

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
PUBLIC AWARENESS/PERSONNEL/POLICY COMMITTEE  
OF THE VALLECITOS WATER DISTRICT  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2021, AT 10:00 A.M.

Director Boyd-Hodgson called the meeting to order at the hour of 10:04 a.m.

Present: Director Boyd-Hodgson  
Director Pennock  
General Manager Pruim  
Information Technology Technician Todd  
Public Information/Conservation Supervisor Robbins (remote)

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

PERSONNEL

**(OLD BUSINESS) UPDATE ON PALOMAR COLLEGE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

Supervisor Robbins noted that applications were due to Jacob Shiba at Palomar College on Friday, November 5, 2021. Interviews will be conducted by Shiba and Robbins on November 29, 2021.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

**(OLD BUSINESS) UPDATE ON BILL CONSOLIDATION**

Staff met with San Elijo Hills Homeowners Association (HOA) members about two weeks ago, sharing with them our progress to date. The HOA asked for some additional information and staff had questions for the HOA. Staff are waiting to hear back from the HOA on what they would like the bill to look like. HOA may want some raw data to review on their own.

**(OLD BUSINESS) VWD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

District staff surveyed other agencies. Some simply promote the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) video contest. Helix and Vista Irrigation have their own programs with checks sent directly to the school. Their programs typically require an application.

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) has a \$10,000 scholarship. Students need to be in a water related field. Students must commit to full time enrollment.

CSDA "Districts Make the Difference" video contest: \$2,000 for First Place; \$1,000 for Second Place; \$500 for Third Place.

VWD can set up our program in any manner. General Manager Pruim suggested the Committee provide some guidelines. Director Pennock thought that students would need to reapply each year. Director Boyd-Hodgson wanted to be sure that the District maintain lines of communication with the student. Director Pennock was more in favor of fewer, larger scholarships. Director Boyd-Hodgson wanted to be sure that scholarships were available to two-year colleges.

Additional discussion took place on what amount the scholarships would be. Committee members were unclear on the costs for community and four-year colleges. General Manager Pruim committed to having staff research the cost for college at various locations.

Director Boyd-Hodgson asked for a list of questions that Committee members could answer to provide direction and guide the policy. Staff can develop a list to send the Committee members before the next meeting. The desire is to provide scholarship funding for Fall of 2022.

#### **(NEW BUSINESS) DROUGHT DECLARATION**

General Manager Pruim noted that he declared a Level 1 "Drought Watch" voluntary water conservation condition. If conditions deteriorate, drought levels will be brought to the Committee or the Board depending on timing. The new Drought Ordinance will be brought to the November 17, 2021, Board meeting. Supervisor Robbins noted that the District has a long list of permanent water waste prohibitions. Director Boyd-Hodgson requested information on the roll out of drought information to customers. Supervisor Robbins indicated that during the past drought: banners were posted within the City, information was contained in our newsletter, it was on the website, the District issued a Press Release, newspapers and television stations picked up the story, a snipe on the bill envelope, and social media was also used.

#### POLICY

#### **(OLD BUSINESS) SINGLE USE PLASTICS RESOLUTION**

Director Boyd-Hodgson noted that the City of San Marcos passed a single-use plastics resolution and that the District could be supportive of the resolution/ordinance as well as having the District's culture limit the use of single-use plastics.

General Manager Pruim noted that Director Hernandez had expressed interest in this a few years ago and the District had temporarily switched from bottled to boxed water. There was not a policy put in place. The District can review its purchasing policy to look for items that don't use single-use plastics. Alternatives can often be more expensive.

For water main breaks, the District continues to drop off pallets of bottled water. Boxed water is four to five times more expensive. For internal use the District does use boxed water.

Director Boyd-Hodgson requested cost information for boxed vs bottled water as well as single-use plastics. She also wondered about other processes at the District that use single-use plastics. She hoped to promote a VWD culture that favors less use of single-use plastics.

General Manager Pruim noted that VWD does not have the ability to enforce the actions of others (stores) on their use of single-use plastics. The City of San Marcos does have those powers. General Manager Pruim committed to bringing back some cost comparison data for single-use plastics at the District to assist in decision making.

NEXT MEETING DATE – DECEMBER 6, 2021

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Monday, December 6, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at the hour of 10:47 a.m.