

**MINUTES OF THE ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
DECEMBER 1, 2021**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting of the Rainbow Municipal Water District on December 1, 2021, was called to order by Chairperson Nelson at 3:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the District, 3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook, CA 92028. (All meetings are being held with in-person attendance following County and State COVID guidelines as well as virtually.) Chairperson Nelson, presiding.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Member Brazier (*via teleconference*), Member Nelson, Alternate Largent (*via video conference*).

Also Present: Executive Assistant Washburn, Information Systems Specialist Espino, Associate Engineer Powers, Project Manager Parra, Construction and Maintenance Supervisor Lagunas, Engineering and CIP Program Manager Williams.

Absent: Member Marnett, Member Gasca.

Also Present Via Teleconference or Video Conference:

General Manager Kennedy, Project Manager Tamimi, Engineering Technician Rubio.

One member of the public was present in person and three members of the public were present via teleconference or video teleconference.

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

Mr. Nelson read aloud the instructions for those attending the meeting via teleconference or video conference.

5. **SEATING OF ALTERNATES**

Ms. Largent was seated as an alternate.

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

Mr. Nelson announced that given Ms. Largent was at a conference and Ms. Brazier may need to excuse herself from the meeting early, he will prioritize the items so that those requiring a vote are addressed first.

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

There were no comments.

***8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. November 3, 2021

Motion:

To approve the minutes of the November meeting.

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

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Ayes = 3).

Ayes: Member Brazier, Member Nelson, Alternate Largent.

Absent: Member Marnett, Member Gasca.

Discussion went to Item #23.

9. GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Kennedy deferred his comments in the interest of time.

Discussion went to Item #10.

10. ENGINEERING AND CIP PROGRAM MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Williams reported the Lift Station 1 Replacement Project was awarded to JW Fowler with a Notice of Award having been issued. He noted RMWD has received notice from TC Construction that they are continuing their bid protest which is being coordinated with staff and legal on that matter. He also pointed out staff was coordinating with the four land owners for the four easements the District needs to acquire for this project as well which will be presented to the Board at their December 7th meeting.

Mr. Williams reported 30% design has been reached on both pump stations for the Hutton and Turner Pump Station Project which allows RMWD to open up the application at SDG&E which is currently under review. Mr. Nelson inquired as to how long staff anticipates receiving feedback from SDG&E. Mr. Williams stated SDG&E has stated it will take several weeks to a few months.

Mr. Williams reported the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) was submitted by Helix Environmental which was currently under review by staff.

Mr. Williams provided an update on the Rice Canyon Transmission Main Pipeline Project noting the pre-construction meeting was held in mid-November and that a Notice to Proceed was issued on November 29th with construction starting today, December 1, 2021. Mr. Nelson asked if staff had their normal pre-construction meeting with submission of a schedule, cost sheets, etc. two days prior to the start of construction. Mr. Williams clarified the pre-construction meeting was held on November 16th at which time schedules were reviewed with submittals already being submitted; however, it was due to the holiday schedule the Notice to Proceed was a little bit late.

Discussion went to Item #11.

11. OPERATIONS MANAGER COMMENTS

There were no comments.

Discussion went to Item #12.

12. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no comments.

Discussion went to Item #13.

13. BOARD ACTION UPDATES

Mr. Williams reported Bill Stewart was appointed by the Board to fill the Division 4 vacancy on the Board of Directors at their November 17, 2021, Special Board meeting. Mr. Nelson inquired as to whether Director Stewart would be named to any of the RMWD standing committees.

Ms. Washburn reported Director Stewart resigned from the Communications and Customer Service Committee meeting effective November 30, 2021, to comply with the Administrative Code allowing only one Board Member to serve on any one committee. She noted there will be an opportunity for the Board to consider appointing Director Stewart to serve on the Budget and Finance Committee at their December 7, 2021, meeting.

Discussion went to Item #14.

