

**MINUTES OF THE ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
NOVEMBER 5, 2013**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Engineering Committee Meeting of the Rainbow Municipal Water District on November 5, 2013 was called to order by Vice Chairperson Strapac at 3:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the District, 3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook, CA 92028. Vice Chairperson Strapac, presiding.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Member Brazier
Member Fekete
Member Taufer
Member Strapac
Member Rhyne
Member Prince

Absent: Member Saxon
Alternate Roth

Also Present: District Engineer Plonka
Executive Assistant/Board Secretary Washburn
Director Griffiths

No members of the public were present.

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

There were no comments.

COMMITTEE ACTION ITEMS

*5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. October 8, 2013

Action:

Moved by Member Brazier to approve the minutes as revised. Seconded by Member Rhyne.

After consideration, the motion CARRIED by the following vote:

AYES: Member Brazier, Member Fekete, Member Taufer, Member Strapac,
Member Rhyne and Member Prince.

NOES: None.

ABSTAINED: None.

ABSENT: Member Saxon and Alternate Roth.

Mr. Fekete noted there may be some capital letters where unnecessary. Mr. Taufer pointed out this occurred on Item #9 there should be a period separating the sentences.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CIP AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Mrs. Plonka reviewed the projects that had movement since the last committee meeting:

Beck Reservoir: Staff would be recommending an award of design to Arcadis at the November 19, 2013 Board meeting. She noted the design costs came in at \$1.2 million.

Highway 76: The east segment is under design with highway construction to start in February 2014 with RMWD's sewer facilities construction starting in 2015.

Sewer Outfall: Staff received the pre-design report and now the project is moving into 30% design.

Engineering Interoffice Move: The cubicles were delivered and installed making the room look very nice.

San Luis Rey Ground Water RFP's: Staff will be recommending the award of design at the November 19, 2013 with a design cost of \$400,000. Mrs. Plonka pointed out this was not included in the CIP forecast; however, Board direction was to move forward. She explained this was a report to define the San Luis Rey River water rights. Discussion ensued regarding how current flow is calculated. Mr. Strapac offered his assistance on this project if needed.

Discussion ensued regarding the matter of water rights being extremely complicated.

Developments: The projects moving on the business side include D.R. Horton, and Campus Park West. It was reported the RMWD Board voted to annex Campus Park West into the District; however, there will be other procedural votes required based on what SDCWA and MWD actually need. An update on the developments as well as discussions with the developers was provided. Discussion ensued regarding the approximate number of dwelling units on RMWD's radar as far as the development coming in which was estimated to be 2,580.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING STAFFING

Ms. Brazier explained she had requested this agenda in relation to the discussion held at the recent Board meeting pertaining to engineering staffing levels. She pointed out how prior to the JPA RMWD had a long list of projects with three engineers to work on and now there were only two. She noted her concern was in the name of saving money by using the JPA the District was shooting itself in the foot by not hiring someone additional to help complete the work. She acknowledged some of the projects will be very expensive; however, some of the things are mostly time-involved that she strongly believes should be completed by a RMWD engineers due to their familiarity with the District. She solicited the committee for ideas including possibly making a recommendation to the Board.

Mr. Strapac agreed there were not enough engineers to handle all the projects at hand and that vital issues are falling apart due to being stretched too thin. He recommend this matter be discussed further and then make a recommendation to the Board to hire one more engineer.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion went to Item #9.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING IMPACT FEES

Mrs. Plonka reported the Budget and Finance Committee has taken a vote to support the methodology and concept of impact fees and that she and Mr. Buckley presenting something to the Board. She also noted this matter will be discussed in depth at the Budget and Finance Committee meeting with developers present.

Mrs. Plonka explained the reality is RMWD has significant sewer costs coming down the pipeline mostly driven by the very complex and expensive outfall project coupled with the fact RMWD was 100% responsible for paying for the east segment sewer realignment project. She noted the total amount will be approximately \$25M. She talked about the discussions that have taken and will continue to take place regarding what funding options are available as well as how to best address this matter.

It was noted this item would be discussed at the Budget and Finance Committee meeting.

Discussion returned to Item #10.

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE RMWD ENGINEERING COMMITTEE

Discussion ensued regarding making a recommendation to the Board to keep the Engineering Committee in place including after any type of consolidation.

Action:

Moved by Member Strapac that the Engineering Committee recommend to the Board that the Engineering Committee be recommended to be maintained through any consolidation. Seconded by Member Rhyne.

After consideration, the motion CARRIED by the following vote:

- AYES: Member Brazier, Member Fekete, Member Taufer, Member Strapac, Member Rhyne and Member Prince.**
- NOES: None.**
- ABSTAINED: None.**
- ABSENT: Member Saxon and Alternate Roth.**

Mr. Fekete stressed the importance of having a functional unit that has complete distribution of the water of MWD through SDCWA. He noted the committee needs to be familiar with the complete operations of RMWD in order to assist the engineer. Mrs. Plonka offered to provide a complete organizational chart.

Ms. Brazier recommended stating something to the affect that in view of the fact this committee feels it is a value to the district and engineering department to have a ratepayer committee to represent the interest of the public, the committee strongly recommend that this ratepayer committee be retained.

Mr. Strapac modified his original motion.

Action:

Moved by Member Strapac that the Engineering Committee made up of volunteer ratepayers provides a service to the district and its customers, the committee recommends this committee be maintained through any change of organization. Seconded by Member Rhyne.

After consideration, the motion CARRIED by the following vote:

AYES: Member Brazier, Member Fekete, Member Taufer, Member Strapac, Member Rhyne and Member Prince.
NOES: None.
ABSTAINED: None.
ABSENT: Member Saxon and Alternate Roth.

Discussion went to Item #8.

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

Mrs. Plonka noted there would be four engineering items on the Board Meeting agenda for consideration.

It was noted the combined November/December Board Meeting would be held on November 19, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

Discussion went to Item #8.

Mr. Prince requested an update on the impact fees as well as the Board's input regarding future of the ratepayer committees.

Discussion ensued regarding the matter of the engineering staffing levels. It was expressed the importance of hearing from Dr. Brady and Mr. Bebee on the overall opinion of the RMWD engineering staffing levels. It was clarified the committee was not fighting over the matter, but was trying to get some insight. It was suggested Dr. Brady and Mr. Bebee be invited to the next committee meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Action:

Moved by Member Strapac to adjourn. Seconded by Member Brazier.

After consideration, the motion CARRIED by the following vote:

AYES: Member Brazier, Member Fekete, Member Taufer, Member Strapac,
Member Rhyne and Member Prince.
NOES: None.
ABSTAINED: None.
ABSENT: Member Saxon and Alternate Roth.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Steve Strapac, Committee Vice Chairperson

Dawn M. Washburn, Board Secretary