

**MINUTES OF THE ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
APRIL 7, 2021**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting of the Rainbow Municipal Water District on April 7, 2021 was called to order by Chairperson Nelson at 3:01 p.m. in the Board Room of the District, 3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook, CA 92028. *(Due to COVID restrictions the meetings are being held virtually.)* Chairperson Nelson presiding.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Member Nelson *(via video conference)*, Member Marnett *(via teleconference)*, Member Gasca *(arrived at 3:13 p.m. via video conference)*.

Absent: Member Brazier, Alternate Largent.

Also Present Via Teleconference or Video Conference:

General Manager Kennedy, Operations Manager Gutierrez, Engineering and CIP Program Manager Williams, Executive Assistant Washburn, Water Operations Supervisor Coffey, Associate Engineer Powers, Project Manager Tamimi, Engineering Technician Rubio, Information and Technology Manager Khattab, Information and Technology Specialist Espino.

Four members of the public were present via teleconference or video teleconference.

Mr. Kennedy confirmed the committee could meet but would not be able to take actions or make any recommendations to the Board until a quorum is present.

4. **INSTRUCTIONS TO ALLOW PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS FROM THOSE ATTENDING THIS MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE OR VIDEO CONFERENCE**

Mr. Nelson read aloud the instructions for those attending the meeting via teleconference or video conference.

5. **SEATING OF ALTERNATES**

There were no alternates seated.

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

Mr. Kennedy recommended Item #15 be deleted since Mr. Ratican no longer serves on the committee and Item #8 be deferred until a quorum is present.

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

There were no comments.

Discussion went to Item #9.

***8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. March 3, 2021

Motion:

To approve the minutes from March 3, 2021.

Action: Approve, Moved by Member Marnett, Seconded by Member Nelson.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Ayes = 3).

Ayes: Member Marnett, Member Nelson, Member Gasca.

Discussion went to Item #10.

9. GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Kennedy reported the District has started preparations toward possibly reopening; however, before holding in-person meetings, Cal OSHA has not provided similar guidance to the CDC's. He stated he hopes to hold a mostly in-person Board meeting in April and how a bill was before legislation now to allow for participation offsite without publicly noticing the location. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kennedy reported on the March 2021 SDCWA Board meeting during which discussion took place regarding SDCWA's ongoing misinformation campaigns against the member agencies which has resulted in a push to establish an ethics office. He noted the goal would be to work on operating in the public interest using facts and transparency. He said he made a motion to establish an ethics office which was not allowed by the SDCWA Chair; however, the member agencies will continue to push hard for this going forward.

Mr. Gasca joined the meeting at 3:13 p.m. making a quorum.

Discussion returned to Item #8.

10. ENGINEERING AND CIP PROGRAM MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Kennedy announced Sarah Johnson has decided to decline the District's employment offer; therefore, RMWD will be soliciting for another project manager.

Discussion went to Item #11.

11. OPERATIONS MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Gutierrez reported the Rainbow Heights Waterline Extension was going well, the mixers were currently being installed at Morro, the Dentro pressure reducing station was also going well.

Discussion ensued regarding the electrical panels associated with the Morro mixers.

Discussion went to Item #12.

12. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no comments.

Discussion went to Item #13.

13. BOARD ACTION UPDATES

Mr. Williams reported the Board approved Resolution No. 21-08 for the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Gopher Canyon Water Pipeline Improvement Project which completes the CEQA portion of the process. He noted the Board also approved a change order with Brown & Caldwell as well as awarded the contract for the Dentre de Lomas Road improvements project. Mr. Kennedy pointed out the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration was related to the presentation he will provide under agenda Item #20.

Mr. Nelson asked if there were any changes to the Gopher Canyon bid package previously prepared. Mr. Williams stated staff will definitely review the package one more time before it is republished. Mr. Nelson inquired as to whether this project would be able to proceed this year. Mr. Kennedy said it will depend on where the project lands in terms of cashflow.

Discussion went to Item #14.

14. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Kennedy stated Mr. Ratican formally resigned from the committee recently; therefore, a vacancy for Vice Chair has been created. Mr. Marnett suggested deferring for this item until the next meeting when more members are present.

Discussion went to Item #16.

15. PROCESS IMPROVEMENT DISCUSSION (MICK RATICAN)

This item was deleted per Item #4.

16. HEADQUARTERS DEVELOPMENT STUDY UPDATE

Mr. Nelson suggested if anyone were to be selected to replace Mr. Ratican on the ad hoc committee, it would be beneficial to choose someone who had as much experience and knowledge Mr. Ratican provided.

Mr. Kennedy reported the consultant continues to work on the study and how there may be some challenges associated with traffic impact, especially when it was discovered North County Transit does not provide bus services at the Park and Ride located down the street behind the Mobil gas station which may take some mitigation to resolve.

Mr. Kennedy stated he expects to have additional presentations with better quality maps as well as potential elevations of buildings ready to go so outreach with the Fallbrook Community Planning Group and County can begin.

17. WATER UPGRADE SERVICES PROJECT (WSUP) UPDATE

Mr. Gutierrez noted as of today the project was 48% complete with high probability of reaching the 50% completion mark near the end of April. He mentioned three of the storage containers RMWD rented for this project have been removed; therefore, the rental fees have been reduced. He said staff will now be looking at the inventory to ensure there is enough to complete the remainder of the project.

