



BEAUMONT-CHERRY VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
560 Magnolia Avenue, Beaumont, CA 92223

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – ENGINEERING WORKSHOP
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting held only via teleconference and video teleconference pursuant to California Government Code Section 54950 et. seq. and under the provisions of Assembly Bill 361 and BCVWD Resolution 2022-01

Call to Order: President Williams

President Williams began the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director Covington.

Invocation was given by Director Ramirez.

Announcement of Teleconference Participation

Director of Finance and Administrative Services Kirene Manini, PhD, advised that this meeting is conducted pursuant to BCVWD Resolution 2022-01.

The teleconference capabilities of this meeting have been identified in the Notice and Agenda. The teleconference locations are not publicly accessible. The public's right to comment and participate in the meeting is being assured via teleconference capabilities and at the BCVWD Administrative Office Board Room.

Roll Call:

Directors present:	Covington, Hoffman, Ramirez, Slawson, Williams
Directors absent:	None
Staff present:	General Manager Dan Jagers Director of Finance and Administrative Services Kirene Manini, PhD Director of Engineering Mark Swanson Director of Operations James Bean Director of Information Technology Robert Rasha Civil Engineering Assistant Evan Ward Administrative Assistant Cenica Smith
Legal Counsel	James Markman

Members of the public who registered their attendance: None.

Public Comment: None.

1. Adjustments to the Agenda: None.

2. President's Establishment of and Appointment to Ad Hoc Committees for Calendar Year 2022

President Lona Williams re-appointed the following members to ad hoc committees for Calendar Year 2022:

2022 Ad Hoc	Member 1	Member 2	Alternate
Bogart Park	Hoffman	Ramirez	Williams
Communications	Ramirez	Williams	Hoffman
Sites Reservoir	Covington	Hoffman	Williams
Water Re-Use 2x2	Hoffman	Covington	Ramirez

3. Discussion Regarding MDP Line 16 Phase II Pond Bank and Tank Site Grading Project Status

General Manager Jagers advised that per the request of the Board, the second meeting of the month would be recast as an engineering workshop and would offer more opportunity for question-and-answer.

Director of Engineering Mark Swanson reminded the Board of the project, its costs, and the importance to the District. He provided a brief history of project activity and components including a cooperative agreement, pipeline relocation, and the storm drain. Currently, this portion of the project allows the District to set up the land for the contractor who is doing the work for Riverside County Flood Control.

Mr. Swanson described two phases of work and presented the site map and a slide presentation including drone footage of the work. He detailed the work on the site including ponds and spillways, and responded to questions from the directors. General Manager Jagers provided further information on the function of the system.

This is a substantially complete project, Swanson advised, and the desired results have been achieved. It is ready to pass along to Flood Control and their contractor for work to begin soon, he said. Materials for the storm drain project will likely arrive in mid- to late February, he noted.

Director Hoffman asked about specific facilities and Swanson identified them as monitoring wells and trees that were left in the plan and are not impacted by the work.

Director Ramirez asked about expectations for extra water to the recharge basins once the system is operational. Jagers stated that in wet years, it is hoped to capture upwards of 500 acre-feet (af), and in dry years in the 100 to 200 acre-feet range, averaging additional recharge of 200 to 300 af per year long-term.

Director Swanson asked about the timeline for construction of the concrete spillways, and Mr. Swanson indicated it is contingent on the arrival of materials, but

the preliminary schedule shows mid-April. That portion of the project will be headed by Flood Control, he noted.

Director Covington asked about budget and Mr. Swanson noted that approximately \$160,000 was allotted to this portion of the work including the tank site. To date, invoices received total approximately \$70,000 to \$75,000, but not all invoices have been received, Swanson explained. Mr. Jagers noted that additional invoices are anticipated, and the second phase of the project will include assuring the banks are straightened, some grading, and the foundation for the next tank using soils generated from the project. It is in line with the budget or better, he added.

Jagers advised that a letter from Flood Control has been received asking for the first \$1 million deposit on the overall contract cost. Swanson noted that communication has been good.

