

**BELLA VISTA WATER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**December 16, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Bella Vista Water District convened at the District Office Boardroom on Monday, December 16, 2024, 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	-	Guy Walters
Director	-	Frank Schabarum
Director	-	Ted Bambino
Director	-	Jim Smith
Director	-	Bob Nash

Board Members Absent: None

Officers and Staff Present:

General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer	-	David Coxey
Finance and Administration Manager	-	Christy Sartori
Project Manager	-	Tom Zaharris
Distribution Superintendent	-	Matt Leggee
District Legal Counsel	-	John Kenny

Public:

Don Groundwater, Provost & Prichard Consulting Group, no public comment made.

Jon Cook, Bethel Church, provided an update on the Bethel Administration Building C. He stated that they are looking to have construction ready for occupancy in January 2025 and that Bethel is continuing to work toward the deliverables outlined in the BVWD/Bethel Infrastructure Agreement.

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**1. Public Comment**

**2. Election of Board of Officers for 2025**

**2-1 Election of President**

Director Bambino nominated Director Nash, and Director Walters Seconded.

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

We are an equal opportunity employer and provider.

**2-2 Election of Vice President**

Director Smith nominated Director Schabarum, and Director Bambino Seconded.

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

2-3 Director Walters passed the gavel to Director Nash.

**2-4 Revise Standing Committees, Appointments:**

Engineering and Planning: Director Nash, Director Walters

Finance & Personnel: Director Bambino, Director Smith

Policy and Legislation: Director Schabarum, Director Smith

2-5 Appoint ACWA-JPIA Rep. (Jim Smith) and Alternate (David Coxey)

2-6 Appoint EAGSA Rep. (Jim Smith) and Alternate (Bob Nash)

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

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

**3. Consent Calendar:**

3-1 Approval of Minutes of October 28, 2024, Regular Meeting

3-2 Financial Reports for Month Ending October

3-3 Financial Reports for Month Ending November

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

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

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

General Manager David Coxey requested that an item be added to the agenda due to its urgent nature and received since posting of the agenda. The item is related to conditions incorporated into the draft NEPA documents pending finalization. A brief discussion ensued, and the Board agreed that this item is urgent.

**M/S:** [Bambino/Schabarum] The Board approved and accepted the addition of item 4.1 to the agenda.

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

#### **4. Authorize Non-Binding Letter of Intent to Develop an Agreement with the City of Redding for Groundwater Supply**

General Manager David Coxe reviewed the item and stated this non-binding letter of intent (LOI) is the first step towards an agreement that would provide for a supply under conditions of shortage and allow developments to proceed within the common overlap area of the District's boundary and Redding city limits. David summarized the bulleted items in the LOI and explained the proposed agreement allows developments to incrementally buy into portion of the City's groundwater system located within the Enterprise Groundwater Subbasin within the City of Redding. A lengthy discussion ensued. David explained the agreement and capital investment cost can be compared with and is similar to the construction of a new production well within the District, but with less uncertainty regarding production, quality and interference with existing District wells. Concern was voiced regarding the term and language for a successor agreement and termination clauses.

The District's Legal Counsel, John Kenny, recommended additional language and clarification regarding the city's commitment to provide supply for developments approved under the LOI in the event a final agreement cannot be reached.

**M/S:** [Schabarum/Bambino] Authorize the General Manager to execute the Non-binding Letter of Intent as amended and clarified by legal counsel.

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

#### **4.1 Authorize 3MG Tank Categorical Exclusion Checklist and Closeout Letter in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act**

David Coxe explained the window of opportunity to move forward with construction has been delayed pending completion of the cultural resources clearance. The proposed language differs from that of CEQA and is objectionable, but likely non-negotiable. A brief discussion ensued.

**M/S:** [Schabarum/Smith] Authorize the General Manager to accept the proposed language in the NEPA Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC) to finalize the clearance.

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

#### **5. Adoption of Resolution 24-04 Approving the Revised Corebridge Financial Governmental 457(b) Plan Document**

Finance and Administration Manager, Christy Sartori stated that due to recent Federal changes to the Governmental 457(b) retirement plan funding guidelines, the District has collaborated with Corebridge Financial to update the existing Plan Document.

Christy stated that the primary reason for this update is to address the Permissible Distribution Events. This revision permits participants to withdraw all, or part of the employee vested account balance once they reach age fifty-nine and one half. All contributions to the 457(b)-plan made by the District are employee-only contributions and at no cost to the District.

