

**MINUTES
MOAPA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
HELD
THURSDAY, JULY 13 2017**

PRESENT: Kenneth Staton
Jon Blackwell
Randy Tobler

Lindsey Dalley
Ryan Wheeler

Joe Davis
Jeannie Poynor
Bryan Mortensen

Susan Rose
Lon Dalley

Warren Hardy, Hardy Consulting Group
Elise McAllister, Partners in Conservation

ORDER OF BUSINESS: At 4:03 p.m., Chairman Ken Staton called to order the regular meeting of the Moapa Valley Water District Board of Directors. The agenda items were addressed in the following order:

1. Public Comment (May be limited to five minutes)

Lindsey Dalley had asked Elise McAllister to come talk to the Board about some of the things that Partners in Conservation could help the District with.

Elise explained that she and Lindsey have been visiting back and forth and one of the things that seems to be a great source of frustration is that a lot of our local issues just get dismissed, forgotten about or pushed off. One of the things they've been trying to figure out if there's a way to be more effective by actually get resolutions and move things more in the direction in favor of the local communities because they don't have a lot of residents or a lot of money. This is a pilot idea and she wanted to come to us and see what we think about it. Ranchers, when they use to exist in Clark County, would work with their recon guys and they would literally go out to the trough or wherever the issue was and they would be there to see the problem, talk about it and come up with solutions. PIC was fairly good with this a long time ago with Lincoln County. They had a lot of field trips with their wilderness issues. It was effective because everyone was out there and they could actually see what the issue was. This is the same kind of idea of having an issue and trying to get the right people in charge there so everyone could come up with a solution to make something happen. This is about PIC helping to facilitate that. If we want to do this, PIC could help us get it setup. One of the things PIC has been able to do throughout the years is get to know all of the BLM people and have relationships with them. It's a lot easier to get thru the door or have them take your phone call if you're polite to them. She just wanted to see if this idea would work for the District. PIC would go out with us, take notes, do a meeting write up and a follow up on anything the BLM is suppose to get to us so nothing falls thru the cracks.

Joe said that this will hopefully help us get the Arrow Canyon well done and other things that we are working on with BLM. It would be great to have BLM see what we're actually doing. Hopefully this will help speed up the project because it could take up to 10 years to get an application approved. Joe thinks it's a great concept.

The general consensus of the Board was that it would be a good idea to use PIC to help speed up the BLM process.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting Held May 18, 2017 (For Possible Action)

On motion of Randy Tobler and seconded by Jon Blackwell, the Board voted 5-0 in favor to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2017 meeting.

3. **Discussion and possible approval of a contract with Senator Warren Hardy for lobbying services (For Possible Action)**

Joe explained that Warren Hardy was at the meeting because we need to get some lobbying help especially after what happened at the last legislative session. There were quite a few things that rolled thru that Warren helped us with and it's only going to get worse with all the stuff that's going on. There's a bunch of water and drought stuff that's going to be reintroduced at the next session. Some of the things that Warren also addresses are things with the State Engineers office, and SNWA. VVWD had a meeting with SNWA and Warren was invited. He was able to get us invited also. We need someone to help us with some issues.

Warren has a long history with Moapa Valley Water District. He was elected to the State Assembly in 1990 to represent this area. He had a lobbying firm from 1993 to 2001. In 2002 he was elected to the senate and was in there until 2009. He then bought his business back. He wanted the Directors to know that he will do whatever the District needs him to do not just what's in his contract. If we have a problem he wants us to call him as soon as it happens.

On motion of Ryan Wheeler and seconded by Randy Tobler, the Board voted 5-0 in favor to approve the contract with Hardy Consulting Group for lobbying services.

