

**MINUTES OF THE ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF THE RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
SEPTEMBER 4, 2019**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting of the Rainbow Municipal Water District on September 4, 2019 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 Prince, Member Stitle, Member Taufer, Member Brazier, Member Ratican, Member Marnett, Member Nelson.

**Also Present:** General Manager Kennedy, District Engineer Strapac, Associate Engineer Powers, Project Manager Tamimi, Engineering Tech Rubio, Development Services Representative Perez, Operations Manager Gutierrez, Project Manager Williams.

One member of the public was present.

4. **SEATING OF ALTERNATES**

There were no alternates seated.

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

Mr. Nelson noted Mr. Kennedy has requested an item be added to the agenda regarding Building 2 water damage. Mr. Nelson noted this would be added as Item #18A.

Mr. Strapac requested to move Item 11 after Item 8.

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

There were no comments.

7. **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Nelson commented on the District mailer regarding the SDCWA Shutdown as being well done.

Mr. Stitle ask for an update on the ABM issue. Mr. Kennedy responded it was almost completed.

\*8. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. August 7, 2019

Mr. Taufer pointed out a correction on Page 4 of 16, should state "Subdivision **Map Act**".

**Motion: To approve the minutes as corrected.**

**Action: Approve, Moved by Member Brazier, Seconded by Member Stittle.**

**Vote: Motion passed (summary: Ayes = 6, Noes = 0, Abstain = 1).**

**Ayes: Member Prince, Member Stittle, Member Taufer, Member Brazier, Member Marnett, Member Nelson.**

**Abstain: Member Ratican.**

Mr. Strapac introduced two new staff members in the Engineering Department. He said Ms. Perez would be taking Mrs. Dechert's position when she retires. He stated Ms. Perez worked in the Customer Service Department. He mentioned that Ms. Perez's time would be split 75/25% between Engineering and the Finance Departments assisting Ms. Largent with customer service/financial duties.

Mr. Stapac also introduced Mr. Tamimi the new engineering Project Manager. He mentioned that Mr. Tamimi worked for the City of Vista and the City of Poway at different time frames. He pointed out Mr. Tamimi has experience with CIP projects and a background in environmental/biology.

*Went to Item 11.*

## **9. FY 2019-2020 DISTRICT-WIDE WATER MAIN UPGRADES (PREVIOUSLY TITLED MISCELLANEOUS PIPELINE REPLACEMENT UPDATE)**

Mr. Powers presented an update on the FY19/20 District-Wide Water Main Upgrades Project. He said the District recently received the 60% submittals from the Consultant. He mentioned when District staff complete the review of these submittals all the comments would be sent to the Consultant to start work on the 90% submittals. He said the Consultant was currently working on the specifications, quantities and cost estimate. He mentioned the proposed bid date was planned for the end of October 2019. He briefly discussed the following projects:

- Gird Road - Parallel pipelines that will connect the Sarah Anne loop to a lower pressure system that is fed by the Knottwood Way pressure reducing station. This project would reduce the amount of pipe breaks and does not require a pressure reducing station. By completing this project, it would remove the entire neighborhood out of the top 20 pipeline replacements.
- Via Vera - Relocate the pipeline going through a customer's driveway and between their garage and swimming pool. The pipeline would be relocated around the property to Via Vera.
- Eagles Purch - Relocate the pipeline from a customer's backyard out to the street. The pipe would be replaced to Eagles Purch Lane requiring the extension of several water meter laterals. The pipeline would be upgraded to an 8" line from a 6" which would increase the fire flow.
- Sagewood Road - Relocate the pipeline to Sagewood Road making it more accessible to field staff, a manageable right-of-way, and looped.

- Disney Lane - Relocate the pipeline to Gopher Canyon Road requiring extension of several water meter laterals. Near Disney Lane is an undersized pipe on Millagra Drive that would be upsized to increase looping.

He stated the following projects were added by a Change Order:

- Gopher Canyon Road – Install new pipelines to close gaps.
- Integrity Court – Install new the pipeline from a private road to Protea Vista Terrace.

Mr. Powers mentioned that all the projects would be under construction at the same time. Mr. Strapac stated the estimated construction cost was about \$5M. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Ratican voiced concerns regarding the plans not including profiles in certain areas. Mr. Powers pointed out being that these are 60% design, there was some detail missing. He mentioned that this concern had already been noted by staff. Discussion ensued.

## **10. VIA ARARAT PIPELINE REPLACEMENT UPDATE**

Mr. Powers said the design was completed in April 2019. He mentioned all submittals received have been reviewed and the District was waiting on additional submittals. He said once the submittals have been approved the Contractor informed the District of an eight to ten week period to procure the 24” butterfly valve. He pointed out the construction start date was scheduled for early November 2019 with estimated completion in early 2020. Discussion ensued.

