

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
JULY 2, 2012**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Communications Committee Meeting of the Rainbow Municipal Water District on July 2, 2012 was called to order by Chairperson Daily at 10:32 a.m. in the Board Room of the District, 3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook, CA 92028. Chairperson Daily, presiding.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Member Vega
Alternate Washburn
Member Daily
Alternate O'Leary
Member Bednarski
Member Romani

Absent: Member Sowden

Also Present: Assistant General Manager/District Engineer
Director Brazier

One member of the public was present.

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

Ms. Rhyne asked when the ratepayers would be actually informed on the consolidation or joint powers project. She said most of them really only know what they have read in the newspapers lately. She pointed out she has questions of her own that she does not feel are getting answered. She stressed the high level of confusion over the entire issue. She said it was her personal opinion that she thinks RMWD looks really good and FPUD does not and the whole reason this idea to merge has come up was due to the fact FPUD really needs RMWD. She reiterated this was her opinion, not that of the Engineering Committee.

COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS

5. **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Ms. Washburn announced Mr. Seymour was doing well and home recovering from his recent surgery. She also pointed out Mr. Seymour left instructions with staff that if he was not back in the office by Monday, July 9th, there would not be a monthly Newsletter or Communicator in July. She noted Mr. Lee would be filling in for Mr. Seymour as the Assistant General Manager at this time; therefore, anything that would typically go to Mr. Seymour would instead go to Mr. Lee.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
A. June 11, 2012

Ms. Washburn pointed out “Vice Chairperson Daily” needed to be changed to “Vice Chairperson Vega” at the very beginning of the minutes.

Action:

Moved by Member Bednarski to approve the minutes as revised. Seconded by Member Romani.

After consideration, the motion CARRIED by the following vote:

AYES: Member Romani, Member Vega, Alternate Washburn, Member Daily, Alternate O’Leary and Member Bednarski.
NOES: None.
ABSTAINED: None.
ABSENT: Member Sowden.

7. REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF RMWD RELATED MEDIA STORIES

Discussion ensued regarding a recent article in The Village News regarding FPUD’s rate increase.

8. RMWD ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGERS COMMITTEE UPDATE (Mr. Brian Lee)

Mr. Lee answered Ms. Rhyne’s questions about the potential district merger noting the District was in a “silent period” due to the studies that were currently being conducted. He referenced the schedule provided at the June 26th Board meeting which notes there may not be a great deal of information presented until sometime in October. He mentioned the two agencies were trying to get their two boards together for a combined meeting; however, the details of that meeting have not been completed.

Mr. Vega pointed out there have been several discussions regarding the RMWD/FPUD consolidations and how it was determined that by going out now with information would be premature based on the fact the studies have not been completed and the Boards have not decided whether or not they have received enough data to make a concrete decision on this matter.

Ms. Rhyne noted previous minutes have stated both agencies were anticipating having the studies done by August and a proposal to LAFCO by October. She stated this seemed to be moving too quickly and she found it curious everyone involved conducting the studies were in some way connected solely to the Rancho California Water District and FPUD.

Mr. Lee talked briefly about the political standpoint of consolidating.

Mr. Vega reiterated Mr. Seymour told the committee there were three options which were to do nothing, completely consolidate, or functionally consolidate.

Ms. Rhyne pointed out none of the decisions to consolidate would be taken up by the ratepayers' vote who is in fact the owners of both water agencies. Mr. Lee stated this was exactly why the ratepayers needed to address their concerns with their respective Board Members.

Discussion went to Item #10.

9. **PREPARING QUALITY ARTICLES TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE "COMMUNICATOR"**
10. **EMERGING COMMUNICATION ISSUES, OPPORTUNITIES AND STRATEGIES NEXT TWELVE MONTHS (RE-VALIDATE)**
 - A. Bond/Fund Requirements (Approval to use State Revolving Fund)
 - B. Board Election in Divisions 1, 2, and 5
 - C. Lift Station 1 and 2 (March 2012 Completion)
 - D. Sewer Replacement Planning/Groundbreaking
 - E. Completions of Morro Reservoir and Pala Mesa Tank (Late Summer/Early Fall)
 - F. Passarellel Meters
 - G. Pappas Meters
 - H. Pardee Meters
 - I. Lack of Water in 2013 due to 2012 rain/snowfall

Ms. Bednarski inquired about the State Revolving Funds and how these may or may not be affected or impacted by a consolidation of the two districts. Mr. Lee explained the State's Department of Public Health came through and gave the final inspection on Morro Reservoir which means it will be back in service in just about a week. He noted although they gave the final inspection on the reservoir for the State Revolving Fund Loan, they have not given RMWD a contract for the loan itself as of yet. He pointed out; however, for the State to actually be willing to send individuals down from Sacramento speaks volumes toward a commitment to provide RMWD with the State Revolving Fund Loan. He said he has received a verbal commitment that RMWD was fully funded and the District should be receiving the actual loan documentation hopefully this month. He mentioned he also heard from the State that the furloughs and financial problems the State was currently financing was not going to get in the way of RMWD receiving the funds, but could slow down the process.

