

**MINUTES OF THE ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF THE RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
JUNE 3, 2020**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting of the Rainbow Municipal Water District on June 3, 2020 was called to order by Chairperson Nelson at 3:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the District, 3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook, CA 92028. Chairperson Nelson, presiding.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Member Ratican, Member Brazier (*via teleconference*), Member Marnett, Member Nelson.

**Also Present:** General Manager Kennedy, Executive Assistant Washburn, Information and Technology Specialist Espino.

**Present via Teleconference or Video:**

District Engineer Strapac, Associate Engineer Powers, Project Manager Williams, Finance Manager Largent, IT Manager Khattab, Engineering Technician Rubio, Operations Manager Gutierrez (*arrived at 3:30 p.m.*).

No members of the public were present.

4. **ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA (Government Code §54954.2)**

Mr. Nelson suggested adding agenda item #7A for Operations Manager Comments. There were no objections.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT RELATING TO ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA (Limit 3 Minutes)**

There were no comments.

6. **GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS**

There were no comments.

7. **DISTRICT ENGINEER COMMENTS**

Mr. Strapac said he had no additional comments.

7A. **OPERATIONS MANAGER COMMENTS**

Chad Williams stated he would be filling in on Mr. Gutierrez's behalf and how there were no additional comments outside of the agenda items to be discussed.

## 8. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Ratican asked if the pressure valves on the new water meters would be placed downstream from the meters so they would be the homeowner's responsibility. Mr. Kennedy stated the Board has directed staff to keep those on the District's side of the meter and how anywhere the pressure is over 175 psi would be placed ahead of the meter and anywhere under 175 psi would be removed entirely and left to the homeowners to do what they need to.

Ms. Brazier asked if the homeowners are still paying the very small monthly maintenance fee for backflow devices and nothing additional for the regulators. Mr. Kennedy confirmed they are paying the backflow device monthly maintenance fees, but no additional fees for the regulators.

## 9. BOARD ACTION UPDATES

Mr. Strapac shared a listing of the recent actions taken by the Board of Directors. He noted the Board approved the Schmad variance, an eminent domain action for a future pump station off Camino Del Rey, a construction contract for the Rainbow Heights Pump Station Rehabilitation Project, the Olive Hills Estate transmission line project, as well as two change order increases for two of the three as-needed surveyor change orders.

Mr. Kennedy added the Board adopted a Resolution of Application for the Pardee development to detach from Valley Center MWD into RMWD and how on Monday the Valley Center MWD adopted a resolution to support that detachment. He said LAFCO has stated if there are no issues, the annexation could be complete by the end of this year. He pointed out the Board also adopted a resolution joining the California Statewide Community Development Authority's Statewide Community Infrastructure Program (SCIP) which allows for smaller progress to gain access to funding through assessments.

## \*10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. March 4, 2020
- B. May 6, 2020

### ***Motion:***

***To approve both the March 4, 2020 minutes and May 6, 2020 meeting minutes.***

***Action: Approve, Moved by Member Ratican, Seconded by Member Marnett.***

***Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Ayes = 4).***

***Ayes: Member Brazier, Member Ratican, Member Marnett, Member Nelson.***

## 11. CIVIL ENGINEERING AS-NEEDED CONTRACT REVIEW

Mr. Strapac stated the current contract is for as-needed contracts for civil engineering services for a term of three years. He explained due to a lack in response times, staff has had to determine whether timely response or cost should be the predominant factor and have found Omnis Consulting to be the most responsive and cost effective overall; therefore, staff was requesting a

committee recommendation that the Board increase the Omnis Consulting capacity by an additional \$150,000 in the contract.

Mr. Kennedy noted these contracts were approved approximately one year ago. It was suggested staff try to find additional firms to provide these services since two of the three are never available.

Discussion ensued regarding whether to terminate the remaining two contracts or keep them in place and add an additional contractor to the list from which staff can choose. It was decided to keep the current contractors in place at this time while projects are underway and bringing back the Request for Proposal to the next committee meeting to see if another firm would be available to provide these as-needed services and thereby extend the list of contractors to four.

Mr. Strapac reiterated staff was seeking a recommendation the Board increase the Omnis Consulting contract by \$150,000.

***Motion:***

***To recommend the Board approve increasing the Omnis Consulting contract by \$150,000.***

***Action: Approve, Moved by Member Brazier, Seconded by Member Marnett.***

***Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Ayes = 4).***

***Ayes: Member Brazier, Member Ratican, Member Marnett, Member Nelson.***

## **12. SOLAR POWER UPDATE**

Mr. Strapac explained staff has been evaluating solar locations in addition to Bonsall and Beck Reservoirs, respectively, through which it has been found there are some limitations set by SDG&E. He said onsite generation was optimum; however, RMWD does not have space where the power usage exists which is why staff was looking at whether it would be worthwhile to purchase a small piece of land to increase solar power at another site or install stick panels onsite. He noted staff was in the process of putting together a Request for Proposal to bring to committee for Board recommendation.