4. **Notice of Intent to file an application with Nevada Division of Environmental Protection – Nevada Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to finance the refunding off the Water Revenue Bonds Series 1995 and 2010 (For Possible Action)**

Joe reminded the Directors that at our last Board meeting we talked about how we were not on the State Revolving Fund Priority List so Joe called into the meeting that NDEP had regarding that priority list and they added us to the list. We filled out a pre-application and now we have to fill out an actual application but we have to have our Board's approval to submit that application. We will also have a couple of other resolutions that the Board will have to approve. One will be for bond council and one for a financial advisor. Andy Artusa at Zion Public Finance has been doing the majority of our stuff for all of our bonds for years. He was the one that came to us and said that we could save \$1.2M and shave 10 years off our loans.

On motion of Lindsey Dalley and seconded by Randy Tobler, the Board voted 5-0 in favor to authorize Staff to submit an application to NDEP –Nevada Drinking Water Revolving Fund to finance the refunding of the Water Revenue Bonds Series 1995 and 2010.

5. **Manager's Reports**

Office Manager – Jeannie Poynor provided the Directors with the financial dashboard, the overall budget report and the revenue report. The budget looks good. We're almost at our revenues for the year so that's really good. Also, we aren't over on expenses so that's really good. There were a couple of questions on the budget which Staff answered.

Jeannie explained that the last few weeks have been crazy with training, inventory and end of year. The auditors will be here on August 7th. Ken's working on that and getting everything finalized.

Assistant General Manager - 1) Production – Lon Dalley explained that we pumped 116,351,556 gallons of water last month. 116,201,000 gallons was pumped out of Arrow Canyon #1 and 150,556 was pumped out of Arrow Canyon #2. We were up a little from the past. June was pretty warm. We were using 2500 gpm the end of June and the beginning of July. That's a lot of water. **2) Arrow Canyon Well Level** – Lon and Joe explained how we measure the well levels at the Arrow Canyon wells and also how well levels work. **3) Meter Installs** – We installed one meter last month and have four more so far this month. That would put us at six for the year after this month. **4) – Certifications-** Brian Greig, Mica Leatham, and Lon took the test to move up to the next level on their certifications. Lon passed the D4 test the first time and it's not an easy test.

General Manager – 1) Meadow Valley Wash – Sandra Fairchild is working on the environmental part of this project. We are doing the minimal approach which is we stay out of the water and bore from one corner to the other corner. We'll drop down from a 20" line to an 18" line so we can stay on budget. Sandra's working on the permitting right now. When she gets that paperwork done and submitted to the Core of Engineers then we'll have US Fish & Wildlife and the others hopefully sign off on the project since we don't need to do anything else. Sam can then finish up on the design of it so we can go out for bids. **2) Arrow Canyon Chlorinator** – We received the chlorinator. We have a game plan for getting it installed and having them come out and do the onsite with us. We were hoping that it would be here before the

