

**MINUTES OF THE ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
MARCH 4, 2015**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Engineering Committee Meeting of the Rainbow Municipal Water District on March 4, 2015 was called to order by Vice Chairperson Brazier at 3:02 p.m. in the Board Room of the District, 3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook, CA 92028. Vice Chairperson Brazier, presiding.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Member Brazier
Member Prince
Member Rhyne
Member Taufer
Member Kirkpatrick
Alternate Kennedy

Absent: Member Strapac

Also Present: Director Walker
Assistant Rubio

Mr. Heden and Mr. Stitle were members of the public present.

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

It was requested that agenda Item #10 be moved to follow after Item #7.

COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS

*5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. February 4, 2015

Mr. Taufer requested clarification with Paragraph 4. Mr. Kennedy provided clarification.

Action:

Moved by Member Rhyne to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Member Taufer.

After consideration, the motion CARRIED by the following vote:

AYES: Member Brazier, Member Prince, Member Taufer, Member Ryne, Member Kirkpatrick and Alternate Member Kennedy.
NOES: None.
ABSTAINED: None.
ABSENT: Member Strapac.

6. DISCUSSION REGARDING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Kennedy said due to a recent resignation and member absences two staff members Mrs. Kirkpatrick (Member) and Mr. Kennedy (Alternate Member) were appointed to the Engineering Committee. He pointed out this would ensure quorums and keep the projects moving in a timely manner.

Mr. Kennedy mentioned Mr. Stitle was interested in joining the Engineering Committee.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPOINT HARRY STITLE TO THE ENGINEERING COMMITTEE

Mr. Stitle handed out his resume and said he has been involved with the Budget and Finance Committee for approximately four years and was currently the Chairman. He said he is a licensed architect and civil engineer and has been a resident of Bonsall for 14 years.

Action:

Moved by Member Rhyme to replace Member Saxon with Mr. Stitle as a Member of the Engineering Committee. Seconded by Member Kirkpatrick.

After consideration, the motion CARRIED by the following vote:

AYES: Member Brazier, Member Prince, Member Taufer, Member Ryne, Member Kirkpatrick and Alternate Member Kennedy.
NOES: None.
ABSTAINED: None.
ABSENT: Member Strapac.

Discussion went to item #10.

8. DEVELOPER UPDATE

Mrs. Kirkpatrick provided a map presentation of all the development within the District. She provided a brief summary of the developments' locations. She stated these developments would bring in potential wastewater customers. Discussion ensued.

9. LAFCO UPDATE

Mr. Kennedy said all efforts to convince FPUD to accept any kind of compromise failed. He mentioned currently the ratepayers are playing a critical role in communicating to LAFCO their opposition. He stated the website "saynotofpud.org" was available for the ratepayers opposing the takeover. He said unfortunately LAFCO has many provisions to bypass elections all together. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kennedy stated if there is no specific benefit to the ratepayers then why would LAFCO allow FPUD to take over RMWD. He said legal recommendations will provide clarity as far as where to go from here. He noted FPUD states they are the only agency to compromise when RMWD has offered options; however, there are minutes proving that RMWD had offered to extend the JPA was rejected by the FPUD designated NCJPA Board Members and approved by RMWD's. Discussion continued.

Discussion went to Item #11.

10. ENGINEERING FEES

Mrs. Kirkpatrick said the District had not evaluated its engineering fees since 2005 and its plan check and inspection deposits since 2006. She had noticed discrepancies with fees and deposits in relation to staff time both high and low, and wanted to take a closer look at the current fee schedule. She pointed out J.C. Heden and Associates was contracted to evaluate internal processes, required staff time in addition to surveying six other local agencies to determine costs associated with engineering services. She handed out a memo with a summary of proposed engineering fee and deposit modifications as a result of the study. She introduced Mr. Heden and informed the committee he was available for questions. She proceeded to briefly go over the recommended fees as categorized by services. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Heden said there was an independent review of staff salary data collected from six other agencies to conduct an analysis of fees provided in the final report, which includes detailed graphs to illustrate the current and proposed fees. Mr. Kennedy stated the District would be justifying the fee modifications with the final report. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick asked Mr. Heden to elaborate on how the District would be able to implement automatic fee increases. Mr. Heden said one idea would be to use the Los Angeles Consumer Cost Index to conduct automatic increases either quarterly or annually and incorporating it in an ordinance to be adjusted automatically. Mr. Kennedy would like to review costs every five years. Mrs. Kirkpatrick reiterated it was only an idea to consider. She agreed to wait five years for actual tracking of staff time to be recorded. Mr. Heden said another idea to consider would be to increase fees based on staff rate increases. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kennedy said the District's job is to ensure the systems are constructed according to the standards and specifications. He explained when a developer requests to add on to the District's system staff's job is to make sure it's designed correctly and the materials are selected and installed correctly in order to protect the rate payers from downstream problems due to deficient pipes or installations. He pointed out the developer has to pass all the District measures prior to accepting the addition into the system. He said the developer has to capture the costs of developing and not the rate payers. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick asked the committee to review the fees and provide feedback at the next committee meeting. She agreed to email a copy of the entire study to the Committee Members.

Discussion returned to Item #8.

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

It was suggested engineering fees, LAFCO update and Morro Tank be on the next agenda.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Action:

Moved by Member Rhyne to adjourn to April 1, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. Seconded by Member Prince.

After consideration, the motion CARRIED by the following vote:

AYES: Member Brazier, Member Prince, Member Taufer, Member Ryne, Member Kirkpatrick and Alternate Member Kennedy.

NOES: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

ABSENT: Member Strapac.

Meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Helene Brazier, Committee Vice Chairperson

Dawn M. Washburn, Board Secretary