14. RAINBOW HEIGHTS PUMP STATION CONSTRUCTION UPDATE (ENGINEERING)

Mr. Williams talked about some of the milestones associated with this project noting according to the specifications, the pumps must cycle for fourteen days under normal operations continuously with no issues. He said when the pumps were energized on November 30th, one of the pumps had a cracked seal and how due to the supply chain and demand issues, the nearest available seal cannot be delivered until January 7, 2022. He stated the contractor, Orion, decided to start their 14-day test on two of the three pumps while waiting for the third seal to be delivered; however, the District will not allow the 14-day test to commence until all three pumps have cycled which has been communicated to the contractor. He pointed out during the normal course of bringing everything online on November 30th and actually pumping water, one of the two working pumps broke and how the EFI mechanic on site took the seal off the broken pump, put it on the third pump requiring a new seal so that two pumps were working while they get a replacement third pump. He noted all work was anticipated to be complete by the end of December; however, due to these issues and some change order work to be completed as part of the cathodic protection project, the completion would be closer to mid-January with a Notice of Completion being presented to the Board in February 2022.

Mr. Nelson inquired as to whether RMWD was in liquidated damages territory. Mr. Williams stated not as of yet. Mr. Nelson asked if the contractor needs to supply a new pump at their expense. Mr. Williams confirmed this was correct.

Mr. Williams stated he does not believe RMWD was into liquidated damages yet because of the change orders issued for cathodic protection days were added to the contractual end date. Mr. Nelson asked if the change orders were on the critical path of the project to which Mr. Williams responded they were not. Mr. Nelson expressed concern that if they were not, then it would seem to him that liquidated damages could be in play unless they are able to get and complete the

pump prior to the contractual completion date. Mr. Williams said he believes this was something they would be able to do.

Discussion ensued regarding supply chain issues being experienced and the steps staff was taking to protect ratepayer funds.

Mr. Tamimi reported the contractual completion date has been extended to January 11, 2022.

Mr. Powers displayed photographs of the project as Mr. Williams talked about the significant progress made to date.

Mr. Nelson inquired as to what else would need to be completed before the initial start-up. Mr. Williams stated only getting through an official 14-day test.

Discussion went to Item #15.

***15. SAN LUIS REY GROUNDWATER REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (ENGINEERING)**

Mr. Williams mentioned one of the local tribes has recently expressed interest in partnering with the District on the whole groundwater study. Mr. Kennedy stated although he would not necessarily call it a partnership, the tribe had indicated they are open to exercise of RMWD's water rights as long as they are not impacted and are comfortable with what the District is doing every step of the way.

Mr. Williams noted the steps for Phase 1 would be solicit a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for committee member feedback no later than December 22, 2021, advertise in January 2022, finalize in February 2022, and present to the Board in March 2022, and start the work in Spring 2022 with an anticipated completion near year end. He said should RMWD move forward with Phase II, it would be contingent upon Board approval and that construction and reporting is to be determined. He mentioned the Groundwater Study Report from 2016 had been provided under separate cover with this meeting's agenda packet as well as that staff has sent this draft RFP to both Pala and Rincon for comment.

Discussion ensued regarding the date the selection would be presented to this committee as well as an overall understanding of the project.

Mr. Kennedy clarified there were very few wells that hold rights in the Bonsall basin; therefore, the main thing is to exercise the rights RMWD holds under state law for imported return flows and then potentially, if possible, acquire rights from others to extract. He noted all of this was predicated on appropriate identifying location to make the extractions and ensuring nearby wells are not impacted. Discussion followed.

Mr. Nelson asked how long staff anticipated Phase 1 to take. Ms. Parra stated it should take a little less than one year. Mr. Nelson inquired as to whether RMWD had a sense of how much water could be collected. Mr. Kennedy said it was estimated to be within the 2000 acre foot range.

Discussion followed regarding brine disposal.

Mr. Williams reiterated comments from the committee members are due no later than December 22, 2021 as well as offered to email reminders if desired.

Discussion went to Item #16.