Mr. Kennedy mentioned an article recently published in The Village News related to this project and how RMWD has been in contact with both the customer as well as the reporter regarding this matter.

18. BACKFLOW CHARGE INVESTIGATION PROCESS UPDATE

Mr. Kennedy noted this item will be taken to the Board for consideration in April after which an update will be provided.

***19. NORTH RIVER ROAD PHASE III AWARD OF CONTRACT (ENGINEERING)**

Mr. Williams noted staff would be asking the committee to make a recommendation to the Board regarding this matter. He pointed out the Engineer's estimate for the project was \$520,000 and how the lowest responsive and responsible bidder is Sancon Technologies for \$373,233.50. He said he has contacted Sancon to ensure there were no errors in the bid and that they were willing stand by it to which Sancon confirmed.

Mr. Nelson expressed concern RMWD may receive an unanticipated change order to make up the difference; therefore, he wanted to ensure staff has scrubbed the bid to ensure there was no means for the bid to be escalated in cost. He stated he was pleased to hear staff has done their due diligence and trusts there was no opportunity there was no opportunity for a substantial change order included in the bid documents. Mr. Gutierrez stated he experienced the same concern when the bids were revealed and how after reviewing all the specifications staff found no room for costs to be escalated. Mr. Williams added the contractor was made fully aware of the District's expectations to which Sancon agreed to do this job at that price. Discussion followed.

Motion:

To recommend the Board accept staff's recommendation for this contract.

Action: Approve, Moved by Member Marnett, Seconded by Member Gasca.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Ayes = 3).

Ayes: Member Marnett, Member Nelson, Member Gasca.

20. PRESENTATION ON THE PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Mr. Kennedy thanked all the team members for their hard work involved with this project.

Mr. Williams noted staff has worked with Helix Environmental on the preparation of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). He explained the intention behind this project was to streamline the CEQA process for all water and sewer projects. He stated once the PEIR is completed, there will be fewer occasions when jobs will need to be taken out of the bidding climate in order to go through the CEQA process.

Mr. Williams introduced and provided some background on Karl Osmundson of Helix Environmental Planning, Inc.

Mr. Marnett requested a copy of the presentation be emailed to the committee members to which staff responded immediately.

Mr. Osmundson gave a presentation entitled "Water and Sewer Facilities Plan PEIR". He noted doing this exercise will not only streamline the CEQA process, but also help RMWD plan for longer term problem projects for mitigation. He concluded the presentation noting the list of steps to be taken including the hearing for the Board to certify and approve the project which is projected for early summer 2022. Mr. Williams added this same presentation would be provided to the Board at their April meeting.

Mr. Gasca suggested including the number of feet of pipe be broken down into mileage. Mr. Osmundson agreed to include this information.

Discussion ensued regarding the consults to transpire with the Native American Tribes as well as how the PEIR would reflect on projects included the CIP Strategic Plan.

The committee thanked Mr. Osmundson and his team for their assistance with the report.

21. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE COMMUNITY POWER RESILIENCY ALLOCATION

Mr. Williams explained the Community Power Resiliency Allocation is to support the California cities and small districts with additional preparedness efforts in response to power outage events. He noted RMWD has a great deal of planned and unplanned power outages which effects the pumping stations getting the reservoirs filled. He pointed out RMWD worked in conjunction with a consultant which resulted in RMWD being awarded a grant from the State of California in the amount of \$300,000 that must be spent before October 31, 2021. He explained staff has been working frantically determining how to get the money spent before it is lost. He said staff is going to own furnish and procure some emergency generators at Gomez Pump Station and Magee Pump Station. He pointed out staff has confirmed there are no requirements associated with this particular grant to have the generators operational; therefore, staff was already working with a consultant to determine the size generators are necessary as well as procuring some solar panels and battery backup systems for the radio tower located at the Sumac reservoir site. He stated one design engineer will design all three components and one general contractor will work on the implementation.

Mr. Gutierrez pointed out RMWD shares the radio antennas with North County Fire and how they have been brainstorming on how to get backup power, cost sharing, etc. He mentioned when the grant was awarded, it was great timing in putting the District in a very good position by being able to move water into certain reservoirs when RMWD received notification from SDG&E of planned power outages.

Mr. Nelson suggested staff start mapping backwards to figure out what steps need to be taken to accomplish making the purchases using the grant within the time restraints. Mr. Williams mentioned each of the steps already taken. Mr. Kennedy added this item will also be brought to the Board in April to get some broad authority to execute.

It was confirmed an update will be provided to the committee in May.

Mr. Gasca asked if the project needs to be completed by October 31st or the fund needs to be committed by then. Mr. Williams clarified the funds need to be spent by the October deadline.

22. UPDATE OF THE BACKFLOW CODE

Mr. Gutierrez noted a review of the Administrative Code has demonstrated some amendments and updates may need to be made to this section. It was noted any amendments would be provided to the committee for review and then to the Board in May for consideration.

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

Mr. Nelson asked if there were only two small engagements added to the summary totaling approximately \$7,000. Mr. Williams confirmed these were the only updates.

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

It was noted appointment for a committee Vice Chairperson, a WSUP update, backflow charge investigation process update, the community power resiliency allocation update, amendments to Administrative Code 8.20, a report on the Morro Reservoir mixer installations, and a potential meeting start time change should be on the next agenda.

25. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Nelson.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Flint Nelson, Committee Chairperson

Dawn M. Washburn, Board Secretary