Watermaster District

- DRAFT MINUTES --

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors March 30, 2022, in Yreka, California

Directors present: John Spencer, Rod Dowse, Jeff Fowle, Rick Lemos, Bruce Fiock, FJ Hayden, Tony Bishop

Absent: none

By Phone: Nick Joslin (Friends of the Shasta), Susan Hart, Patricia White

Others in Attendance: See sign in sheet

1. Call to Order

- a. **Establish Quorum** a quorum is established. Meeting called to order by Chairman Fiock at 7:00pm
- b. Pledge of Allegiance was said
- c. **Agenda Approval –** ACTION: Approve Agenda as presented. MOTION: Hayden SECOND: Bishop; AYES: Spencer, Dowse, Fowle, Lemos, Fiock; NOES: none; ABSTENSIONS: none.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular meeting January 26, 2022

ACTION: Correct presence of FJ Hayden as Absent. Approve minutes as amended. MOTION: Fowle; SECOND: Dowse; AYES: Spencer, Lemos, Fiock, Bishop; NOES: none; ABSTENSIONS: Hayden

3. Public Comment –

- a. Rex Houghton, Montague Water District, asked if bill amounts would be adjusted since less water is being delivered. ED Noble clarified that watermaster billing is based on the minimal costs of District operations. ED Noble shared that drought funding is available, and the District will work with partners to determine if any of that can be applied towards providing relief to our water users. Fiock stated that watermaster service costs more in low-water years than in other years.
- **b.** Stan Sears asked if the Board plans on sending a letter in response to the Governor's mandate to increase flow in Shasta River during the summer. The Board did provide public comment during the rule making process and public meetings. The Board will be voting tonight on sending an additional letter to the State Water Board outlining the District's concerns.

4. Old Business (possible action items)

a. SWB Emergency Drought Regulation Curtailments

The Board and attendees discussed the role of the SSWD, SWB, and CDFW. CDFW representative, Janae Scruggs, clarified the potential for LCSs with surface water versus groundwater. CDFW is involved when there is a habitat component. There are two actions needed: development of an LCS plan; and the monitoring/verification of the plan. Technical support may be available from RCDs, or UC Cooperative Extension agents.

- i. Discuss and potentially approve SSWD serving as a third-party verifier for the Local Cooperative Solution (LCS) by Siskiyou RCD for Scott Valley groundwater users

 After robust Board discussion, the Board did not feel it was appropriate for the District to serve as a third-party verifier at this time. Board Members suggested technical assistance could be provided by UC Cooperative Extension and the RCDs. It was noted that Siskiyou RCD is already active as a third-party verifier. Director Dowse indicated that Shasta RCD was considering applying to serve as a third-party verifier. NO ACTION.
- ii. Discuss and potentially approve SSWD submitting a similar LCS for Shasta Valley groundwater and surface water users

 Dowse shared that the Siskiyou RCD and Shasta Valley RCD will meet with SWB soon to explore options. NO ACTION.
- iii. Discuss and potentially approve SSWD applying for grant funding to cover costs associated with assisting water users who want to participate in an LCS Potential sources for funding are Water Trust; California budget surplus; Dahle's office proposal. The Board is not interested in applying for grant funding at this time, but they

- support partners' efforts. NO ACTION.
- iv. Discuss and potentially approve SSWD pursuing other grant funding that could assist water users with various aspects of the drought regulation NO ACTION.
- v. Discuss and approve SSWD letter to SWB re: drought regulation
 ACTION: Approve letter as written and send. Letter to be signed by Executive Director and
 Board Chair. MOTION: Fowle; SECOND: Spencer; AYES: Dowse, Lemos, Fiock, Hayden,
 Bishop; NOES: none; ABSTENSIONS: none

5. New Business (possible action items)

a. Review and approve SSWD Annual Use Statement

WM Grassman presented the Annual Use Statement. The period of use was changed by the SWB and is reflected in the new report.

ACTION: Approve Annual Use Statement. MOTION: Fowle; SECOND: Hayden; AYES: Dowse, Lemos, Fiock, Bishop, Spencer; NOES: none; ABSTENSIONS: none

b. Discuss and potentially approve hiring Bonnie Jespersen for bookkeeping services
ED Noble presented the scope of work and proposed hourly rates. ACTION: Approve hiring Bonnie
Jespersen for bookkeeping services using Quickbooks. MOTION: Lemos; SECOND: Bishop; AYES:
Dowse, Fowle, Hayden, Fiock, Spencer; NOES: none; ABSTENSIONS: none

6. Financial -

- a. Financial reports tabled until new bookkeeping services are implemented Pay obligations as presented, totaling \$6,829. MOTION: Hayden; SECOND: Fowle; AYES: Dowse, Lemos, Bishop, Fiock, Spencer; NOES: none; ABSTENSIONS: none
- **b.** Chair Fiock appointed Treasurer, FJ Hayden, based on finding from audit. Add as agenda item at next meeting for Board approval.
- 7. Watermaster & Staff Reports summary of activities provided by WM Grassman and WM Nichols

8. Non-Public Closed Session

a. Discuss and potentially approve increased employee pay/compensation for work performed under the SSWD-SWB contract

9. Return to Open Session

- **a.** ED Noble reported that legal is still researching if/what are the potential avenues to provide increased compensation for work performed under the SSWD-SWB contract. NO ACTION.
- **10. Next regular meeting** May 25, 2022, at 7:00 pm
- **11. Adjournment –** 8:33pm

Minutes approved [] as presented [] with corrections on	theday of
Signature of Board Chairman	Signature of Secretary