

Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District
Special Board Meeting Held
May 12, 2010

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held May 12, 2010 at Casitas' Office, Oak View, California. Directors Handley, Kaiser, Baggerly, and Hicks were present. Director Word was absent. Also present were Steve Wickstrum, General Manager, Rebekah Vieira, Clerk of the Board, and Attorney, John Mathews. There were three staff members and three members of the public in attendance. President Handley led the group in the flag salute.

1. Public comments.

None

2. General Manager comments.

Mr. Wickstrum reported that Gerry Grigsby informed us that he is retiring as of May 28th. He has worked here for over 31 years and heads up the maintenance area. He has done a great number of things for the District and we will be bringing a resolution to the May 26th board meeting.

Mr. Wickstrum informed the board about a rumor that Director Kaiser brought forth regarding a sea plane landing at Lake Casitas which may have happened on April 8th. We will continue to investigate this further and Carol is following up with researching with FAA to get exclusion zones for Lake Casitas.

3. Board of Director comments.

Director Kaiser questioned his observation of amphibian die off of frogs this year and expressed concerns over the cause. Scott Lewis will check with field personnel regarding this issue.

Directors Hicks and Baggerly presented their reports from the recent ACWA conference.

Directors Kaiser and Hicks thanked staff for the notifications regarding the leak on the Rincon.

4. Consent Agenda

ADOPTED

- a. Minutes of the April 28, 2010 Board Meeting.

On the motion of Director Kaiser, seconded by Director Baggerly and passed, the Consent Agenda was adopted.

5. Committee/Manager Reports

APPROVED FOR FILING

- a. Water Resources Committee Minutes
- b. Recreation Committee Minutes

On the motion of Director Hicks, seconded by Director Kaiser and passed, the Committee/Manager Reports were approved for filing.

6. Discussion and approval of a response to the Bureau of Reclamation regarding their Resource Management Plan for Lake Casitas Recreation Area.

Direction provided to hold a special meeting

Mr. Wickstrum stated that the primary reason to hold today's meeting is to discuss the issues of the Resource Management Plan. The issues are:

1. If Casitas has authority to provide recreation at Lake Casitas. We need resolution to this. This needs to be determined and settled. Questions regarding this are in the RMP and the recent report from the bureau. Over the last eight years they have thrown that at us pretty often. We found a critical document that transferred Lake Casitas reservoir lands and facilities to us and the intent of this district to provide public use facilities beyond what the bureau provided. This is a key item that needs to be resolved.
2. Managing partners not yet identified. Forest Service may be one of those partners. They bring resources, fire protection, law enforcement, pest control etc. The issue of control burn is still out there in the RMP. The Forest Service needs to address prescribed burns to protect water quality. There needs to be more cooperation in monitoring their mitigation measures to lead them towards being good stewards of the watershed and protecting our water quality interests.
3. Alternative #2 is preferred. This gets away from body contact issues. It did not get away from use of the island. The board has expressed that it is not something we are interested in doing at this time but if it is considered in the future extensive review would be conducted prior to implementation.
4. US Forest Service or activities that would lead to interpretative centers in the open space lands and the remaining houses in the open space lands. We have water pipeline issues and septic issues in this area.
5. Some of the responses in appendix E appear that the Bureau danced around our comments. The references do not track in several instances where the RMP was not changed.

The comment period is up to May 24th. Mr. Wickstrum suggested asking for a delay in the decision making and holding discussions with Michael Jackson and Don Glaser before the RMP is finalized.

Director Kaiser suggested meeting with our local representatives to inform them of the situation.

Director Baggerly expressed his concern over use of the island and also mentioned section 4.9.3 and regulating authority of county and state. We have always been told this is federal land and local government regulations do not apply.

Mr. Wickstrum will send a letter to Mr. Jackson to set up a meeting, request an extension of the comment period and request a stay for the record of decision until we resolve the issues that can not remain in the RMP. A special board meeting will be held on May 19th at 4:30 to review the letter of comments to the RMP. If a meeting is scheduled with Mr. Jackson, Mr. Wickstrum, Director Word and Director Baggerly would attend.

7. Information Items:

- a. Letter of appreciation from the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County.
- b. Letter from the California-Nevada Section of the American Water Works Association.
- c. News Articles.

8. Closed Session

- a. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
(Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9)
Name of Case: Marianna Ortiz v. Casitas Municipal Water District

President Handley moved the meeting to closed session at 5:34 p.m. and at 5:42 p.m. he reconvened the regular meeting. John Mathews reported that the above case was discussed; the lawsuit has been filed and turned over to the insurance carrier.

9. Adjournment

President Handley adjourned the meeting at 5:42 p.m.

Secretary