Director Hoffman observed that an annual average of 250 acre-feet received would result in cost savings of \$100,000 per year in imported water. It will take a few years to recoup the investment, he continued, but the other positive is that water is being saved that would otherwise be lost. He suggested communicating this to the ratepayers to share what is being done to conserve water. Mr. Jagers advised that the Communications Committee has put together a press release.

Jagers added that monies have been collected from developers for additional local water resources and this project is not intended to be funded by rates, but by those facilities fees deposits. Additional benefits to the community are the low total dissolved solids (TDS) rainwater being added to the Basin, which helps to mitigate some of the effects of higher TDS water, and the mitigation of flooding along Brookside Avenue.

4. Update of Storm Events from December 2021

Director of Engineering Swanson described the December 14 and December 23-26 storm events which yielded some significant mud and debris flows. Jagers added detail on District staff assistance with a road closure. Swanson further briefed the Board on specific areas of impact, damage, and repairs, and shared photos.

In addition to District staff, the general manager, assistant general manager and head of operations and maintenance for Flood Control were on site during the December 24 storm, Jagers noted. He added detail regarding preparation for the storm and subsequent repair work over the holidays.

In response to President Williams, Mr. Jagers explained that Flood Control is seeking a more permanent solution to the scouring of the flood channel, so movement of rocks and debris may take additional time.

Director Covington asked about retention of the debris for future use; Mr. Jagers explained it is not suitable.

Covington asked about the participation of the Riverside County Transportation Department (Transportation). Mr. Jagers noted their efforts were focused at the bottom side of Brookside Avenue to assure the bridge had no issues. The District needed to act to protect the exposed pipeline on Noble Street and maintain service, he explained. He assured that he has spoken with Flood Control General Manager

Jason Uhley regarding restoration of the channel, and said he will speak with him further. Jagers said he would continue to report under the District Local Emergency related to the fires. Director of Operations James Bean indicated that he had been in communication with Transportation.

Director Hoffman posited that the culvert under the road was no longer functioning and suggested a solution. Mr. Jagers indicated this is in process.

Swanson assured that the District is being as proactive as possible to protect facilities.

Covington asked about the status of Bogart Park. Jagers noted that the channel is wide and said he anticipated additional debris flows in the area. The damage did not look too bad, but an oak tree may be lost.

5. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Statutory Exemption and Notice of Exemption for the Noble Tank Outlet and Noble Street Pipeline at Noble Creek Crossing – Emergency Scour Repairs located within the Community of Cherry Valley

Mr. Swanson reiterated that emergency repairs were made due to scouring. The CEQA process must start immediately. District staff has been in communication with Flood Control and they appear supportive of a permanent solution.

This item is to accept the findings of an emergency that must be repaired prior to the next storm, Swanson explained. Jagers explained the potential issues and proposed solution options, which will be vetted by professionals. He noted that the cooperation of Flood Control will be sought.

Vice President Ramirez asked about the need for a CEQA consultant. Mr. Jagers noted that various consultants have provided work for the District. A draft Request for Proposal has been written to procure on-call services more formally, he noted. Director Covington noted that if there are overlying issues, then District counsel Markman would advise. Mr. Markman concurred.

The Board accepted the findings of staff that the project is exempt from CEQA and directed staff to file the Notice of Exemption with the Riverside County Clerk of the Board for the following project:

Noble Tank Outlet and Noble Street Pipeline at Noble Creek – Emergency Scour Repairs located on Noble Street at Noble Creek, and within Noble Creek, south of Avenida Altura Bella in the community of Cherry Valley consisting of emergency repairs to existing 12-inch diameter Cement Mortar Lined and Coated (CML&C) domestic water line (Noble Street) and Noble Tank Overflow discharge point

by the following roll-call vote:

MOVED: Covington	SECONDED: Slawson	APPROVED 5-0
AYES:	Covington, Hoffman, Ramirez, Slawson, Williams	
NOES:	None	
ABSTAIN:	None	
ABSENT:	None	

6. Status of Ongoing District Capital Improvement Plan Projects

General Manager Jagers explained this is a robust rollout of ongoing and upcoming projects. Many projects are at the end of the design phase, are ready for construction, and are being bid, he advised. This is a point where despite the uncertainty of the economy and the delayed acquisition of materials, a number of projects are ready to roll out, Jagers stated.

