

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
SIERRA LAKES COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**

Date: Thursday September 8, 2022 / **Time:** 6:30 p.m. / **Place:** 7305 Short Road, Serene Lakes, CA

The meeting was teleconferenced as provided by Government Code Section 54953(e), which modified the Brown Act teleconference rules during “State-declared emergencies.”. In-person attendance by the public at the District Office was not be permitted.

I. Open Meeting:

Roll Call:

Directors in attendance at the Sierra Lakes Boardroom:

Director Dan Stockton
Director Jon Harvey
Director Jennifer Jackson
Director David Keatley

Directors absent:

Director Karen Heald

Staff in attendance at the Sierra Lakes Boardroom:

Paul Schultz P.E. Inc., General Manager
Anna Nickerson, Financial Consultant
Patrick Baird, Utility Operator

Staff present by teleconference:

Jeffrey Mitchell, District Counsel

Guests present at the Sierra Lakes Boardroom:

None

Guests present by teleconference:

Steven Shray
Catherine Calfee
Roger Drosd
Mike Fredrich
Armen Hovanessian
Joe Peltier
Eric Behr

Minutes Recorder:

Anna Nickerson, Financial Consultant

II. Decision to Meet Telephonically:

The Board considered the continuation of meeting telephonically.

A motion was made by Director Harvey and seconded by Director Keatley to continue meeting by hybrid teleconference. The motion passed by a unanimous rollcall vote: Ayes: Directors Stockton, Harvey, Jackson and Keatley.

III. Public Forum: An opportunity for members of the public to address the Board on items that were not on the agenda.

Catherine Calfee asked if the District was switching to metered water for each home. Director Stockton said that was the plan and that there was a State law requiring metered rates by January 2025. Ms. Calfee asked how many homes there were in the District and Mrs. Nickerson said approximately 835. Ms. Calfee then asked what the capacity was. Director Stockton said the upgrade to the wastewater treatment plant, the system was designed to provide service to all lots in the District.

Joe Peltier introduced himself as the new SLOPA Representative to the Water District. Director Stockton welcomed him.

IV. Approve Agenda: The agenda was presented to the Board for approval.

A motion was made by Director Harvey and seconded by Director Jackson to approve the agenda. The motion passed by a unanimous rollcall vote: Ayes: Directors Stockton Harvey, Jackson and Keatley.

V. Public Comments: An opportunity for the Board to consider comments received from the public after the agenda was posted, regarding items on the agenda. There were none.

VI. California Legislative Update for 2022 presented by Dane Wadle, California Special Districts' Association:

Mr. Wadle was unable to attend the meeting to due evacuation orders in relation to the Mosquito Fire.

VII. Operations:

- A. Paul Schultz P.E. Inc., General Manager, presented his operations report to the Board for consideration and possible action. He reported the following:
- The watermain leak repair project was scheduled to begin later in September. The final quote for the project was received from the contractor. He said an additional leak on Serene Road requiring a gate valve replacement, was added to the project. The final estimate for the initial work, including the added gate valve and paving, was \$908,000.
 - The California Rural Water Association's System Wide Leak Detection Program was pushed forward to next year due to the number of grant recipients.
 - The GIS Survey was performed earlier in August. Mr. Schultz was hoping to capture more of the water system but was able to capture quite a bit of the sewer system. He said he would be purchasing a device called "A Bad Elf", a GPS unit

that would work with an iPad or portable computer, that would allow staff to map additional facilities during the winter months. He also said he would be working with Farr West Engineering to build a GIS database of the District's systems.

- The energy audit was complete and lighting equipment was on its way to be installed the following week.
- A letter was submitted to the California Air Resources Control Board – Advanced Clean Fleets Requirements requesting a couple of exemptions. The State granted two exemptions; compliance was extended from 2024 to 2027 and only 90% of the fleet needed to be electric. He anticipated that, with the two exemptions, the District would have until 2030 to be in full compliance. Director Keatley said he would like to see the District buy electric vehicles if possible.
- The Farr West District Engineer was working on several projects. The isolation valve replacement on the Hill Tank was completed earlier in the week. The project went perfectly.
- The sewer projects were proceeding ahead of schedule by about three weeks. This would allow Rados Construction to move onto the water leak project on Soda Springs Road while keeping within the current construction schedule.
- The inventory of docks and piers was complete. There was one dock installed without the required nonreflective paint and a property where the owners imported sand along the shoreline. Mr. Schultz would be going out to assess the situation and make a determination of what was needed to be done.
- Mr. Schultz said he received a letter from the State Water Resources Control Board about available monies and workshops for developing interties with other agencies. This would provide backup water supplies with Truckee Donner PUD and Donner Summit PUD. The State would pay for the interties. He would be attending the first workshop on September 22, 2022, and would provide a report to the Board at the October meeting.

