

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Engineering Committee Meeting of the Rainbow Municipal Water District on January 3, 2012 was called to order by Chairperson Saxon at 2:04 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 Walson
Alternate Rhyne
Member Prince
Alternate Roth

Absent: Member Strapac

Also Present: District Engineer Lee, Associate Engineer Plonka, Finance Manager Buckley, Meter/Customer Service Manager Atilano, Construction & Maintenance Superintendant Maccarrone and Assistant Rubio

One member of the public was present.

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

No public comments.

COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS

*5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. November 1, 2011

Mr. Taufer pointed out a typo on Page 3, Paragraph 4 and Ms. Rhyne pointed out a typo on the same Page in Paragraph 5.

Action:

Moved by Member Brazier to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Alternate Rhyne.

After consideration, the motion **CARRIED** by the following vote:

AYES: Member Brazier, Member Fekete, Member Saxon, Alternate Rhyne,
Member Prince and Alternate Roth.
NOES: None.
ABSTAINED: Member Taufer and Member Walson.
ABSENT: Member Strapac.

6. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WATER POLICY 8000**

Mr. Lee said he would be focusing on a specific aspect of the Water Policy regarding meter sizes. He said currently the District only allows 1-inch meters or larger for customers building a new home. He said based on the recent environment and upcoming developments parcels are going to be significantly smaller than what a 1-inch meter would service and because of this the District should allow the sale of smaller meters. He said the District has sold smaller meters in the past and pointed at a diagram on the white board to illustrate some viable options and solicited for committee input. He presented two possible options for the committee to consider:

Option 1 – Install a 1-inch service line up to the property line with a 1-inch meter and backflow. The customer's side will have a 5/8 or 3/4-inch service providing water to the house and a 1-inch fire service providing service to the house to meet the fire service requirement. The Engineering Department would review the service demands of the house and charge the customer based on those demands whether it be a 5/8 or 3/4-inch requirement. Current research has demonstrated a 1-inch meter's efficiency on low flows is 99% effective.

Option 2 – Install a two meter system where a 1-inch meter would meet fire service requirements and a 5/8 or 3/4-inch meter would service the house. There would be two meters and two backflows serving one house.

Mr. Lee mentioned the District would look into using check valves instead of using cross connection valves. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Walson asked what the rationale was for Valley Center using two meters. Mr. Lee responded he did not know but would find out. He said generally there was a fear a 1-inch line would provide more service to the house than a 5/8 or 3/4-inch line and there was a chance they could use more water than they were allowed. Mr. Walson said he thought the reason for the two meters was the concern of vacant house fires. He said he would like staff to pursue the rationale for dual meter systems. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Walson also requested to see the State and County code requirements. Mr. Lee said he would provide them.

Mr. Saxon expressed his concerns with Option 2 for the smaller lots and the dual meter setup systems taking up too much room on a narrow lot. He also said there was a philosophical concern regarding what the District would charge the customer based on the usage for a 1-inch or 5/8-inch meter and how much revenue the District would receive. He said the bigger issue was fairness of charging water fees for a small lot versus a larger lot using more water. Mr. Lee responded staff was trying to establish meter sizes based on usage. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Saxon asked how the District's portion of the capacity fee for a 1-inch water meter was distributed. Mr. Buckley said the entire District's capacity fee of \$13,097 went into the CIP fund for improving and expanding the system which includes the mainline, reservoir and tanks.

Mr. Walson said the Fire Department had required residents installing fire sprinklers to upgrade their 5/8 or 3/4-inch meters to a 1-inch water meter. He asked Mr. Lee where were the meter sizes reflected in the policy. Mr. Lee responded they were not in the policy yet. He said currently the sizes were reflected in the meter sales. Mr. Atilano mentioned he was currently looking into the meter sizes at the District. He said the District was required to test all meters every ten years and they were currently in the process of conducting these tests. He pointed out they were finding many of the 5/8-inch meters were actually 3/4-inch meters with 5/8-inch reducers. He recommends as the District standardizes meter sizes it should standardized 3/4-inch meters instead of 5/8-inch meters because it was more difficult to obtain 5/8-inch meters. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Lee said the District would determine the required size of a meter by basing it on the usable or developable acreage and the average landscaping demands in Southern California. He said the main driving force for meter sizes was the landscaping, which uses up 1/2 to 3/4 of the water in a domestic household. Mr. Walson said he would like to see more information regarding the meters. Mr. Lee said he would be glad to provide more information based on these discussions as follows:

- He would contact Valley Center Municipal Water District to find out the rationale for using two meters instead of one and would also contact other Districts.
- He said he would research state and county requirements regarding fire sprinklers.
- He mentioned he would also consider the retroactive policy regarding existing meters and how to apply it.
- He would look into downsizing meters and how often customers would be allowed to switch meter sizes.
- He would obtain the current meter costs and breakdowns for next month's meeting.
- He would find out if the District ordinance and policy removed the 5/8 and 3/4 inch meters from the District's option for purchase.
- He would research the lot size versus meter size discussion and financial impacts.

Mr. Walson agreed to talk to the local fire department regarding fire sprinkler requirements. Mr. Lee suggested he report his findings during next month's meeting.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ALTERNATIVE SUPPLY STUDY

Mr. Lee said the Request for Proposals were due back on January 27, 2012. He said the proposals should be evaluated and ready for discussion and recommendation at next month's meeting. Mr. Lee recommended deferring this Agenda Item to next month's meeting, due to Mr. Strapac's absence.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CURRENT CIP PROJECTS

- Lift Station #2: The emergency storage basin roof is almost complete. The scheduled completion date for this project is January 22, 2012.
- Inflow/Outflow: Flow meters were installed in the outfall at Lift Station #2. There were some discrepancies between the meter at Lift Station #2 and the meter at Stallion. Results should be ready by March 2012.
- Morro Reservoir: The liner is about 60% to 70% installed. The cover installation should start this month. The reservoir should be completed by May 2012.
- Pala Mesa Tank Phase 2: There is one panel up out of 13 panels.
- State Revolving Funds: The District was invited to participate in the State Revolving Fund application process and submitted two applications; one for Morro Tank and the other was for Beck/Pala Mesa.
- Pappas Property: The Board agreed to pursue consideration of annexing the Pappas property.

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING 2011-2012 CIP

Mr. Lee said the 2011-2012 CIP would probably not change much from last year. He said due to staff shortages, district funding and the current amount of projects it would not allow the addition of new CIP projects. Mr. Saxon asked if there were any new projects to bring them to the committee. Mr. Lee suggested updating the amounts on last year's budget and bringing it to the committee for review.

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

Mr. Lee suggested the following agenda items: Field trip to Lift Station 2 and Pala Mesa Tank Phase 2, Water Policy 8000, Alternative Water Supply Study and 2011-2012 CIP.

11. ADJOURNMENT to February 7, 2012

Action:

Moved by Member Saxon to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Member Fekete.

Kurt Saxon, Committee Chairperson

Dawn M. Washburn, Board Secretary