

**MINUTES OF THE ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
AUGUST 5, 2020**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting of the Rainbow Municipal Water District on August 5, 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, Alternate Largent (*via video conference*).

Also Present: General Manager Kennedy, Engineering Technician Rubio, Information and Technology Specialist Espino.

Present via Teleconference or Video:

District Engineer Strapac, Project Manager Williams, IT Manager Khattab, Construction and Maintenance Supervisor Lagunas, Associate Engineer Powers, Operations Manager Gutierrez.

Two members of the public were present.

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

Mr. Nelson read the public comment instructions.

5. **SEATING OF ALTERNATES**

There were no alternates seated.

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

There were no changes.

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

There were no comments.

8. **GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS**

Mr. Kennedy summarized the SDCWA detachment process. He mentioned some of the upcoming CEQA procedures and how most likely any CEQA matters will be found exempt under State law.

Mr. Nelson questioned the various tactics used to delay the detachment process and whether RMWD was on a critical path. Mr. Kennedy responded LAFCO's general process was on track; however, the more obstacles created by SDCWA will probably add more time for completion.

9. DISTRICT ENGINEER COMMENTS

Mr. Strapac shared a presentation updating the committee on current engineering projects.

Mr. Marnett asked for status of the Solar Energy project. Mr. Strapac said he has been talking with SDG&E and several solar companies noting there were several things being worked on related to this project.

10. OPERATIONS MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Gutierrez said a fire hydrant was hit on Rice Canyon over the weekend, but there was no property damage. He also announced RMWD's Meter Services Supervisor has decided to resign and relocate his family out of state; therefore, there will be an announcement for the vacant position coming up soon.

11. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Nelson requested an update on the PEIR be provided at an upcoming committee meeting.

12. BOARD ACTION UPDATES

Mr. Strapac reported the Notice of Completions for both Helling Run and the Malek Water Line Extensions were accepted by the Board.

Mr. Gutierrez confirmed the Board approved an award of contract for Phase 1 of the North River Road repair project.

***13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. July 1, 2020

Mr. Ratican noted the word "bid" in the second paragraph of Page 5 should be changed to "bit".

Motion:

To approve the minutes as amended.

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

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

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

14. PIPELINE UPGRADE PROGRAM (PUP) #1 UPDATE (ENGINEERING DEPT.)

Mr. Strapac pointed out he combined Items #14 and #15 into one presentation as he provided updates on both projects.

Mr. Strapac mentioned staff was already scoping PUP #3 and how Rainbow Valley Boulevard may move up on the list of leaks quite significantly.

15. PIPELINE UPGRADE PROGRAM (PUP) #2 UPDATE (ENGINEERING DEPT.)

This item was combined with Item #14.

16. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR AS-NEEDED CIVIL ENGINEERING (ENGINEERING DEPT.)

Mr. Strapac reported six proposals were received as he shared a presentation showing the results of the evaluations of the proposals.

Mr. Nelson asked if RMWD has worked with any of these consultants in addition to Hoch. Mr. Strapac stated the District has worked with Harris. He mentioned staff would like to have a recommendation for three Professional Services Agreements for Hoch, West, and Harris be approved by the Board at their August 25, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Kennedy asked if the one firm that is unresponsive to RMWD would be removed from the list. Mr. Strapac explained that firm was currently working on one project; therefore, they have not been removed from the list.

Discussion ensued regarding proposals and the information they contain.

Mr. Nelson asked if the total amount in the as-needed design contracts is approximately \$700K, does RMWD have \$700K worth of design work to be completed. Mr. Kennedy explained this was a placeholder contract with funds available within each of the capital projects.

Discussion ensued regarding keeping the most responsive consultants and dropping those that are not.

Motion:

Recommend the Board award contracts with the proposed three firms.

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

Vote: Motion failed by roll call vote (summary: Ayes = 2, Noes = 0, Abstain = 2).

Ayes: Member Marnett, Member Nelson.

Abstain: Member Brazier, Member Ratican.

17. WATER SERVICE UPGRADE PROGRAM (WSUP) UPDATE (OPERATIONS DEPT.)

Mr. Williams reported staff is continuing through all the different routes and how the RMWD website is being updated regularly. He announced the first 1,000 installs has been reached this week.

Mr. Kennedy mentioned the program had to be placed on pause due to a member of Concord's staff testing positive for COVID-19; however, all the employees tested as a result of this outbreak were negative for the virus.

Mr. Kennedy explained how there may be some additional costs associated with this project that will be brought to the committee and Board at a later date.

Mr. Nelson inquired as to how RMWD knows which meter box is assigned to a customer. Mr. Gutierrez explained meter readers use the meter numbers which can be provided to customers who make a request.