Jagers pointed out several projects that are moving forward and provided brief information.

Director Covington asked about Wells 1 and 2 at 10 percent completion. Mr. Jagers answered that design for well drilling is complete, but the contract has not been let. The design of the pumping facility is separate, and some drawings have been done, Jagers stated, acknowledging the desire for aesthetics matching the community.

7. Upcoming District Capital Improvement Plan Projects

General Manager Jagers advised that funding sources are being sought for the list of projects proposed in the near-term Capital Improvement Plan. Engineering and Accounting staff are assigned to participate in workshops to assure all opportunities are understood. Any potentials will be brought back to the Board, he assured.

Jagers pointed out that the contract with the grant writer expired, but a grant writing RFP will be released Monday.

Jagers indicated the intent to launch projects as a consultant-level design with money available from facilities fees and capital reserve replacements to get them on the shelf for available grant funding and to move forward on construction.

Director Covington requested the findings be compiled for the next engineering workshop and continued as an ongoing dialogue. He reminded that the bipartisan infrastructure act was signed in November and money is forthcoming. Jagers assured that staff is being proactive to assure no opportunities are missed.

8. Consideration of California Drought Conditions, District Urban Water Management Plan Drought Restrictions and BCVWD Resolution 2014-05 Regarding Issuance of Will-Serve Letters and Other Drought Response

General Manager Jagers reported that there is snow, but the state is not yet out of the woods. He noted that as of January 20, 2022, the State Water Project has upgraded from a zero percent allocation year to a 15 percent allocation, meaning 2,595 af is allocated to the San Geronio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA). The SGPWA is also working on securing spot water on the market, and has agreed to transfer approximately 500 af of water in their storage account to BCVWD. There is also approximately 1,700 af of Nickel water, and some carryover water stored in the San Luis Reservoir.

The State Water Project is using fairly conservative numbers, Jagers advised, and if the reservoir levels continue to increase the allocation may move higher.

Jaggers noted that the Drought Monitor indicated moderate drought in Riverside County; the landscape has changed to what it was a few months ago. This means that the decision time is approaching to gain understanding of what the next year looks like, he stated. Last year, the District took approximately 8,000 af from its storage account, which is moving the wrong way, he advised. The water was purchased to get through periods like this, he continued, but what it will look like next year is still up in the air. He said he hopes to have news in the near future, but said he does not believe the District is ready to implement drought surcharges today.

February and March are the area's historic wet periods, Jaggers continued. The situation bears watching, and dialogue will continue, he stated.

Director Slawson suggested the water shortage situation is already to the first stage. Mr. Jaggers pointed to the shortage levels and related drought implementation levels, but said it comes down to what is in storage and what is being used. The State has already asked for a 15 percent voluntary reduction by all communities, voluntary public demand reduction, and community outreach, Jaggers said, and indicated he thought that had already happened at the State level.

Water was purchased and stored for drought proofing, Jaggers pointed out, and was used for that last year. This is the year to decide what to do with the extra water purchased over the last three or four years, he stated, and whether action is warranted now, such as raising the rates with the drought surcharge. He said he did not feel comfortable today making that decision, but it will be discussed next month as more understanding is gained.

Director Covington asked about the annual maintenance shutdown for the State Water Project. Mr. Jaggers said it has been down due to the lack of water, and there are other significant repairs happening along the east branch. It may be March before water is delivered, he noted, and those deliveries are being coordinated.

9. Status of Local Emergency regarding the Impact of the Respiratory Illness Pandemic COVID-19 pursuant to Resolution 2020-07

General Manager Jaggers reported that the office is still closed to the public and the COVID-19 case numbers are still high. The percentage of positive tests are much higher, he advised. The City of Banning will be closed to the public until February 17, he said. As soon as it appears safe, the District will re-open to the public.