**M/S:** [Watler/Schabarum] Adopt Resolution 24-04 Approving the Revised Corebridge Financial Governmental Plan Document and Authorizing the General Manager to execute the necessary Agreement.

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

**6. Adoption of Resolution 24-04 Approving the Revised Corebridge Financial Governmental 457(b) Plan Document**

Christy Sartori stated that with the implementation of the Aspire plan, employees will have the flexibility to choose the Edward Jones Financial Advisor they prefer. Additionally, staff have collaborated with Thoras Cochran, an Edward Jones Financial Advisor, to offer onsite financial investment guidance and education to employees at no cost to the District.

**M/S:** [Schabarum/Smith] Adopt Resolution 24-05 Authorizing the Governmental 457(b) Plan with Aspire Financial through Edward Jones Financial and Authorizing the General Manager to execute the necessary Agreement.

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

**7. Acceptance of Improvements – Alaska Drive (J. May)**

Project Manager, Tom Zaharris stated that the City of Redding requires an approved fire hydrant to be installed when building an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU). The project located at Alaska Drive for J. May has been completed at the property owners' expense and presented to the District for acceptance into the distribution system.

**M/S:** [Smith/Bambino] The Board accepted the improvements for J. May at Alaska Drive in the amount of \$20,000.

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

**8. Ratify Side Letter of Agreement to MOU between the Bella Vista Water District and IBEW-1245 Regarding Change of Payday**

No discussion.

**M/S:** [Schabarum/Smith] Ratify the Side Letter of Agreement granting the General Manager authority to execute the Side Letter of Agreement with IBEW-1245 and implement the change in regular paydays.

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

**9. Authorize Amendment to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant Funding Agreement with Shasta County**

Due to the significant time it has taken the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the lead agency for NEPA

compliance, to complete the necessary environmental and cultural resources review and clearance, the District has been unable to initiate any project activities beyond design. As a result, there may be additional delays in complying with environmental mitigation requirements, and the District is at risk of losing or underutilizing the available funding. Due to the uncertainty of the schedule and project feasibility and with enormous infrastructure needs, staff recommends approval of the amendment to ensure that all available funding is fully and quickly utilized for ARPA eligible purposes.

**M/S:** [Schabarum/Bambino] Authorize the General Manager to Execute the Funding Agreement Amendment and related staff actions to amend the purpose to “Infrastructure supply, distribution and transmission of drinking water.”

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

#### **10. Travel Request – 57th Annual Mid-Pacific Region Water Users’**

David Coxe stated that the annual Mid-Pacific Region Water Users’ conference will be held in Reno, Nevada, January 29-31. The conference is intended for Agency Managers, Directors, O&M Personnel, and Consultants served by Reclamation facilities within the Mid-Pacific region. The primary directives, mission, goals, objectives and strategies are typically discussed at this event.

**M/S:** [Schabarum/Bambino] Authorize the General Manager and any interested Directors to attend.

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

### **Reports and Communications**

#### **11. Water Supply and Production Report**

David provided a brief review of the current CVP Allocation and supply-related items outlined in the item and attachments.

Discussion only. No Board action was taken.

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

Project Manager Tom Zaharris provided an overview of the projects and developments outlined in the item.

Discussion only. No Board action was taken.

#### **13. Manager’s Report**

David Coxe provided an operations update with current facility repairs underway along with progress on staffing and a new job specification for a Cross Connection Control Coordinator. The availability of “Article 3(f) Water” is continuing. Payroll services have been very challenging for administrative staff. Upcoming projects include the rate study and an update master plan. A facility tour was conducted for Supervisor Elect Alan Long. David summarized new regulatory requirements that

includes “Making Conservation a CA Way of Life.” The Office of Admin Law approved the regulation. The Cross Connection Control Handbook Regulation has been finalized, and compliance deadlines are approaching. The long-term operations plan (LTO) for the state and federal water projects is now finalized along with the Biological Opinions and incidental take permits. Looming large is the State Water Board Bay-Delta proceedings.

Discussion only. No Board action was taken.

**14. Board Members’ Comments and Reports**

Director Ted Bambino inquired about the status of potable water service to the Bethel Campus. David Coxey explained that with the board’s approval of the Non-Binding Letter of Intent with the City of Redding and pending a letter agreement with Bethel and clarification with the City of Redding regarding permitting for future building, he intends to provide limited potable water service through a 1-inch meter limited to Building C only.

**15. Adjourn**

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.