Discussion ensued what can be done to get solar power with RMWD getting the best return on investment.

Mr. Nelson asked for confirmation that if this does not turn out to be an economically viable project at one of the reservoirs, the District would need to determine how the land can be utilized. Mr. Kennedy verified this would be true. Discussion followed regarding the Bonsall Reservoir.

It was noted more on this topic will come back to the committee.

## **13. REVISED SEWER STUDY**

Mr. Kennedy recalled the challenges RMWD faced on North River Road after the heavy rains in April. He stated after some investigating following the rains, it was found sections of pipeline that needed some work. He said going through that effort, RMWD successfully made the two very

deep repairs as well as other spot repairs. He explained part of the Pardee project, another look was taken at the North River Road sewer line, it was recommended the line be converted to a force main; however, this force main requires digging extremely deep. He said after many discussions between RMWD and contractors as well as conducting additional analysis, it was determined with the building of the Thoroughbred Lift Station as well as the new Schoolhouse Lift Station combined with the Pankey Lift Station, RMWD could operate the system during peak times. He reported staff has found alternatives as opposed to spend \$8M to fix this critical part of the District's sewer system.

Mr. Williams stated since the interior images of the 15" sewer line were shared at a previous committee meeting and based on discussions that took place, a Request for Proposal was put out to which Hoch responded. He explained with this response, staff would like to take a time and materials Professional Services Agreement not-to-exceed \$151,000 to the Board for their consideration in June. He pointed out rather than spending \$8M to convert a section of sewer between Highway 76 and Stallion where it is officially turned over to the City of Oceanside, this project can be done for approximately \$2M-2.5M over three phases; each of which he explained in detail.

Mr. Kennedy explained the plan is to bring a Professional Services Agreement to the Board for their consideration. He noted this project would be needed regardless of the Pardee development project happens as it will be just a matter of time before the line collapses. He clarified this was one phase for getting the project done as cost effectively as possible while utilizing an existing asset. He confirmed this engineering contract would take RMWD through all the phases, each construction contract will come to the committee for review, and how completion of this project would take approximately one year.

Mr. Nelson acknowledged time was of the essence and complimented the work conducted by staff. He asked for clarification as to how RMWD will pay for this project based on the information provided in the budget review. Mr. Williams explained there was already money allocated to the sewer Capital Improvement Plan and the money collected starting July 1, 2021 from the Community Facility District funds will also be utilized for this project. Ms. Largent pointed out after meeting with Mr. Williams and Mr. Gutierrez, the \$2.5M has been included in the FY 2020-2021 fiscal year budget.

Mr. Ratican expressed concern with the size of this contract without company profiles being presented. It was confirmed this proposal did include resumes.

***Motion:***

***To recommend to the Board that they move forward with the Professional Services Agreement with Hoch Engineering.***

***Action: Approve, Moved by Member Marnett, Seconded by Member Ratican.***

***Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Ayes = 4).***

***Ayes: Member Brazier, Member Ratican, Member Marnett, Member Nelson.***

#### 14. PIPELINE UPGRADE PROJECT #1 PRE-BID REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Mr. Strapac gave a presentation noting the first of the Pipeline Upgrade Project (PUP) #1 how the bid package was complete and ready to go out for bid and PUP #2 was in the preliminary stages. He explained PUP #1 involves the relocation of several under-performing pipelines. He mentioned this was big project for RMWD and it was decided to break it into segments as a means of controlling the project budget.

Mr. Marnett asked if the District was going to hold on the five alternates for a while. Mr. Kennedy said a great deal of this project needs to be completed; however, it will need to be determined whether some of the work needs to be put on hold once staff has an opportunity to review the bidding environment.

Mr. Strapac mentioned per Legal Counsel, with doing these types of unique bids, RMWD is required to select the lowest bidder based on the base bid independent of their bids for the other items according to the Public Contract Code. He pointed out the segments that comprise the base bid.

Mr. Kennedy added the primary reason was to provide better communication hydraulically between Gopher Tank and Turner Tank as well as reduce the impact of shutdowns. He noted in the RMWD Administrative Code staff is directed to find looping wherever possible.

Mr. Strapac provided details on the alternate bids as well as a breakdown of the options available. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Nelson asked since these locations are so geographically dispersed was it possible for the District to consider awarding multiple contractors in order to proceed with getting the work done as quickly as possible. Mr. Strapac answered the District could separate them and go out for separate bids; Mr. Kennedy agreed this would be something worth considering.

Mr. Marnett pointed out there were significant reporting requirements in the document; therefore, there should be some savings should the project be issued to a single company. He said to repeat the same managing structure to five different companies, the costs should be increased. Discussion followed.

