

**BELLA VISTA WATER DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**December 18, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Bella Vista Water District convened at the District Office Boardroom on Monday, December 18, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Any member of the public may speak during Public Comment or may email public comments to [csar-tori@bvwd.org](mailto:csar-tori@bvwd.org) and comments will be read from each member of the public. The District will use best efforts to swiftly resolve requests for reasonable modifications or accommodations with individuals with disabilities, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and resolving any doubt whatsoever in favor of accessibility.

Board Members Present:

President	-	Jim Smith
Director	-	Guy Walters
Director	-	Frank Schabarum
Director	-	Bob Nash
Director	-	Ted Bambino

Board Members Absent: None

Officers and Staff Present:

General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer	-	David Coxey
Finance and Administration Manager	-	Christy Sartori

**Public:**

Don Groundwater	-	Provost & Prichard Consulting Group
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**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Public Comment**

None

3. **Election of Board of Officers for 2024**

3-1 Election of President

Director Nash nominated Director Walters, and Director Schabarum Seconded.

**AYE:** Smith, Walters, Nash, Schabarum, Bambino **NAY:** None; **ABSENT:** None

3-2 Election of Vice President  
Director Bambino nominated Director Nash, and Director Walters Seconded.

**AYE:** Smith, Walters, Nash, Schabarum, Bambino **NAY:** None; **ABSENT:** None

3-3 Director Smith passed the gavel to Director Walters.

3-4 Revise Standing Committees, Appointments:  
Engineering and Planning: Director Nash, Director Walters  
Finance & Personnel: Director Bambino, Director Smith  
Policy and Legislation: Director Schabarum, Director Smith

3-5 Appoint ACWA-JPIA Rep. (Jim Smith) and Alt. (David Coxey)

3-6 Appoint EAGSA Rep. (Jim Smith) and Alt. (Bob Nash)

**M/S:** [Bambino/Schabarum] The Board approved that all committee members will remain in their respective appointments.

**AYE:** Smith, Walters, Nash, Schabarum, Bambino **NAY:** None; **ABSENT:** None

#### 4. **Consent Calendar:**

- 4-1 Approval of Minutes of October 23, Regular Meeting
- 4-2 Approval of Minutes of October 30, Special Meeting
- 4-3 Financial Reports for Month Ending October 2023
- 4-4 Financial Reports for Month Ending November 2023

**M/S:** [Schabarum/Smith] The Board approved and accepted the consent calendar as presented.

**AYE:** Smith, Walters, Nash, Schabarum, Bambino **NAY:** None; **ABSENT:** None

#### **Old Business**

None

#### **New Business**

### **5. Ratify General Release and Settlement Agreement with Huawei Technologies USA Inc (HTU) Regarding Inverters for the Regulating Station Solor Facility.**

David Coxey, General Manager, notified the Board that Huawei Technologies USA, Inc., the company that holds the warranty of the District's Regulating Station Solar Facility, ceased business operations in the US as of April 28, 2023. David stated that staff recommends the District exercise the option to receive spare replacement parts instead of a cash refund for the unfilled portion of the warranty as the value of the parts exceeds the amount available under a cash refund.

**M/S:** [Smith/Schabarum] The Board authorized the ratification of the General Manager's execution of the general release and settlement agreement with Huawei Technologies USA, Inc.

**AYE:** Smith, Walters, Nash, Schabarum, Bambino **NAY:** None; **ABSENT:** None

**6. Authorize Contract Scope Amendment - 3MG Reg. Station Water Storage Tank for Additional Environmental Work**

David outlined that the 3MG project footprint has expanded to reflect temporary use and access areas that require an increase to the original scope of environmental review services. The change is to provide the same scope over the expanded area. The scope of the agreement with the Contractor, Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group, includes a subcontract with ENPLAN for environmental services, which incorporates the botanical, tree, wildlife, and cultural surveys, as well as mapping revisions for the initial area.

