

**MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Via Remotely and In-Person

Open Session Location: Marin Water Board Room, 220 Nellen Avenue, Corte Madera, CA 94925

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Monty Schmitt called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Directors Present: Ranjiv Khush, Larry Russell, Matt Samson, Jed Smith, and Monty Schmitt

Directors Absent: None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On motion made by Director Smith and seconded by Vice President Khush, the board adopted the agenda.

Ayes: Directors Khush, Russell, Samson, Smith, and Schmitt

Noes: None

There were no public comments on the *Adoption of the Agenda*.

PUBLIC COMMENT – ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were four (4) public comments on items not on the agenda.

DIRECTORS' AND GENERAL MANAGER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Vice President Khush announced that San Rafael Mayor Kate Collins partook in the Wyland National Mayors Water Conservation Challenge by fulfilling conservation pledges on behalf of her city. He enquired if this was something that the District could support.

CONSENT CALENDAR (ITEMS 1-3)

- Item 1** **Minutes of the Board of Directors' Special Meetings of May 2, 2023 and May 3, 2023**

- Item 2** **General Manager's Report April 2023**

- Item 3** **Authorize the General Manager to Negotiate and Execute Agreements for the Purpose of Water Treatment Chemicals**

Director Samson highlighted Agenda Item #3, Authorize the General Manager to Negotiate and Execute Agreements for the Purpose of Water Treatment Chemicals, including an annual cost increase of 40% as an example that the District is experiencing price increases in excess of inflation and noted the correlation to public hearing item on water rates.

On motion made by Director Smith and seconded by Director Samson, the board approved the Consent Calendar.

Ayes: Directors Khush, Russell, Samson, Smith, and Schmitt
Noes: None

There were no public comments on the Consent Calendar.

REGULAR CALENDAR (ITEM 4)

- Item 4** **Future Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items**

The board secretary reported on upcoming internal and external meetings. A brief discussion followed between staff and Director Russell pertaining to one of the upcoming committee meetings.

There were no public comments.

This was an informational item. The board did not take any formal action.

PUBLIC HEARING

- Item 5** **Conduct a Public Hearing on the Proposed Increases to Customer Water Service Rates, Fees and Charges; and, Adopt Ordinance No. 464 Amending Title 6 Pertaining to the Water Service Rates and Charges of the Marin Municipal Water District Code**

Board President Schmitt thanked the public for attending the meeting, described the process on how the public could participate, as well as the process on how the hearing would be conducted.

General Manager Ben Horenstein began the presentation by providing an overview of the District, including its operations and financial goals.

Finance Director Bret Uppendahl continued the presentation explaining the District's financial challenges and opportunities, rate setting process, Cost of Service Analysis, and revenue requirement. Next, Engineering Planning Manager Elysha Irish reviewed the baseline projects, water supply projects, deferred maintenance, watershed biodiversity fire and fuels management, systems and pending larger District projects.

Finance Director Uppendahl concluded the presentation by going over the recommended financial plan over a four-year planning period and showing the proposed rate structure designed to address the District's water supply, capital projects and deferred maintenance, inflationary costs and operating enhancements, and reserve replenishment.

General Counsel Molly MacLean then explained the District's process in complying with the Proposition 218 in notice requirements, including the mailing of the proposed water rate and fee increase to all record parcel owners and customers within the District. She further noted that the District would be collecting written protests until the close of the public hearing.

President Schmitt opened the public hearing announcing that speakers would be allowed only one minute for comments due to the number attendees present and on Zoom (over 140). There were approximately 40 speakers.

Following public comments the Board took a 10 minutes recess.

At 8:58 p.m., the meeting resumed. District staff addressed comments and questions raised during the public hearing.

President Schmitt formerly closed the public hearing. General Counsel MacLean announced that the District provided water service to 56,178 parcels, which are subject to the proposed rates. Given that, the District would require 28,090 protests to prevent the Board from considering the proposed water rate and fee proposal. At the close of the public hearing, the District received 599 valid protests. Therefore, the Board was free to consider adoption of the proposed increase the District's water rates and fees.

Each of the Directors provided comments.

After deliberation, the Board took the following vote:


On motion made by Vice President Khush and seconded by Director Samson, the Board adopted Ordinance No. 464, Title 6 Pertaining to the Water Service Rates and Charges of the Marin Municipal Water District Code.

Ayes: Directors Khush, Samson, Smith, and Schmitt

Noes: Director Russell

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Board of Directors' Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting of May 16, 2023, adjourned at approximately 9:45 p.m.



Terrie Gillen, CMC
Board Secretary

The minutes were approved at the Board of Directors' Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting of June 6, 2023.