

SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, 23 January 2019, at the Buellton City Council Chambers, 140 West Highway 246, Buellton, California.

Directors Present: Cynthia Allen Art Hibbits Steve Jordan Brett Marymee

New Appointment to the Board: Mark Altshuler

Staff Present: Bill Buelow Else Wolff Amber Thompson
Steve Torigiani (via phone)

Others Present: Mary Ellen Brooks James Mac Kenzie

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Allen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and requested the Secretary to call the roll. All four Directors were present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Allen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Buelow submitted the minutes of the regular meeting of 05 December 2018 for Board approval. Director Marymee made a MOTION to approve the minutes. Director Hibbits seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. ADDITIONS, IF ANY, TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Buelow requested an additional Closed Session item be added to be Agenda titled: Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation pursuant to Section 54956.9 of the California Government Code. Director Hibbits made a MOTION to approve the addition to the agenda. Director Marymee seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

James Mac Kenzie commended staff on sending a complete board packet but noticed an extensive use of acronyms of unknown meaning. Director Allen recommended a list of acronyms be completed and available on first day for new board members.

VI. **BOARD VACANCY DIVISION 3 DIRECTOR** – pursuant to Government Code Section 1780, Water Code Section

A. Review of Applicants and Selection of Appointee to Fill the Vacancy in the Position of Division 3 Director

Mr. Buelow thanked the three applicants who applied to fill the vacant position of Division 3 Director. The appointed Director will serve out the term ending in November 2020 at which time the position will be open for election. Mr. Buelow requested the applicants stand and introduce themselves to the Board.

Mr. James (Jim) Mac Kenzie said he just completed 18 years serving on the Mission Hills Community Services District Board as a Director. He gave his experience, background, interests in groundwater, surface water and water quality.

Ms. Mary Ellen Brooks said she lives in Vandenberg Village and has a land use background serving on the Planning Commission for the 3rd District for over four years and is familiar with not only 3rd District issues but Santa Barbara County-wide issues.

Mr. Mark Altshuler said he has zero background in groundwater but does have over 25 years' experience with U.S. Government, commercial manufacturing, publicly traded corporations with a background in finance. He is a contractor for Vandenberg Air Force Base currently serving in the position of Chief Financial Officer and manages operations, human resources and IT. Mr. Altshuler indicated he has no political affiliations.

Board members asked questions of the candidates: In your opinion, what is the condition of the groundwater basin now? How would you approach land use planning and are you prepared to handle pressure to come with SGMA issues in the future? Each candidate answered all questions. Candidates volunteered to leave room to allow Directors to deliberate.

Mr. Buelow advised that all candidates had been verified by County Elections Department and all lived within Division 3. Directors deliberated and chose to vote by secret ballot. Secret ballot vote was completed. Candidates returned to room. The votes were revealed: Mr. Mac Kenzie – 0, Ms. Brooks – 1, Mr. Altshuler – 3.

B. Consideration of Resolution No. 683 Making Appointment to Fill the Vacancy in the Position of Division 3 Director

Director Marymee made a MOTION to appoint Mr. Altshuler as Division 3 Director. The motion was seconded by Director Jordan and passed unanimously. Directors commended all three candidates on excellent qualities and thanked them for their interest serving on this board.

Director Jordan waived reading of the Resolution. Director Marymee MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 683, RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT APPOINTING MARK L. ALTSHULER TO FILL THE VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF DIRECTOR OF DIVISION 3.

The motion was seconded by Director Jordan and the Resolution was adopted and passed on the following roll call vote:

AYES, Directors: Cynthia Allen
Art Hibbits
Steve Jordan
Brett Marymee

NOES, Directors: None

C. Oath of Office of Appointee to Fill Vacancy in the Position of Division 3 Director

Board Secretary, Mr. Buelow, administered the Oath of Office to Director Altshuler. Director Altshuler took his place at the dais.

VII. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

A. Consideration of Resolution No. 684 Expressing Appreciation to Director Larry Flinkingshelt

Director Allen waived the reading of the Resolution. Director Hibbits MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 684, RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT EXPRESSING ITS APPRECIATION TO LARRY FLINKINGSHELT.

The motion was seconded by Director Marymee and the Resolution was adopted and passed on the following roll call vote:

AYES, Directors: Cynthia Allen
Mark Altshuler
Art Hibbits
Steve Jordan
Brett Marymee

NOES, Directors: None

ABSTAIN, Directors: None

B. Consideration of Resolution No. 685 Final Adoption of Conflict of Interest Code

Mr. Buelow advised that the Intent to Adopt a Revised Conflict of Interest Code was approved at the December 5, 2018 meeting and was posted for 45 days. The posting was from November 19, 2018 to January 3, 2019, and no comments were received.