**M/S:** [Schabarum/Smith] The Board authorized the amendment to the Provost & Pritchard 3MG Tank Permitting, Design, and Construction Management contract and the additional cost of \$25,300.

**AYE:** Smith, Walters, Nash, Schabarum, Bambino **NAY:** None; **ABSENT:** None

**7. Authorize Letter of Support for Proposed Use of Aging Infrastructure Account Funds and Application for Extended Repayment**

David stated that the California-Great Basin (CGB) Region of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) plans to submit an application for funding extraordinary maintenance of Central Valley Project (CVP) reserved works from the Aging Infrastructure Account (AIA) and extend the associated repayment. The CGB Region requests a letter from CVP contractors affirming support of the application for extended repayment of funds from the Aging Infrastructure Account by December 31, 2023.

**M/S:** [Nash/Bambino] The Board authorized the General Manager to execute a letter of support conditioned upon further clarification of specific projects and their associated cost recovery.

**AYE:** Smith, Walters, Nash, Schabarum, Bambino **NAY:** None; **ABSENT:** None

**8. Authorize Reimbursement Agreement with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for Planning and Engineering Expenses for Wintu Substation Replacement and BIL Funding Application.**

The District has a Contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to operate and maintain the Cow Creek Unit of the Central Valley Project, which includes the Wintu Pumping Plant.

It is presently proposed that the primary transformer be replaced with new equipment and the current substation be relocated to serve as the spare. Improvements and updated code requirements will add considerable cost to the project.

The District is the sole contractor/beneficiary for this facility, and therefore, all costs are reimbursable by the District. The Aging Infrastructure Account (AIA) repayment can be extended up to 30 years at attractive interest rates. Reclamation staff are presently working on an updated project cost estimate

and AIA application. It is presently estimated that overall project costs could be as high as \$2-3 million.

**M/S:** [Schabarum/Bambino] The Board authorized the General Manager to submit a letter requesting funding from the Aging Infrastructure Account and a Letter of Intent for repayment along with related actions for the replacement of the Wintu Substation.

**AYE:** Smith, Walters, Nash, Schabarum, Bambino **NAY:** None; **ABSENT:** None

## **9. Authorize Wage and Benefit Adjustments**

David stated that staff recommends a cost-of-living adjustment for the Water Treatment Superintendent (T5) position included in the Management group and the Administrative Assistant position, which is a non-represented position. David discussed the CPI-W trends, and a discussion ensued.

**M/S:** [Bambino/Nash] The Board authorized a 4.5% wage increase for the Water Treatment Superintendent (T5) position and a 3.5% increase for the Administrative Assistant position commencing with the pay period that begins on Friday, January 5, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

**AYE:** Smith, Walters, Nash, Schabarum, Bambino; **NAY:** None; **ABSENT:** None

## **10. Travel Request – Mid-Pacific Region Water Users’ Conference in Reno, NV**

The annual Mid-Pacific Region Water Users’ conference will be held in Reno, Nevada, January 24-26 and is sponsored by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The conference is intended for Agency Managers, Directors, O&M Personnel, and Consultants served by Reclamation facilities within the Mid Pacific Region.

**M/S:** [Schabarum/Smith] The Board authorized the General Manager and any interested Directors to attend the conference.

**AYE:** Smith, Walters, Nash, Schabarum, Bambino **NAY:** None; **ABSENT:** None

## **Reports and Communications**

### **11. Water Supply Report**

David reviewed the contents of the agenda item with the Board.

### **12. Projects and Developments Report**

David presented the updates on the following projects and activities.