Director Harvey said, for the public's information, the project Rados was currently working on was the big hole on Soda Springs Rd. Mr. Schultz said yes, they were working on the replacement of the wet well for Pump Station #4 that included electrical work. Director Harvey said it was money being spent on a project now that wasn't broken but if it were to break, it would be much more expensive to fix. Mr. Schultz said it was a project for the safety of the crew and because of the age of the equipment; these were the last pumps that were bolted in place and all the other pump stations had been updated with pumps on rails.

Director Jackson said she didn't recall from reading the Lake Management Plan what the dock requirements were. Mr. Schultz said the Lake Management Plan required docks to be earthtone colors with no reflection or glint.

Joe Peltier asked about the project near Bales and Allen. Mr. Baird said it was part of the capital improvements project; it was a manhole replacement.

- B. Patrick Baird, Utility Operations Manager, presented his report to the Board for consideration and possible action. He reported the following:
- Donner Summit PUD had no violations in the month of August and spray irrigation on the Soda Springs ski hill continued.
 - The District had no sanitary sewer overflows in the month of August.

- All water treatment reporting was met.
- Water demand in August decreased slightly; about 16,000 gallons less than the five year average.
- Sewer flows were up a little. He attributed the increased flows to ground water disposal from the wet well replacement project. Flows through the wastewater treatment plant were down to 29% in August; down from 40%.
- Staff continued cleaning hot spots around the District. Staff was scheduled to start cleaning wet wells in October.
- Mountain Pipe TV & Sealing started the patch work on the issues identified in June. They repaired three manholes in August with one more to complete. They also had one more sewer lateral to be fixed.
- Meter installations continued and staff would be finishing up for the year in October or November, depending on snow. Mr. Baird anticipated all meters would be installed by next summer.
- New meter pits were being installed along Soda Springs Rd; 15 were installed with 10 remaining.
- A critical leak of 3 gallons/minute was found and corrected; the contractor had left the water running. There were 14 minor leaks of less than 240 gallons/day and 12 customers were currently using EyeOnWater.
- All the materials were ordered for the water main replacement project.
- Two new water laterals were installed for new construction and three escrow inspections were completed.

Mr. Schultz said he wanted the Board to know Farr West's fees for the Hill Tank valve replacement project came in at half of their estimate. He also said most of their work was coming in under estimate.

Mr. Baird presented a map of five leaks that staff was working on. He said they were monitoring a leak on Serene Road and was hoping to wait until after Rados was able to complete the water main replacement on Soda Springs Road before fixing that leak. Otherwise, water would have to be shut down for the whole community. Director Jackson said to be clear, because of the leak on Soda Springs Road there was no other connection, besides Serene Road, to the south side of the community and that once the Soda Springs Road repair was complete then the other leak could be fixed. Mr. Baird said if the Serene Road leak had to be fixed before the Soda Springs Road repair was complete, then the whole system would have to be shut down. He said they were continuously monitoring the situation and hoped the Soda Springs Road work could be completed before the leak at Serene Road got any worse. Mr. Schultz said if the repair at Serene Road could wait until the Soda Springs work was done, then only a few people would be without water for about a half a day. See the map and picture of the Serene Road leak attached to the minutes.

VIII. Consent Items Calendar: The Consent Items Calendar was presented to the Board for action. The Consent Items Calendar included the minutes from the August 11, 2022 Regular Meeting; August 2022 Check Register; financial reports for the month ending August 31, 2022; and Disbursements for Board Approval.

A motion was made by Director Keatley and seconded by Director Jackson to approve the Consent Items Calendar as presented. The motion passed by a unanimous rollcall vote: Ayes: Directors Stockton, Harvey, Jackson and Keatley.

IX. Old Business: None

Director Jackson said there was a presentation regarding fire cameras at the August 2022 meeting. She asked if the reason why there was no new business was because an update was not received. Mr. Schultz confirmed no new information was received. He also said Mrs. Nickerson contacted ACWA/JPIA about premium relief for participation in the fire camera program and she was told that there would be no relief for participation.