16. SUEZ TANK CONTRACT UPDATE (ENGINEERING)

Mr. Powers shared photographs of the RMWD tanks as Mr. Williams summarized the 2021 tank maintenance schedule covered by the Suez contract noting the monthly cost to RMWD was relatively low as well as the upgrades made to the various tanks including replacement of ladders with stairwells for safety purposes.

Mr. Nelson recalled a hiccup with the Suez contract at some point when an overflow occurred. Mr. Kennedy explained he thought that was in 2019 at which time an error made by one of RMWD's operators compounded with sandblasting residue not cleaned up properly by the Suez sandblasting crew caused the overflow.

Mr. Nelson inquired as to the value of the contract. Mr. Williams offered to provide this information shortly. Mr. Nelson asked when the contact will expire. Mr. Williams answered there were multiple contracts with one encompassing most of all of the tanks can go on indefinitely as long as both parties agree to do so and another for Pala Mesa that sunsets in 2025 which will be reassessed in 2023 before proceeding.

Discussion went to Item #17.

17. GANNT CHART DEVELOPMENT UPDATE (ENGINEERING)

Mr. Powers displayed the Gantt Chart as Mr. Williams provided a development update pointing out some of the challenges associated with utilizing Microsoft Project to create this chart.

Discussion ensued regarding cathodic protection.

Mr. Williams asked if the committee would like to dive into one of the projects in great detail. Mr. Nelson said although he would defer to the committee, it was his primary interest to update the CIP every year the provides a list of projects either underway or expected to start within the year 2022. He noted to date there was no easy way for the committee to look at a chart or set of charts on a regular basis showing RMWD was actually prosecuting all the projects in the capital funding packet to be initiated or completed in this year; however, the ability to look at more detail would only be, in his view, of interest to this committee if they saw a project that should have started that had not or unable to hit its milestones and whether other projects are impacted by such. He said it appears Microsoft Project would not even come close to bring about those capabilities.

Mr. Nelson expressed his opinion that it was not the business of this committee to micromanage a slew of individual projects; however, it would be realistically more interested in an understanding as to whether the capital program was being prosecuted in the manner in which it was disclosed to the Board in budget season. He said it did not appear staff has a tool available to them that allows this to be done without injecting massive amounts of manpower with relatively low staffing levels. He explained he has been asking about the GANNT Charts to initially find out if staff has the corporate capability to determine costs and manpower needed to execute the work.

Ms. Brazier agreed with Mr. Nelson in that all the committee really needs to know is where the District is compared to where it said it would be. Mr. Nelson added this was all in respect to schedule, budget, and manpower. Ms. Brazier noted it was a planning tool.

Mr. Kennedy pointed out one of the main components would be to be able to determine whether RMWD has the necessary staffing resources to prosecute the projects.

Mr. Nelson asked Mr. Williams whether he had a sense as to staff would be able to present such an overview in regard to project scheduling with Microsoft Project. Mr. Williams stated this would not be possible utilizing Microsoft Project; however, staff was actively looking for other software technologies. He pointed out staff may be able to provide the committee with the information as recommended by Mr. Nelson and Ms. Brazier utilizing an Excel spreadsheet. Discussion followed.

Mr. Nelson encouraged staff to stop continuing to spend a large number of man hours producing whatever they are for the purpose of this committee, especially with a tool that is inadequate to the task.

Discussion went to Item #18.

18. CATHODIC PROTECTION BID OPENING UPDATE (ENGINEERING)

Mr. Williams reported three bids were received with a little more spread in the dollar amounts than anticipated noting the lowest apparent bid came in under the engineer's estimate and will still require an allocation of funds. He mentioned RMWD received a bid protest from the second lowest bidder, Far West Corrosion Control, which will be brought to the Board on December 7, 2021, during Closed Session.

Mr. Nelson asked for each of the bid amounts. Mr. Williams reported Corpro's bid was \$345,000, Far West Corrosion Control's was \$524,703, and Kay Construction was \$722,400. Mr. Nelson acknowledged the widespread in the bid amounts and inquired as to the reason. Mr. Williams stated staff was unsure as to why there was such a large spread as well as noted the engineer's estimate was \$350,000.