#### **1. District Projects/Facilities**

- a. Lateral 7.5 N Emergency Repair – Project is completed. USACE Closeout report and mitigation pending.
- b. USBR Water Smart Grant - 3MG Tank, SCADA for 3 existing wells

- 100% Design Drawings received and reviewed for tank and pump station (not included in Grant) and provided to USBR and DDW. USBR review pending.
  - PG&E power rerouted, contract for new service pending.
  - CEQA Initial Study, Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program completed. USBR NEPA pending.
- c. Moody Creek Drive Pipeline Replacement Project – Completed!
- d. Cow Creek Siphon Removal at the Cow Creek Bridge (Swede Creek Road) – Completed!
- e. Wintu Substation – Application for BIL Aging Infrastructure Account (AIA) funding – USBR AIA Cost Estimate and Application Pending
2. Developments Under Design/Construction
- a. Bethel Campus and Offsite Improvements
- Campus – grading and make-ready improvements completed, “Building C” under construction – currently receiving temporary construction water service and limited fire flow.
  - Offsite Improvements/Twin Towers Pipeline, etc. (GHD) – Plans reviewed and District comments provided
  - Pump Station – Design pending
  - Campus Site and Frontage Plans (GHD) – Plans reviewed and District comments provided. Additional hydraulic modeling completed
- b. Phoenix Charter Academy (adjacent to Simpson University)
- Comments provided to the City of Redding along with a recommendation for the applicant to submit a Water Service Availability Request
- c. Chevy Court – Plans received and comments provided
- d. Palo Way Industrial Park – Will Serve Letter requested and provided
- e. Miscellaneous Developments (on existing parcels that don’t require a Will Serve) – Simpson College STEM building addition, Redding School of Arts High School, Mercy Oaks building addition, Palo Cedro Feed Store water and fire service, CS-8 SOI update expanding Sewer District to Deschutes Road (3 parcels)
3. PG&E Infrastructure “Hardening”
- a. Upgrading poles and undergrounding utility for fire resilience – Continuing. Additional work planned for 2024

- b. Damaged 30-inch CCP damages claim analysis – Under review by USBR Technical Services Center (TSC) in Denver
4. Public Works in Planning
    - a. City of Redding 35 acre “Jubilee Annexation” – Comment Letter due December 18<sup>th</sup>
    - b. City of Redding Old Oregon Trail Widening – Paso Robles to Bear Mountain Road – 60% design reviewed by District and comments provided – Construction Summer of 2024
  5. SGMA Compliance – EAGSA Update
    - a. Grant application submitted; funding awarded!
  6. Shortage Year Supply Augmentation
    - No discussions for several months, although I am told that an agreement may be in the works.

**M/S:** Discussion only. No Board action was taken.

### **13. Manager’s Report**

David reported the financial audit is delayed due to a detailed, complex, multi-year review of other post-employment benefits (OPEB) actuarial analysis. Christy, the Manager of Finance and Administration is deeply involved and the District has additionally engaged the services of Milliman, an actuarial consulting firm to run revised analysis to determine the District's liability for providing these employment benefits and multi-year trending. David reported that Alex Shannon has recently separated from service as a D-2 Operator and moved to Idaho having just recently obtained his D-3 and T-3 certifications. He is an excellent employee and will be missed. David further explained the District has now lost several employees who have moved out of state. David congratulated the incumbents for their appointments to the board and noted several informational items in the board packet that include the ACWA/JPIA President’s Recognition Award trifecta for all three insurance programs. David provided a brief update on “Making Conservation a CA Way of Life” regulations along with the proposed Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook that will be considered for adoption by the State Water Board on December 19.

### **14. Board Member’s Comments and Reports**

Director Smith thanked Christy and the staff for all of their efforts over the past year as he served as the Board president.

Director Bambino suggested that we look into a tablet for each Board member to view the Board packet instead of a printed packet.

Director Walters expressed his appreciation to all of the staff who worked to put the Holiday luncheon together and stated that it was really enjoyable.

### **CLOSED SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Board adjourned to a Closed Session to discuss the following item(s):

**15. Adjourn to Closed Session: CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS (Gov. Code Section 54956.8).**

Negotiators: David Coxe, Christy Sartori, John Kenny  
Represented Employees Organization: IBEW Local 1245

**16. Reconvene to Open Session, Announce Any Actions Taken While in Closed Session, Adjourn**

President Walters reconvened to open session and announced that no action was taken while in closed session.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