Ms. Rhyne asked whether or not RMWD could accept the loan due to Ordinance 95-1 being in place. Mr. Lee said this was a question that needed to be asked. Ms. Rhyne stated she thought Ordinance 95-1 needs to be modified with a sunset clause long before RMWD was given acceptance of the loan. She stressed the people need to be told a modification was necessary.

Mr. Vega inquired as to what would happen with receiving the loan and keeping finances separate in the event of a full consolidation. Mr. Lee stated RMWD will either receive or not receive any loan monies based on the district's current financial standings; therefore, if RMWD were to consolidate, it would have no bearing on the State Revolving Loans. He pointed out; however, the Pala Mesa state loan process was moving slower than expected.

Discussion ensued regarding staffing levels as well as the projected savings.

Discussion went to Item #11.

Mr. Lee updated the committee on the status of the Pala Mesa Reservoir/Tank project as well as Lift Station 2.

Mr. Lee reported on the three developments and their respective progression. He stated it appeared Pardee may likely go forward with utilizing Valley Center Municipal Water District for services.

Discussion went to Item #12.

11. UPCOMING NEWSLETTER TOPICS

- A.** Completion of Pala Mesa Reservoir/Tank
- B.** Morro Reservoir under budget plus Use of Cooperative Fed Funds (Mid-Summer completion)
- C.** No longer under State Mandates

Mr. O'Leary inquired as to the policy on the District newsletter. He asked whether or not it needed to be approved by the General Manager. He also expressed his concern to go a whole month without a newsletter should not be necessary. Mr. Lee said although he does not believe there was a policy regarding the newsletter, the problem was the mechanics of creating one. Mr. O'Leary stated this was why the committee was here to do and raised the question that if the committee threw together a "botched attempt" could Mr. Lee give approval. Mr. Lee stated he could approve it; however, it was a matter of time and effort. Mr. Lee pointed out the newsletter needed to be prepared for immediate mailing with the bills.

Mr. Vega said he thought a draft would need to be completed by now. Mr. O'Leary said he thought it could be done in a couple of days. Discussion followed.

Ms. Washburn pointed out a committee member was certainly welcome to draft something for the newsletter that staff could run by Mr. Lee who could run it by Mr. Seymour; however, Mr. Seymour did direct staff to not be concerned with missing the newsletter this month should he not be back in the office by July 9th. She noted there was a policy in place that all material for media did need to go through Mr. Seymour for final approval. Discussion ensued.

It was decided Mr. O'Leary would draft something that Mr. Seymour may be able to build on for the next available newsletter whether it was this month or the next. Mr. Lee noted it would not be a lost effort should Mr. O'Leary decide to prepare a draft. Discussion ensued regarding the consolidation being discussed at Board meetings as well as media coverage.

Ms. Washburn noted anything for the July newsletter needed to be submitted to her no later than July 9th; however, getting anything published would rely on Mr. Seymour's approval.

Discussion returned to Item #10.

12. "COMMUNICATOR" TOPICS DISCUSSION AND EDITORIAL SCHEDULE REVIEW FOR JUNE 2012 ISSUE

- A.** Roadshow Extract
- B.** Calendar Year 2012 Infrastructure Finance Measures
- C.** Relationship of Budget to Infrastructure Rehabilitation
- D.** Administrative Consolidation (3 districts)
- E.** District Consolidation (3 Districts)
- F.** Toilet to Tap Projects (Vega)

G. Lake Meade Inflow (Sowden)

Mr. Vega talked about the process for preparing the “Communicator”. It was noted Mr. Seymour would like to see more finalized drafts for the “Communicator”. Discussion ensued regarding what steps need to be taken in order to get back on track for the next issue.

Discussion continued regarding different topics that should be in the upcoming editions as well as the amount of time that needed to be allotted for each edition.

Ms. Washburn pointed out the title of Item #12 needed to have “June 2012” revised on future agendas.

Discussion went to Item #13.

13. DISCUSSION OF DRAFT RMWD COMMUNICATIONS PLANNING DOCUMENT AND CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF RMWD STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS PROCESS AND SUPPORT

A. Review Draft Infrastructure Communications Plan

Mr. Daily handed out a draft of the communications plan addressing infrastructure for the committee members to review and provide input at the next meeting. He pointed out the critical sections of this planning document were highlighted in red. He noted this document needed to be staffed by all Communications Committee Members.

Discussion took place regarding the proper and legal means of distributing information amongst committee members.

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

A. An agenda item to remove Ms. Washburn from the committee.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Action:

Moved by Member Vega to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Alternate O'Leary.

After consideration, the motion CARRIED by the following vote:

AYES: Member Romani, Member Vega, Alternate Washburn, Member Daily, Alternate O'Leary and Member Bednarski.

NOES: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

ABSENT: Member Sowden.

The meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Michael Daily, Committee Chairperson

Dawn M. Washburn, Board Secretary