Director Hibbits MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 685, A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNOUNCING THE FINAL ADOPTION OF A CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE.

The motion was seconded by Director Jordan and the Resolution was adopted and passed on the following roll call vote:

AYES, Directors: Cynthia Allen
Art Hibbits
Steve Jordan
Brett Marymee

NOES, Directors: None

ABSTAIN, Directors: Mark Altshuler

C. Consideration to establish three separate individual GSA checking accounts under District's EIN at Rabobank for sole use of the individual GSA's financial activities

Mr. Buelow reported Ms. Nina Pisani of Bartlett, Pringle and Wolf advised the District to set up three separate checking accounts for the sole use of each GSA.

Mr. Buelow reported that the checking accounts will be established under the District's EIN with the SYRWCD Directors as signers. If possible, other GSA committee members from the respective GSA may also be signers.

Mr. Buelow said DWR requires Prop. 1 Grant reimbursements are made to a non-interest-bearing account and all three GSA reimbursements will be lumped together as one reimbursement. Reimbursements will be deposited into the District's main checking account and then distributed to the respective GSA checking accounts to show how the reimbursements were distributed.

Mr. Torigiani suggested that a policy be written that all checks must be signed by at least one SYRWCD Director along with the other agency signer. Ideally signers should be an elected person on each respective Board.

Mr. Hibbits made a MOTION to open three non-interest-bearing checking accounts, one for each GSA (WMA, CMA, EMA), using the District's EIN. He added there must be at least one SYRWCD Director signature on each check. Signers from other agencies in the GSA may also be a second signer. The motion was seconded by Director Marymee and it passed unanimously.

D. Required and other upcoming Training opportunities

Ms. Thompson presented to the Directors required training for 2019. Ethics Training and optional other training are available through CSDA at no or little cost. Optional training of Board Member Best Practices located in Goleta on March 7, 2019, Board & District Liability Issues Webinar and Resources for Board Members/Trustees Webinar are available for free through CSDA. If Ethics Training is completed by March 15, 2019, it is free to the District.

Directors decided to complete the free CSDA Ethics Training Webinar as a group at the District office on Friday, March 1, 2019, 12:00 p.m. at the SYRWCD office. The estimated length of training is 2 hours.

E. Staff update on District Web Site (www.SYRWCD.com)

Mr. Buelow showed the Directors the website created for the District. www.SYRWCD.com. There were positive comments made by the Board. Mr. Buelow noted that having Ms. Thompson create the website in-house saved the District a significant amount of money.

F. Call for Nominations for one Regular and one Alternate Special District Member to Santa Barbara LAFCO

Mr. Buelow asked if any Director is interested in being nominated for either the Regular or Alternate seat for Special District Member of Santa Barbara LAFCO.

Mr. Hibbits made a MOTION to nominate Director Allen for both Regular and Alternate seats for Special District Member of Santa Barbara LAFCO. The motion was seconded by Director Marymee and it passed unanimously.

G. Change of General Counsel

Mr. Buelow advised Directors that Mr. Conant, the previous legal counsel for SYRWCD, has accepted the position of Mid-Pacific Regional Director at U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. Mr. Buelow read a letter which introduced Mr. Steve Torigiani as the new Legal Counsel for SYRWCD.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Board meeting is scheduled as special meeting for February 15, 2019.

XI. REQUEST FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Director Marymee requested information about Gov. Newsom's proposed tax on drinking water (SB623) and how it may affect our constituents from Mr. Torigiani.

XII. CLOSED SESSION

The Board adjourned into Closed Session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss the following topics:

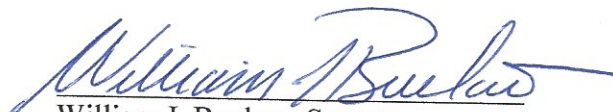
- A. Anticipated Litigation (Gov't Code §54956.9)
- B. Public Employment (Gov't Code §54957(b)) Title: General Manager

The Board emerged from Closed Session at 9:10 p.m. President Allen announced no action was taken and the next Board meeting will be a special meeting on February 15, 2019.

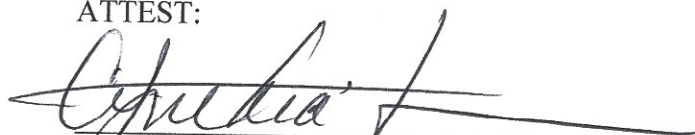
XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Allen adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


William J. Buelow, Secretary

ATTEST:


Cynthia Allen, President