## **11. SDCWA EMERGENCY SHUTDOWN UPDATE**

Mr. Kennedy noted there was a SDCWA member present at this meeting. He said a notice was sent out to all customers regarding the upcoming SDCWA shutdown. He pointed out the District would not have six of the eight connections available for ten days, which made it challenging to manage during the current hot weather. He said the District conducted a shutdown simulation test at the high impact areas in the southern zone and it passed with flying colors. He noted that pumps would have to be leased at a cost of \$85K and that customers would still be required to cut back on their water usage. He mentioned the SDCWA informed him that the shutdown dates might be changed. He stated after corresponding with the various agencies it was decided to stay with the scheduled dates, although the shutdown may be extended a few days. He hopes that there would be relief from the hot weather during this time. Discussion ensued.

*Went to Item 9*

## **12. SEWER PIPE LINING PROJECT UPDATE**

Mr. Powers said the Contractor informed the District that they were waiting on Caltrans and the County of San Diego encroachment permits. He mentioned questioning the contractor regarding the reasoning for the encroachment permits, since the Contractor would be crossing the right-of-way underground in the sewer and not on the road. He went over the Contractor’s schedule as follows:

- Estimated three weeks to obtain encroachment permits.
- Two days to clean and inspect the existing sewer lines.
- 15-day procurement period.

- Two-day construction project.
- Third-day final inspection estimated to be on October 18, 2019.

### **13. OLIVE HILL PIPELINE DESIGN UPDATE**

Mr. Powers said when the Olive Hill Estates Development was built a water pipeline that went through the neighborhood was abandoned as part of the project. He stated that the pipeline was later identified as a necessary pipeline, which would be relocated within the roadway of the Olive Hill Development. He said the new 14-inch high-pressure water pipeline would be installed parallel to the current low-pressure waterline that feeds the houses within the development. He pointed out the preliminary design was in progress by one of the as-needed design consultants and was due by next week.

Mr. Nelson pointed out that the project was not listed in the 5-year CIP plan. Mr. Kennedy said this project was recently identified by the District Operators as a high priority replacement project based on the hydraulic analysis. Mr. Nelson asked about the total cost for the project. Mr. Strapac responded approximately \$1.7M, which would require the reallocation of CIP funds. Discussion ensued.

### **14. FY 2020-2021 DISTRICT-WIDE WATER MAIN UPGRADES RFP UPDATE**

Mr. Strapac said this was the next phase of the District-Wide water main upgrades. He said the District was planning on installing pressure stations at Almendra Court and North River Road to reduce the replacement (break rate) of water mains. He discussed the following preliminary list of water main replacements and stated that the estimated cost was at \$3M with a total of 2.1 miles:

- Via Monserate – 150' of pipe
- Rice Canyon Road – North of Tank, 2,200' of pipe (Possible Lining)
- Stallion Drive – 1,000' of pipe (whole street)
- North River Road – SR76 to Via Puerta Del Sol, 2,600' of pipe
- Nella Lane – 660' (whole street)
- Rainbow Glen – 1,200'
- Thibido – 800' (Off Little Gopher Cyn., Creek Crossing)
- Calle de Vuelta – 1,260' of pipe
- Rainbow Heights Road – 1,135' of pipe

Mr. Strapac mentioned the RFP was scheduled to go out next week and the scope of work would include the preliminary list with possible modifications. Discussion ensued.

*Robert Gutierrez and Chad Williams came in at 4:15 p.m.*

Mr. Strapac noted there was a new RFP out for the Rice Canyon Tank Transmission main line that was not included in the above list. Mr. Kennedy stated this transmission line would improve the District's ability to provide water from both sides east to west during shutdowns.

### **15. PRESSURE REDUCING STATION REPLACEMENT AND NEW PR'S UPDATE**

Mr. Tamimi said at the August 27, 2019 Board Meeting, the Board approved the purchase of 10 pressure reducing stations. He pointed out the bulk purchase resulted in a savings of \$100K. He said currently seven locations have been identified:

- New Pressure Reducing Stations:  
Almendra Court  
Vista Valley Drive
  
- Replacement Pressure Reducing Stations:  
Pala Mesa Condos  
Pala Lake South  
Pala Lake North  
Fire Road  
North River Road

Mr. Strapac mentioned two locations were in rural areas and would not be dog house pressure stations they would be installed above ground.

**\*16. AS NECESSARY SERVICES EXPENDITURES SUMMARY**

Mr. Kennedy pointed out the only change was the Olive Hill Estates Transmission water main design.

Mr. Kennedy commented that the Bonsall Reservoir appraisal was initially assessed for three single family homes. He stated the County's General Plan lists this parcel as public use and in order to build residences a General Plan Amendment would have to be issued, of which the County would only allow one residence on this six-acre parcel. He pointed out General Plan Amendments are very costly. He said the District was seeking the best value of the land, although county land use ordinance constraints make it difficult. He mentioned this would be addressed at the Board Meeting. Discussion ensued.

**\*17. REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE CODE POLICY CHAPTER 2.09 – COMMITTEES AND POSSIBLE COMMITTEE MEMBER REAPPOINTMENTS**

Mr. Kennedy said as part of the committee policy review it was noted that the appointment terms for committee members to be for four years and may be reappointed by the Board. He mentioned this process was not maintained in the past, although currently the Board Secretary would have to be notified regarding the reappointment of committee members.