X. New Business:

A. A request to suspend water/sewer service fees during construction of a new home was presented to the Board for consideration and possible action. Mrs. Nickerson said even with a new permit, water/sewer service fees begin 180 after the issuance of the connection permit. She said waivers were only given when a house was demolished with no plans to rebuild. Mrs. Nickerson also said, the precedence was, in order to avoid paying water/sewer fees, the connection permit would have to be returned for refund.

A motion was made by Director Stockton and seconded by Director Keatley to deny the request. The motion passed by a unanimous rollcall vote: Ayes: Directors Stockton, Harvey, Jackson and Keatley.

B. Request from SLPOA Boat Storage Volunteer Crew for clarification of SLCWD Policies for boat storage on District property was presented to the Board. Mr. Drosd thanked Mr. Schultz for sending a letter that could be posted on boats stored on District property other than at approved access points. He said he did not want to cause issues with members of the community over boats left in unapproved places. He also said he was ok with placing notices on the boats but did not want to impound boats that were not at access points. It was agreed that SLPOA would tag boats, stored at unauthorized locations, with violation notices and notify the District, who would impound the boats after 48 hours.

Mr. Shray said, as the SLPOA Boat Cop, he thought there was some things that could be done proactively to improve the situation. He said he talked with one of the owners, who had a boat impounded from an unauthorized location, and was told by the owner that he didn't know he couldn't leave his boat there. Mr. Shray said it would be helpful to have boat storage information on the District website, additional signage at a couple of the areas of unauthorized storage and more clarity about responsibility of the Sierra dock location; SLPOA maintains the dock but Sierra was not approved as a boat storage area.

Mr. Behr, a homeowner that was fined for leaving his boat in a non-designated location, asked what the definition of boat storage was; could he leave his boat overnight while in the District. Mr. Schultz said no overnight storage was allowed at non-designated areas. SLPOA had overnight storage at designated areas around the lake for both SLPOA and non-SLPOA members. Mr. Behr confirmed that storage meant unattended not just overnight.

Mr. Schultz said he would put together a more prominent notification for the District's website but would not commit to adding more signage until he could confirm that the District wasn't in violation of Placer County's sign ordinance.

C. Administration:

A. There was one item on the Follow-up Items from the August 11, 2022, Regular Meeting. Mr. Mitchell reported that he had not followed up on the pending insurance question in regard to Mr. Schultz but would have an answer at the October meeting.

A new item was added to the Follow-up list; add boat storage information to website.

B. A Status of Action Items was presented to the Board for consideration and possible action. Mr. Schultz reported that:

1. **AMR and Metered Rate:**
 - a. **AMR Data Collection:** The item was ongoing and progress remained at 15% complete. Meters were being installed and flow information was being collected.
 - b. **Develop recommended method for providing customer access to their personal water use data:** – The item was ongoing and progress remained at 50% complete. There were nine people informally using the EyeOnWater app. Mr. Schultz planned to interview the users in a month or so. Most homes north of Bales have had meters installed and should be able to sign up for EyeOnWater, if interested.
 - c. **Develop Metered Rate Structure:** The item remained at 85% complete. Mr. Schultz said they were slightly behind schedule but thought they would be able to recover the lost time. He said the capital improvement schedule would be put together before the master plan but the master plan would help with the capital improvement plan. Director Jackson asked that the Gantt chart for the Meter Rate Schedule be included with the Action Items list going forward.
 - d. **Rate Study Communication:** The item remained at 50%. Mr. Schultz said Farr West Engineering would be coming up in October for a short Board workshop on master planning. A master plan would be required for State, Federal or grant funding.
 - e. **Board and Community Workshop:** Progress remained at 75% complete.
2. **District's ownership of the Dam:** – The item remained at 75% complete but the process was going well. Mr. Schultz would be sending letters and calling the adjacent property owners about the scheduled survey. He said the District was required to survey all the adjacent properties to establish all corners and identify all structures on the properties.

3. Retool General Manager Position – No meeting was held. A meeting would probably be schedule for September.

D. **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Director Keatley and seconded by Director Harvey to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by a unanimous rollcall vote: Ayes: Directors Stockton, Harvey, Jackson and Keatley.

The minutes were approved at the Regular Meeting held on October 13, 2022, as part of the Consent Items Calendar. A motion was made by Director Keatley and seconded by Director Harvey to approve the Consent Items Calendar as presented. The motion passed by a unanimous rollcall vote.