end of the fiscal year and it was received it on June 29th. **3) Arrow Canyon #3 Engineering** – We received the 60% drawings. Jason Higgins has got the land and water right surveying portion of it done. Sandra has the environmental portion done. We been waiting for the drawing portion of it so we can get the majority of this compiled. This is the minimum that has to be done before the permit is submitted to BLM. We're holding off on the permitting portion until we have a meeting with everyone to find out what they want to see. The biggest portion of it is if we can get them to go for the alternate site #1 which is right next to the existing pipeline, then all the environmental work has been done. It should move really fast. The problem is that since it not technically inside the ROW, the process could require environmental reviews which could take two years before we could do anything else. Hopefully with them visiting the site and seeing that this is a previously disturbed area, it will speed up the process. **4) – Gold Butte National Monument** - We hadn't weighed in on the issue until Joe started having conversations with Kevin Brown. There are just so many things that are similar on things that we have both dealt with like up in Meadow Valley Wash with our existing water rights. Lindsey helped Joe write a letter of support and Joe really appreciated his help. We were asking that as they're looking at it that they would move the boundary back just a little bit. If they had just moved it back just a little back all of VVWD water rights would have been out of the boundary. When you look at the boundary it makes no sense. We submitted our letter to the Dept. of the Interior. Senator Reid promised VVWD that it would be changed but when the declaration was made that didn't happen. Joe really thinks that there are so many things like the RMP that they leave the utility companies out of the process. We need to have some type of stance so that any time any new federal regulations come on, whether it's state or local or anything that's going to affect the District, we need to have a standard approach that basically states the same thing. It needs to say that we need to be at the table & that we still need to have access. How can that happen if we aren't given the opportunity to be there while things are being discussed? If we are a cooperating agency then they need to treat us as a cooperating agency. As we learn more, Joe would like to sit down with the Board and come up with a resolution of our own when it comes to water rights and access. **5) NDEP – State Revolving Fund** – We were able to get on the list. We are in the process of getting that application filled out. **6) Unaccounted Water** – Representatives from NV Rural Water sat down with Joe and Lon to see if they could help us locate our unaccounted water. Dan Tarnowski use to run a utility in Michigan and they ran thru a bunch of different scenarios. Sometimes when you look at the same numbers so many times you just can't see what's going on. Dan talked about a situation he had when he was back in Michigan. They had a 2" waterline that broke which could account for our entire lost that we have. Their leak was right next to a storm drain and the water was running down that storm drain into a pond on a golf course. Once they figured out where the water was going and got it fixed after years of looking for it, the golf course sued them because their pond dried up. As staff and the NVRW guys were going though all the scenarios, one of the things that they were looking at is in the last two weeks we've had two meters that we did data logs on that showed negative flow on them. We have a check valve in there so it shouldn't have a negative flow. One was oscillating and the other was actually showing negative flow. They pull the data every two hours and it would show 10 gallons, 20 gallons, etc so it was adding up to 300 gallons of negative flow over a day's period. If there is a check valve in there, is that truly a negative flow or is it just broadcasting wrong? Right now we're in the middle of going out and pulling the radio broadcasting, pulling the information off the meter and physically pulling the reading off of the meter to see if there are any discrepancies there. If we could pull the meter out and send them in, we could have them flow tested. The problem is they might not be broadcasting. We've had some that have done that in the past so we're going to take samples in Overton and make sure that they're all reading correctly. If they are, then we can probably feel pretty comfortable with that. Another thing is that they put that sewer line in and it's a gravel line that's 20' deep. We could have water running there and it could never come to the surface. Up there at the high school we had a carrier pipe that ran across the road that was so compacted with roots that it was leaking inside the carrier pipe. When they put in that new gym and dug that line up, all the water started running out of it. We have some gravel areas that they could be absorbing large volumes of water that's not coming to the surface. We're going to be looking at some different ideas of where water could be going. The most important thing is just making sure that the meters are broadcasting correctly. We haven't seen a big drop off in revenues but we did have that big drop off back when we had the downturn in the economy. It could be a combination of things. It was nice of NVRWA to come down and help us out. They'll be back down here again to see how things are going. **7) Water Models** – The water models that we did for the capital improvements plan are done. We will have those at the August meeting. Joe Phillips will be at the meeting to talk about the cost for Arrow Canyon and some of the other things. He will also talk about some of our funding options.

6. Public Comment (May be limited to five minutes)

None

7. Director's Preference

Lindsey said that he had a conversation with Stephen Neel. He's a local guy that's a BLM ranger. He is also a volunteer on Station 74. They talked about fire hydrants and the different color ring on them that represent how much they will flow. Lindsey asked him if the fire department has had any problems with getting water. Steven said that they haven't had any issues. They also talked about improving the pressure. At least now, if they do have a problem, we'll be able to address it since we have that flow model.

- Review Monthly Expenditures

Randy Tobler disclosed that he has an interest in a small business that is on the monthly expenditures list.

- Litigation (Closed-Door Session)

- Water Rights Discussion (Closed-Door Session)

8. Personnel (Closed-Door Session)

9. Approval of the August 17, 2017 Board Meeting

The general consensus was to hold the July Board meeting on Thursday, August 17th at 4 pm.

10. Public Comment (May be limited to five minutes)

None

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:17 pm.