Mr. Nelson asked each committee member if they were willing to continue serving:

- Mr. Stitle responded yes.
- Mr. Taufer responded yes.
- Mr. Ratican responded yes.
- Mr. Prince responded yes.
- Mr. Marnett was not up for reappointment.
- Mr. Nelson was not up for reappointment.

Mr. Ratican said the committees need to stay fresh and bring in new committee members, although there has not been anyone expressing interest recently. Mr. Kennedy stated when the

District advertises for new members it was usually when there were vacancies, although this committee has not had any vacancies.

Mr. Nelson recommended addressing interest in the District's newsletter. He mentioned not remembering being appointed by the Board. Mr. Kennedy said he would have Ms. Washburn verify Mr. Nelson's appointment.

Mr. Kennedy noted that determining the level of detail required in this section of the Admin Code could become very lengthy. Ms. Brazier stated there should be more specifics. Mr. Kennedy mentioned some areas could be left to the Board's discretion. Ms. Brazier said the committees seem to be covering each other's scopes making the committees appear as mini board meetings. She discussed concerns regarding the lack of restrictions, repetitive presentations and redundant information among the three committees. She mentioned the committees started out as a helpful thing and have taken a life of their own to the point of taking up excessive staff time, which was duplicated among other committees.

Mr. Stitle stated he did not know how to divorce the Engineering Committee from the Finance Committee. He said most of what the Engineering Committee does impacts finances. Ms. Brazier said the committees depend on each other, however the Engineering Committee was not established to give the Board financial suggestions it can give engineering suggestions which have financial implications. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Brazier noted based on informal discussions among the Board Members the issues with the committees would be placed on a Board agenda in the future. She mentioned some of the issues as follows: Such as, what did we set up the committees to do, are they doing what we set them up to do, are they not, are they over spending or are we underspending, did we decide on the right number of people on the committees, do we need more do we need fewer, do we need as needed meetings, do we need once a month meetings, etc.

Mr. Kennedy said it definitely takes staff time in preparation and transcribing the minutes. He stated the Board established the committees and staff does the best job possible and in addition the committees provide good public relations. Ms. Brazier stated the original intent was to assist the Board in making decisions. She said a couple of months ago she asked the committees to talk about their existence and anything they wished the Board would change or any suggestions to make to the Board about the functioning of the committees. She stated that she was not there to steer the ship, she was there to listen and to learn. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Stitle stated as of January 1, 2020, he would be off all the committees.

Mr. Prince recalled meeting with the Board of Directors and the committee members in the past and stated the interaction helped to understand how the Board worked and their needs. Ms. Brazier stated the Board tries to schedule one meeting a year with each committee.

Mr. Nelson said on many occasions the committee has heard an item that was on its way to the Board and took a vote and expressed its recommendation to the Board in support or in opposition. He stated the Board was advised in advance that this committee had reviewed the project and, in some cases, based on the committee's questions/comments, which staff elected to go back to the drawing board recast or make changes to an item. He said when the item was brought back to the committee, and it went to the Board, the difference of what the item was originally and what it was when it went to the Board has been different in some cases. Ms. Brazier stated this was entirely appropriate per the committee statute and it states the committee was to assist staff as well. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Nelson asked the General Manager to send a calendar item to the Board for the committee member's reappointments that had exceeded the four-year term. He also would like the Board to determine if he needs to be appointed as a member. He said the committee would wait on the Board's parameters regarding the future scope existence

**18. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT UPDATE**

Mr. Kennedy said the Board approved the MOU with Eastern Municipal Water District (Eastern) identifying the terms and conditions for the attachment to Eastern. He said at the last SDCWA meeting both Fallbrook Public Utilities District (FPUD) and the District requested an open session item to discuss this matter and the request was denied. He mentioned being allowed a three-minute public comment and then the Board went into closed session. He said the outcome of the closed session was the authorization to spend \$1M to hire an outside legal firm to represent the SDCWA's interest in this matter. He stated it was disappointing, since he was hoping to have constructive discussion without involving million-dollar lawyers.

Mr. Kennedy said the District submitted to the SDCWA a public document outlining the history of what the District was considering with the relevant statutes. He mentioned the SDCWA had requested the District propose an exit fee. He said the statutes do not include any language regarding the calculation of exit fees. He said the District was waiting on a response from the SDCWA, while moving forward with the preparation of the applications. Discussion ensued.

**18A. BUILDING 2 WATER DAMAGE**

Mr. Kennedy said a backflow device on a slope broke and flooded Building 2 over the weekend. He stated asbestos was found in the flooring and the air quality was degraded. He said the costs to remove the asbestos was approximately \$80K, in addition to redoing the flooring and dry wall would bring the costs up to over \$150K to \$200K for a building that would be demolished in the future. He stated the option to close the building down and lease office modulares was being considered. He said the District would continue to look for options. Discussion ensued.

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

- Update CIP Program
- FY19/20 and FY20/21 District-Wide Water Main Upgrades

**20. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m. by Chairperson Nelson.

---

**Flint Nelson, Committee Chairperson**

---

**Dawn M. Washburn, Board Secretary**