

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
PUBLIC AWARENESS/PERSONNEL/POLICY COMMITTEE  
OF THE VALLECITOS WATER DISTRICT  
MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022, AT 10:00 A.M.  
AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE IN THE BOARD ROOM  
201 VALLECITOS DE ORO, SAN MARCOS, CALIFORNIA

Director Boyd-Hodgson called the meeting to order at the hour of 10:00 a.m.

Present: Director Boyd-Hodgson  
Director Pennock  
General Manager Pruum  
Assistant General Manager Gumpel  
Public Information/Conservation Supervisor Robbins  
Information Technology Technician Todd  
Executive Assistant Johnson

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

PERSONNEL

None.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

**(NEW BUSINESS) DISCUSSION ON DROUGHT LEVEL 2**

Public Information/Conservation Supervisor Robbins facilitated a presentation, Level 2 – “Drought Alert” Discussion, which included the following:

- Level 2 – Drought Alert – 20% Reduction
- Governor’s Executive Order of March 28, 2022
- District Ordinance No. 219 – Permanent Water Use Restrictions

Public Information/Conservation Supervisor Robbins stated Governor Newsom is calling on local water suppliers to move to Level 2 of their water shortage contingency plans, and directed the State Water Resources Control Board to consider a ban on the watering of decorative grass at businesses and institutions. Upon Board action to declare the existence of Drought Response Level 2 conditions, the District’s Level 2 Drought Alert would limit residential and commercial landscape irrigation to no more than three assigned days per week June through October, and no more than two days per week November through May. Drought rates would be effect at the drought alert rate.

General discussion took place regarding enforcement of drought restrictions, ideas for public outreach, and drought rates.

The Committee recommended moving to Drought Level 2 on a voluntary basis. This item will be presented to the Board at the April 20, 2022, meeting for consideration.

**(NEW BUSINESS) HYDRATION STATION PARTNERSHIP EVENT WITH THE CITY OF SAN MARCOS ON SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2022**

Public Information/Conservation Supervisor Robbins provided information on Bark at the Park, a joint event between the City of San Marcos and the District to celebrate the installation of five new hydration stations at local parks. Staff obtained \$25,000 in grant funds to pay for the hydration stations with attached dog bowls which will allow residents to refill reusable water bottles at the parks as well as hydrate their dogs. Dog adoption agencies will also take part in the event, scheduled for May 7, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Woodland Park. The local sheriff's canine unit may participate as well. Staff will be distributing reusable water bottles at the event.

**(OLD BUSINESS) UPDATE ON BILL DEAN PROGRAM**

General Manager Pruim stated Bill Dean's program for fifth graders will begin at 12:40 p.m. today at La Costa Meadows Elementary School. The two-week program includes daily one hour sessions. Various District staff will be participating in the program.

POLICY

**(NEW BUSINESS) WATER LEAKS ON THE CUSTOMER SIDE**

Director Boyd-Hodgson requested this item as she hears about this quite often from customers.

General Manager Pruim stated repairs on the customer side of the meter are the customer's responsibility; however, staff tries to help in various ways. If staff notices a big difference in usage on monthly water bills, they may reach out to the customer to determine what the problem could be such as a break, an incorrect setting on an irrigation controller, or other issues. If the problem is an irrigation break on the customer's side of the meter, the customer is informed that it is their responsibility to repair the break. The District also offers a one-time "leak adjustment" if a customer can demonstrate that they had a break. In this situation, the customer still pays for their water usage, but not at Tier 3 rates. The District also offers irrigation audits that are performed by a third party.

General discussion took place.

**(OLD BUSINESS) REVIEW OF ORDINANCE NO. 216 (BUSINESS OF THE BOARD)**

General Manager Pruum stated the Board directed this Committee to further review Ordinance No. 216 after they received the Committee's recommendations for revisions at a previous Board meeting. Areas of concern were President selection and duties of the President. He suggested the Committee formulate some options for the Board to consider.

General discussion took place regarding the current sequence (and past practice) for rotating Directors into the office of the President: Division 5, Division 1, Division 4, Division 3, Division 2. The Committee recommends continuing with the current rotation without the provision that each elected Director will have the opportunity to hold the office of President once during their first term, and including the rotation order (by division, no names) in Ordinance No. 216. The office of Vice President would follow the same rotation as President, being one year behind.

Further general discussion took place regarding the duties of the President: 1) recommends committee/representative assignments which, as in past practice, are ultimately approved by the Board; 2) presides over Board meetings; 3) represents the District at various functions; 4) meets with the General Manager to review agenda prior to Board meetings; and 5) is entitled to one vote on matters, the same as all other Directors. The Committee recommends keeping the current practice of the President recommending committee/representative assignments with the Board voting to approve the assignments.

The Committee discussed whether or not a second or vote is needed when a Director requests a future agenda item during a Board meeting. General Manager Pruum stated that many agencies require that at least one other Director support an agenda item to be added to an agenda. He recommended requiring a second from another Director to support the proposed agenda item which would mean there is some general support for the item. This would avoid staff spending a considerable amount of time preparing an item that goes nowhere. The Board could also send the item to a committee before the Board considers it.

Staff will prepare a redlined version of Ordinance No. 216 incorporating the Committee's recommended revisions and will send it to the Committee for review before placing it on an agenda for the Board's consideration.

NEXT MEETING DATE – MAY 2, 2022

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Monday, May 2, 2022, in the Board Room.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at the hour of 11:32 a.m.