10. Status of Declared Local Emergencies related to Fires

- a. Impact of the Apple Fire pursuant to Resolution 2020-17
- b. Impact of the El Dorado Fire pursuant to Resolution 2020-20

General Manager Jaggers reminded of the previous presentations and noted the continued situation. The District is working to protect facilities and service to customers, he assured. Unless the burn scar greens up, this is likely to last another year or two, he said.

11. Reports for Discussion

a. Directors' Reports:

Directors reported on the following:

- American Water Works Association: Lessons Learned from 2015 Drought webinar on 1/13/2022 (Ramirez, Slawson)
- CSDA webinar: Brown Act Refresher on 1/18/2022 (Ramirez, Slawson)
- National Integrated Drought Information System California-Nevada Winter Status Update webinar on 1/24/2022 (Ramirez)

b. Director General Comments:

President Williams commented that she appreciated the engineering question and answer meeting format.

Director Covington said he appreciated the work of staff to organize the virtual meetings and follow up actions.

Director Slawson advised that he attended the SGPWA meeting on January 24. A speaker from the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) was present and proposed a silver iodine cloud seeding program in the next two years and was seeking funding. Slawson indicated they may approach BCVWD about it. He voiced discomfort with the concept.

Director Slawson also reported that SGPWA Director Steve Lehtonen retired and there is a vacancy on the Board.

Slawson also attended the San Geronio Pass Regional Water Alliance where additional board vacancies were reported for High Valleys, and Cabazon.

c. General Manager's Report

Mr. Jagers posited that retired Director Steve Lehtonen had provided good service for the SGPWA.

He advised the Board that a representative from SAWPA at the SGPWA meeting advised of a cloud seeding pilot program. BCVWD has been approached, he advised, and said he had looked at the program. The program had been appropriately removed from the burn scar areas, he advised. Grant funding is being sought but it is not advisable for this area at this time. If the Board is interested, SAWPA can be requested to do a presentation; but Jagers recommended waiting for a year or two.

Jagers said he had initiated contact with the City of Beaumont (City) City Manager to restart the recycled water activities. Some paving projects have been happening and staff is paying attention, he said. To date, the City has not performed the 25-foot paving requirement as part of their own repair work, he advised. He intends to have dialogue with the City in the near future on the costs, and to try to obtain relief.

Jagers reported on the new facilities maintenance program and progress to date.

Jaggers reiterated the communication with the SGPWA and noted the priority to get water into the ground quickly when it is available.

d. Legal Counsel Report:

Mr. Markman reported that during a meeting on Sites Reservoir activities, the budding opposition from environmentalists was not discussed. An informational sheet on critical path and project pace seemed optimistic, he continued.

Markman noted that he had not heard about cloud seeding for decades, but reported reviewing a Sustainable Groundwater Management Act plan which included cloud seeding and building of facilities to catch the rain when it comes.

12. Topics for Future Meetings:

- Water supply for BCVWD and the region
- Matrix for delivery of recycled water
- Legal Counsel report on changes in Proposition 218
- Legal update on drought conditions in the west
- Maintenance costs at 800-hp well sites


13. Announcements

President Williams read the following announcements:

- Beaumont Basin Watermaster Committee: Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2022 at 11 a.m.
- Finance and Audit Committee Meeting: Thursday, Feb. 3, 2022 at 3 p.m.
- Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022 at 6 p.m.
- Special Board Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.
- Personnel Committee Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. (Director Covington requested attendance of alternate Member Hoffman)
- District offices will be closed Monday, Feb. 21, 2022 in observance of Presidents Day
- Engineering Workshop: Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022 at 6 p.m.
- Collaborative Agencies Meeting: Wednesday, Mar. 2, 2022 at 5 p.m.


14. Adjournment

President Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.



Director Lona Williams, President
to the Board of Directors of the
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District

ATTEST:



Director David Hoffman, Secretary
to the Board of Directors of the
Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District