Discussion went to Item #19.

***19. SUMAC COMMUNICATIONS TOWER SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND BACK-UP BATTERY SUSTEM DESIGN-BUILD DRAFT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (ENGINEERING)**

Mr. Williams explained this project originally started with the Cal OES Grant that RMWD received in the amount of \$300,000 and how staff was procuring the emergency generators and paying for them before RMWD physically have them in its possession. He reported staff was able to capture the Rainbow Heights generator, some of the funds associated with the Heli-Hydrant project, as well as the two emergency generators that were originally part of the Cal OES grant before fully expended the grant funds before its deadline.

Mr. Williams noted this project was the hardest component of the grant due to its timing and complexity, staff now has some breathing room on this one; therefore, the committee members were being asked to review the draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for the design build project. He mentioned the committee members will not have Statement of Qualifications; however, it will be very similar to the Lift Station 1 Sewer Replacement project with the contractors being pre-qualified who in turn will be given the RFP. He pointed out the schedule would be to advertise in January 2022 with award of contract being presented to the Board for consideration at their February 2022 meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the scoring and updates to the project schedule.

Mr. Nelson inquired as to whether there was some faster way to progress on a smaller project such as this one. Mr. Williams explained this was considered critical infrastructure due to power outages with which this battery system back up would assist and how RMWD wants a highly

qualified contract to install this facility. It was noted the battery backup would keep power going for approximately one week in the event a power outage occurs when the sun is not shining.

Mr. Nelson asked for the engineer's estimate. Mr. Williams explained because this was a design built without plans, there is not an engineer's estimated associated with this project. Mr. Nelson inquired as to whether RMWD would utilize the marketplace to determine the worth of this project. Mr. Williams stated staff has conducted calculations based on the known costs which total approximately \$75,000.

Mr. Williams noted committee member comments are due no later than December 22, 2021.

Discussion went to Item #20.

***20. AS-NEEDED SERVICES EXPENDITURES SUMMARY**

Mr. Williams stated the Board will receive two summaries as part of their December 7th agenda packet since they did not meet in November. He pointed out there were no assignments issued in October and two in November.

Mr. Nelson inquired about the Rainbow Water Quality Improvement Project. Mr. Williams explained this was a County project mandating improvements to the runoff water going into the groundwater system which has resulted in RMWD needing to relocate several of its facilities.

Discussion went to Item #21.

21. NORTH RIVER ROAD UPDATE (OPERATIONS)

Mr. Lagunas reported the manhole relining is 98% complete with completion on schedule for mid-December. He reported 40 manholes were done as part of this project.

Mr. Kennedy mentioned before this project started, one of the old manholes failed and damaged some vehicles. Mr. Lagunas confirmed the new covers require a key to open and lock.

Discussion went to Item #22.

22. WATER SERVICE UPGRADE PROJECT (WSUP) PROGRAM UPDATE (OPERATIONS)

Mr. Lagunas reported this project was 83% complete. He noted Concord was working on Route 24 in the Rice Canyon area with traffic control, the survey and vacuum crews are working on Route 2 and Route 35, and that complete is anticipated for late February or early March 2022.

Discussion went to Item #24.

23. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Motion:

Recommending to the Board that Steve McKesson be appointed to the committee.

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

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (summary: Ayes = 3).

Ayes: Member Brazier, Member Nelson, Alternate Largent.

Absent: Member Marnett, Member Gasca.

Discussion went to Item #9.

24. REDISTRICTING UPDATE

Mr. Kennedy inquired as to whether the committee members had any thoughts on the proposed staff alignments that were provided at the November committee meeting.

Discussion went to Item #25.

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

It was noted updates on the cathodic protection project, Lift Station 1, Rice Canyon Pipeline Project, Water Service Upgrade Project, North River Road, review of the Sumac RFP, and the As Needed Expenditures Summary should be on the next committee agenda.

Discussion went to Item #26.

26. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Nelson.

The meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Flint Nelson, Committee Chairperson

Dawn M. Washburn, Board Secretary