



Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the Board of Directors of the Rowland Water District
April 9, 2024 – 6:01 p.m.
3021 Fullerton Road
Rowland Heights, CA 91748

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

President Szu Pei Lu-Yang
Vice President John Bellah
Director Vanessa Hsu
Director Robert W. Lewis
Director Anthony J. Lima

ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joseph Byrne, Legal Counsel, Best, Best & Krieger
Mike Ti, TVMWD
Kirk Howie, TVMWD
Erin LaCombe, CV Strategies
Tara Bravo-Mullaly, CV Strategies

ROWLAND WATER DISTRICT STAFF

Tom Coleman, General Manager
Dusty Moasio, Assistant General Manager
Allen Davidson, Director of Operations
Myra Malner, Director of Finance
Gabby Palomares, Executive Services Manager
Brittnie Gildea, Education & Community Outreach Coordinator

ADDITION(S) TO THE AGENDA – None.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - None.

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon motion by Director Lima, seconded by Director Hsu, the Consent Calendar was unanimously approved as follows:

- 1.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting Held on March 12, 2024
- 1.2 Approval of Minutes of Special Board Meeting held on March 26, 2024
- 1.3 Demands on General Fund Account for February 2024
- 1.4 Investment Report for February 2024
- 1.5 Water Purchases for February 2024
- 1.6 California Reservoir Conditions
- 1.7 Reschedule the April 23, 2024, Special Board meeting date to April 30, 2024
(Motion pass 5-0)

Next Special Board Meeting: April 30, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Next Regular Board Meeting: May 14, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

2. ACTION ITEMS

2.1 Review and Approve Directors' Meeting Reimbursements for March 2024

Upon motion by Director Lewis, seconded by Director Lima, the Board unanimously approved the Directors' Meeting Reimbursement Report as presented. (Motion pass 5-0)

2.2 Local Agency Formation Commission Special District Voting Member Election

Upon motion by Director Lewis, seconded by Director Bellah, the Board unanimously provided direction to Board President Lu-Yang on casting the District's vote for candidate Donald Dear to fill the Special District Voting Member position. (Motion pass 5-0)

3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

3.1 Communications Outreach (CV Strategies)

Mrs. Tara Bravo-Mulally reported that several press releases were published on behalf of the District in March, highlighting in particular the 'Fix a Leak' week and audit releases. She also mentioned that CV Strategies is working with District staff on a new interactive concept for the Consumer Confidence Report.

3.2 Education Update

Education & Community Outreach Coordinator Brittnie Gildea took a moment to discuss the District's latest bill pay portal campaign. She then provided an update on the following education programs and community events:

- Community Events attended by District staff:
 - Spring Jubilee held on March 28, 2024, at Carolyn Rosas Park
 - Cesar Chavez Day held on March 30, 2024, at Pathfinder Park
- The District is set to attend the Los Angeles County Sanitation District's Earth Day on April 13, 2024.
- Water Awareness Poster Contest – Over 600 student poster artwork were received and judged. Winners of the poster contest will be recognized at the May 28, 2024, Special Board meeting.
- Mini Solar Challenge - The Mini Solar Challenge was held on March 21, 2024, for the majority of schools. Blandford Elementary School was not able to race their boats due to morning overcast on the day of the challenge. Therefore, an additional boat race day for those participants will be held on April 11, 2024.

4. DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, OR EVENTS (INCLUDING ITEMS THAT MAY HAVE ARISEN AFTER THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA)

- Discussion was held regarding the SGV Chapter CSDA Formation Luncheon scheduled for May 2, 2024.

Upon motion by Director Lima, seconded by Director Lewis, the Board unanimously authorized payment of per diem compensation and expenses for Board of Director attendance to the SGV Chapter CSDA Formation Luncheon on May 2, 2024.

5. LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

- 5.1 General Manager Tom Coleman reported that a press release titled "State Legislators Visit San Gabriel Valley To Understand Local Water Issues And Statewide Impacts" was issued on March 26, 2024. The press release gained a lot of attention from the media and was streamed via over 260 online media outlets, reaching a potential audience count of 158.3 million.

On SB 1330 (Archuleta), a bill co-sponsored by Walnut Valley Water District, Rowland Water District, and Bellflower Somerset Mutal Water Company, Mr. Coleman reported that the bill has been placed on the April 23, 2024, Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water agenda for consideration. Mr. Coleman will attend the hearing to testify on behalf of the bill, along with a representative of the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA).

6. REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1 General Manager Tom Coleman referred to the letter of appreciation included in the Board packet received from Rowland Unified School District's Board of Education dated March 15, 2024.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 7.1 **Joint Powers Insurance Authority** – President Lu-Yang reported on her attendance at JPIA committee meetings held on March 20, 2024.
- 7.2 **Three Valleys Municipal Water District** – Board members Bellah and Lima reported on business meeting matters discussed during the March 20, 2024, TVMWD Board meeting. Conversation then shifted to the Metropolitan Water District's rates, where Board members were informed that MWD had approved an 8.5% increase in their water rates for 2025 and 2026. Furthermore, MWD voted to increase their ad valorem on property tax assessments in their service area from .00035 to .00070. This will add approximately \$35.00 a year to the average property bill in MWD's service area.
- 7.3 **Association of California Water Agencies** – General Manager Tom Coleman mentioned that he has been invited by ACWA staff to participate in a working group that will explore creating a leadership academy for the ACWA membership.
- 7.4 **Puente Basin Water Agency (PBWA)** – Mr. Lewis reported on the PBWA business matters from the April 4, 2024, meeting.
- 7.5 **Project Ad-Hoc Committee** – A Project Ad-Hoc Committee meeting was held on March 18, 2024.
- 7.6 **Regional Chamber of Commerce** – None.

7.7 P-W-R Joint Waterline Commission – None.

7.8 Sheriff's Community Advisory Council – None.

7.9 Rowland Heights Community Coordinating Council (RHCCC) – None.

7.10 Local Agency Formation Commission – None.

8. OTHER REPORTS, INFORMATION ITEMS AND COMMENTS

8.1 Finance Report

Director of Finance, Myra Malner, presented a year-to-date Financial Dashboard containing comparative graphs of Revenue and Expense by Category and Consumption by Class through February 2024. Following her report, she answered questions posed by Board members.

8.2 Operations Report

The Board was provided with the field operations tasks completed during March 2024 (as listed below):

- Water Samples - 205
- Site Inspections - 65
- Service Orders Completed - 402
- Meters Replaced - 22
- Modules Replaced - 8
- Dig Alerts - 360
- Service Lines Replaced - 3
- System Valves Replaced - 0
- Air Releases Inspections - 36
- Recycled Water Inspections – 10

Director of Operations, Allen Davidson, provided an informative review of underground service alerts, also known as DigAlerts. He explained that in response to receiving DigAlert requests, staff will mark RWD utility service lines within the delineated area designated to be excavated by using the APWA color code designated for potable or reclaimed water. Following this presentation, Mr. Davidson acknowledged the following field staff certification achievements: Joel Douglas for obtaining a Water Distribution Grade 5 certification, and Ryan Bernal for obtaining a Class “A” Commercial Driver’s License.

8.3 Projects Update – Assistant General Manager Dusty Moasio presented on the District’s System Valve Replacement Program, a Capital Improvement Project. He showcased a video featuring a valve replacement project conducted by District staff and acknowledged their overall efforts during this fiscal year in installing 46 new valves and replacing 27 valves.

8.4 Personnel Report – General Manager Tom Coleman announced that Ms. Irma Lopez joined the District as a Customer Service Representative in March. He also reported that the individuals selected to participate in the District’s internship program commenced employment on April 8, 2024.

9. ATTORNEY’S REPORT – None.

10. CLOSED SESSION

A Closed Session was not held in connection with the item listed below:

a. Conference with Real Property Negotiator - [§54956.8]

Property: Portion of Property Located at
Anaheim & Puente Road
City of Industry
District Negotiator: Tom Coleman, General Manager
Negotiating Parties: City of Industry
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

Closed Session Announcements: It was reported that no reportable action was taken as closed session was not held.

General Manager’s and Directors’ Comments – As a matter of information only, Director Bellah shared video footage of CBS News coverage of the Department of Water Resources conducting its April snow survey on April 2, 2024, where Gov. Gavin Newsom was in attendance and spoke on matters pertaining to water conveyance projects in California.

Future Agenda Item(s) – None.

Late Business – None.

A motion was made by Director Hsu to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

SZU PEI LU-YANG
Board President

Attest: _____
TOM COLEMAN
Board Secretary