Mr. Ratican expressed concern with the requirement to choose the lowest bid for the base bid and then any alternatives would have to go to them which may set up RMWD for a way for companies to go low on the base bid and put more money into the alternatives. Mr. Strapac explained this scenario was discussed and how the alternates could be objected. Mr. Nelson agreed this was an option; however, the objective was to get the work done which was why he was asking about an alternative bidding strategy that will balance out getting a good price and multiple headings proceeding simultaneously. Ms. Brazier added this would prevent RMWD from being "played". Mr. Kennedy agreed this was good insight and directed Mr. Strapac to report back as to how these projects could be put out for bid as four different projects.

Mr. Nelson asked for clarification that the objective was for the committee to recommend to the Board to approve staff proceeding with the bid packets as presented to the committee members. Mr. Strapac confirmed this was correct. Mr. Nelson inquired as to whether there was a way to develop a team to rework the bid documents without bypassing the committee or delaying the project.

Mr. Kennedy thanked the committee for their valuable input on this item and how after receiving their feedback, he did not see any harm with waiting until July to take this the Board.

Mr. Strapac confirmed the RFP's are only sent to those on the qualified bidders list.

Discussion ensued regarding the materials used on these pipelines.

Mr. Nelson inquired as to whether the District would be able to pay for this project. Ms. Largent confirmed the District was prepared to pay for this project. Mr. Ratican pointed out RMWD may receive lower bids on different projects which in turn could save the District more money as opposed to working with one contractor for the entire project.

It was noted the PUP #1 will be on the next committee agenda.

Mr. Strapac gave an update on PUP #2.

## **15. HEADQUARTERS REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS UPDATE**

Mr. Kennedy updated the committee noting the clear consensus of the firm selected, Mastercraft, was that they were well prepared. He said Mr. Strapac will contact them to go through the process of finishing the scope requirement and getting a formal proposal to present to the Board at their June meeting.

Mr. Nelson asked for clarification the project will go to the Board for consideration who in turn will presumably take an action and then there will be time to start formalizing. Mr. Kennedy pointed out staff will also be asking the Board to create an ad hoc committee meeting to discuss the project along the way as opposed to having to wait each month to make progress.

Mr. Ratican asked if RMWD did a stand-alone yard, how much acreage was required. Mr. Kennedy replied a minimum of eight acres would be tight; therefore, 10-12 acres would be better. Mr. Ratican inquired about the Caltrans property located at the corner of Old Highway 395 and Highway 76 being viable. Discussion followed.

## **16. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO RECOMMEND APPOINTMENT OF A STAFF MEMBER TO SERVE AS A COMMITTEE ALTERNATE**

Mr. Kennedy explained this was a concept to appoint a staff member to serve as an alternate on this committee. He said it would be more appropriate to have Ms. Largent to serve as an alternate on this committee and Mr. Strapac as an alternate on the Budget and Finance Committee which would assist the committees as well as provide for staff development opportunities.

### ***Motion:***

***To appoint Tracy Largent, Finance Manager, to serve as an alternate on this committee.***

***Action: Approve, Moved by Member Ratican, Seconded by Member Marnett.***

The original motion was amended.

**Motion:**

**To recommend the Board to appoint Finance Manager, Tracy Largent, to serve as an alternate on the Engineering and Operations committee.**

**Action: Approve, Moved by Member Ratican, Seconded by Member Marnett.**

**Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Ayes = 4).**

**Ayes: Member Brazier, Member Ratican, Member Marnett, Member Nelson.**

**17. DISCUSSION OF GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (REPORT FROM HOCH CONSULTING)**

Mr. Kennedy referenced the report provided as a handout. He explained an objective from the Board was to identify grant opportunities. He noted Hoch Consulting has offered to assist RMWD for a low cost. He noted there was no specific action for the committee to take at this time, but rather review the report which will also be provided to the Board in June.

Mr. Nelson asked if this would be more of a finance item since this committee may not have too much input. Mr. Strapac explained a great deal of this does apply to very specific projects; therefore, this committee's input may be relative.

Ms. Brazier added a great deal of these things are contingent upon the alignment with funding criteria which is mostly engineering. Mr. Kennedy agreed this would involve both engineering and finance; therefore, it would be best to have both committees' involvement.

**18. COVID-19 UPDATE**

Mr. Kennedy reported staff was researching the best means for reopening the District to the general public while following the County guidelines including a temperature testing regiment for both the employees and members of the general public. He pointed out there was no pressure from the public to open; therefore, there was time to address how to best serve the customers without exposing everyone to liability unnecessarily.

**19. AS-NEEDED SERVICES EXPENDITURES SUMMARY**

It was noted there was not a great deal of action with geotechnical services; however, there will be a need in the near future.

**20. LIST OF SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT SCHEDULED ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

It was noted the solar update, PUP #1 and PUP #2, a Request for Proposal to add another as-needed contract for civil engineering, and the recurring "as-needed" services expenditures summary, as well as an update on the Vallecitos Tank damage should be on the next committee agenda.

**21. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Ratican thanked Mr. Strapac and Mr. Williams for the reports and information provided today.

***The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Nelson.***

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

---

**Flint Nelson, Committee Chairperson**

---

**Dawn M. Washburn, Board Secretary**