations they are facing and causing them to be more upset. Mr. Kennedy agreed to give the larger users who are regularly past due some specific communication.

Discussion ensued.

It was determined to wait on publishing anything on this matter until the next newsletter.

10. LAFCO UPDATE

Mr. Kennedy reported RMWD continues interact with LAFCO. He mentioned he and Mr. Brady are presenting a traveling roadshow at various places as well as meeting with different water boards. He said whether it culminates in an election after LAFCO commission votes, RMWD expects the results will be the same and the District will remain in place.

Mr. Daily asked as to whether or not Mr. Kennedy had some indication as to when something will happen. Mr. Kennedy noted based on conversations with Mike Ott at LAFCO, it does not appear this matter will be addressed until at least early 2015. Mr. Brady confirmed this was the same information he was provided at a meeting with LAFCO absent Mr. Kennedy.

Mr. O'Leary inquired as to whether the LAFCO staff report would be the next step. Mr. Kennedy explained the LAFCO Advisory Committee would read the report and provide feedback to LAFCO staff prior to the matter going to the full commission. He said at this point the full commission will receive some type of recommendation for consideration from the LAFCO staff.

Mr. Kennedy pointed out some customers have written in to LAFCO stating they want to stay with RMWD due to the fact RMWD has lower rates; however, rates really depend on how much water is used. He stated there are some customers that would do better under RMWD's rates than under FPUD's and vice-versa. He noted the physical constraints on the water system that make the rates what they are are not going to change because through divisional accounting all the debts and obligations of former RMWD would be held separately. Mr. Brady concurred. Mr. Kennedy concluded by noting although there may be some savings around the edges, combining agencies would not make a core difference on customer rates in the short term.

11. UPCOMING NEWSLETTER TOPICS

Mr. O'Leary asked whether or not Mr. Kennedy would be more hands on when it comes to the Newsletter. Mr. Kennedy stated he will actively participate in the monthly newsletters.

Mrs. Meadow suggested there being some clarification as to the days and times for irrigating during the drought period be included in the newsletter. Mr. Kennedy recommended the committee members send over any questions they receive from the ratepayers so that answers can be provided in upcoming newsletters.

Discussion ensued regarding issues with having enough emergency water storage.

Mr. Daily inquired as to whether there would be anything RMWD would want to explain its ratepayers about the bond associated with Proposition 1. Mr. Kennedy stated it would be a matter of seeing exactly what type of projects RMWD has once Proposition 1 gets passed.

Mr. O'Leary requested a copy of the groundwater study be sent to the committee members. Mr. Kennedy said RMWD has not yet received the study; however, once received copies will be provided.

Mr. Kennedy solicited the committee for newsletter ideas; therefore, if anybody has something to write-up they should send it over for publishing. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kennedy suggested Mr. Daily work with Camp Pendleton on a proposal plan for rerouting traffic during the lengthy Highway 76 project that the City may find agreeable.

Mr. Kennedy noted the Beck Reservoir project, building a wastewater treatment plant, and other CIP projects that will need to be communicated to the public, especially once the Master Plan is completed.

Mr. O'Leary suggested the water availability report from San Luis Rey may be something one of the Communications Committee members can write an article on. He also recommended the members of this committee attend the other RMWD committee meetings as a resource for material that should be communicated to the public.

12. UPDATES ON DISTRICT "COMMUNICATOR"

It was recommended to leave the "Communicator" flexible for when items arise.

13. REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF RMWD RELATED MEDIA STORIES

This item was not discussed.

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

It was noted Mr. Daily would not be available to attend the December 1, 2014 meeting; therefore, the committee members agreed to meet on Monday, December 8, 2014 at 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Daily and Mr. O'Leary agreed to attend the November 5, 2014 Engineering Committee meeting.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Action:

Moved by Member Daily to adjourn the meeting to December 8, 2014. Seconded by Member O'Leary.

After consideration, the motion CARRIED by the following vote:

AYES:	Member Daily, Member O'Leary and Member Meadow.
NOES:	None.
ABSTAINED:	None.
ABSENT:	Member Romani.

The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Tim O'Leary, Committee Vice Chairperson

Dawn M. Washburn, Board Secretary