Mr. Marnett asked if there were any billing surprises. Mr. Kennedy said the meters are now working accurately. He mentioned there have been some customer issues related to the regulators; however, staff has been educating the customers on these matters. Mr. Marnett asked if the new meters were increasing revenues. Mr. Kennedy stated it was too soon to tell due to the District not having quite enough data to make that determination.

Mr. Williams pointed out there were some customers adamantly opposing meters being touched by RMWD staff; however, crews have been instructed to leave those meters alone and schedule a time for Mr. Gutierrez or another lead staff member go out and work with the customer to create a better understanding of the project which has resulted in staff being able to continue exchanging those meters.

18. SUEZ CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR STAIRS AND SAFETY RAILING (OPERATIONS DEPT.)

Mr. Kennedy said in October of 2018 the District entered into a contract amendment to install stairways on our tanks. He mentioned an issue still exists with the stairways; therefore, after a series of discussions the District has agreed to pay 33.3% of the costs to reinstall the stairways on ten tanks to meet OSHA standards as well as enhance security at three RMWD reservoirs.

Mr. Williams said the proposed upgrades will be made to ten of the eleven RMWD tanks. He noted the change order would be presented to the Board at their August 25, 2020 meeting for consideration.

Mr. Kennedy confirmed the stairways will be longer with less of a slope as well as have landings.

Ms. Brazier asked if there were plans in the works to ensure RMWD does not fail to see things like this in the future when reviewing plans. Mr. Kennedy confirmed something has been put in place and how staff has worked with crews and safety to ensure something like this does not reoccur.

Motion:

Recommend the Board accept the upgraded contract.

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 Marnett, Member Nelson, Member Ratican.

19. MORRO RESERVOIR MIXING OPTIONS (OPERATIONS DEPT.)

Mr. Gutierrez pointed out this was a 150M gallon storage tank.

Mr. Kennedy stated although this project was not directly related to the detachment process, it was an important component. He provided a brief historical summary on what transpired when making the decision to consider adding mixing in the reservoir for the benefit of water quality. He noted this was an existing facility that adjustments were being made to as a means of optimizing its operation.

Mr. Gutierrez explained the existing chlorination system will not operate correctly without having constant water parameters. He stated staff has received two proposals for two different mixing options which will be reviewed internally to determine which system would work best for the District.

Mr. Kennedy said this item will be brought back to the committee in September.

20. CIPP PHASE II NORTH RIVER ROAD SEWER REPAIRS BID PACKET (OPERATIONS DEPT.)

Mr. Williams updated the committee on Phase II of the North River Road repair. He mentioned Phase I was awarded to SCW and how the Phase II bid opening has been scheduled to take place on August 11, 2020 and will be presented to the Board on August 25, 2020 for consideration. He pointed out this project has been estimated at approximately \$2M.

Mr. Nelson stated for obvious reasons, staff was not asking for recommendations from the committee at this time, especially when Phase II would be going to the Board prior to the next Engineering and Operations Committee meeting due to time constraints.

21. NORTH RESERVOIR COVER INFLATION PRESENTATION (OPERATIONS DEPT.)

Mr. Gutierrez shared pictures and videos of the North River shared pictures and videos of the North Reservoir cleaning which internal staff conducted for the first time.

22. VALLECITOS PRV COMPLETION AND VALLECITOS TANK REPAIRS UPDATE (OPERATIONS DEPT.)

Mr. Gutierrez gave a presentation as he noted this tank was taken offline to assess the damage and how a 4" pressure regulator was activated to feed that zone while the tank was offline. He explained the steps taken during the assessment process, what work was conducted, and shared a picture of the tank as it currently stands after the work was completed. He pointed out the tank will continue to run at half capacity in conjunction with the PRV making up the other half. He concluded with noting an agreement has been reached with Suez to repair the damage with RMWD paying approximately \$25,000 of those costs for necessary upgrades.

23. AS-NEEDED SERVICES EXPENDITURES SUMMARY

Mr. Nelson commented on some of the changes made from the last time this report was provided.

Discussion ensued regarding the job assigned to Dudek.

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

Mr. Nelson stated it would be helpful to the committee to have more information regarding the parameters of the as-needed service evaluations such as proposals and staff reports. Mr. Kennedy directed staff to provide this information to the committee members in advance of the appropriate committee meeting.

It was noted updates on PUP #1, #2, and #3, the Request for Proposal for as-needed civil engineering services, updates on the North River Road project, mixing options for the Morro Reservoir, Gird Road bid plans, and updates on the WSUP project will be on the next committee agenda.

25. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Nelson.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Flint Nelson, Committee Chairperson

Dawn M. Washburn, Board Secretary