

Board of Directors
Bruce E. Dandy, President
Robert Eranio, Vice President
Daniel C. Naumann, Secretary/Treasurer
Sheldon G. Berger
Lynn E. Maulhardt
Edwin T. McFadden III
Michael W. Mobley



UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
“Conserving Water since 1927”

Legal Counsel
Anthony H. Trembley

General Manager
Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr.

MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, August 1, 2017, 1:30 P.M.
Board Room, UWCD G.I. “Irv” Wilde Headquarters
106 North 8th Street, Santa Paula, California

Directors Present:

Bruce Dandy, President, Division 5
Robert Eranio, Vice President, Division 3
Daniel C. Naumann, Secretary/Treasurer, Division 6
Sheldon G. Berger, Division 7
Edwin T. McFadden, Division 1
Michael W. Mobley, Division 2

Directors Absent:

Lynn Maulhardt, Division 4

Staff Present:

Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., General Manager
Mike Ellis, Chief Operations Officer
Anthony Emmert, Deputy General Manager
Catherine McCalvin, Environmental Conservation and Planning Manager
Tony Morgan, Deputy General Manager/Groundwater Resources Manager
Christy Ramirez, Executive Coordinator
Tina Rivera, Chief Financial Officer
Kris Sofley, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board

Visitors Present:

Jennifer Tribo, Ventura Water

OPEN SESSION 1:30 P.M.

President Dandy called the Special Board Meeting to order and asked if there were any public comments regarding the items for consideration on the agenda. No public comments were offered.

1. Consideration of Contract Award for Federal Lobbyist Services and Supplemental Budget Appropriation
Motion

President Dandy, Secretary/Treasurer Naumann and Director Berger each recounted their initial responses to meeting the various lobbyists being considered for District representation.

Director Berger began by sharing his opinion on the three firms that are being considered. He was very impressed with Mr. Cardoza (Foley & Lardner) during the visit to Washington, D.C., especially regarding the level of access that Mr. Cardoza demonstrated in reaching elected

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representatives and committee staff. Director Berger was particularly impressed by Mr. Cardoza's ability to set up meetings and garner the attention and interest of elected officials. Even though the costs is more with Foley & Lardner, Director Berger believes it will be worth it in the long run as far as return on investment.

Director Naumann then shared his opinions on the three firms being considered. He was unimpressed by Best Best & Krieger and Richard Pombo of Gavel Resources. Director Naumann was impressed by Mr. Cardoza's ability to not only get a meeting with Senator Kamala Harris' staff and that the meeting lasted for well over 30 minutes.

Director Berger added that Mr. Cardoza was very good at coaching the board members in how to present their information and make the 'ask' of the people they were meeting with.

Director Naumann concurred, and was also impressed with Mr. Cardoza's preparation and knowledge of the issues.

Director Berger also added that the National Resources Committee said they might want Mr. Guardado to testify before the committee in September regarding similar problems with regulatory issues.

Director Naumann also added that the meetings with Feinstein's office and Harris' office went really well, with Mr. Cardoza definitely showing the board what he can do. He didn't waste the board's time, didn't charge for the initial introductions and was helpful in indicating other organizations with similar issues including a game plan for dealing with NMFS.

President Dandy stated that this is an expensive proposition, as it is likely a two year process in dealing with the Santa Felicia Dam and Freeman Diversion projects. He also stated that Mr. Cardoza reduced his retainer fee by \$5,000, after Mr. Guardado spoke with him.

Mr. Guardado said that Mr. Cardoza also added State lobbying services, without crossing into Gualco's area, but Mr. Cardoza does have close ties to the Governor.

In speaking with Mr. Cardoza, President Dandy also said it was agreed that the District would travel back to DC several times per year to reinforce the message and keep the District's needs in front of legislators.

Director Mobley asked about timing, if this is the right time to get started on lobbying or should it wait until the next budget cycle?

Director Berger responded that the District has to start sowing the seeds to get the results it needs. Director Naumann agreed.

President Dandy reminded the Board that most new bills get introduced in February and that it would be beneficial for the District to visit DC again in December, in the spring in preparation for seeking funding requests and other forms of support.

Mr. Guardado stated that the schedule proposed by Mr. Cardoza lines up well with the District's projects.

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President Dandy asked if there were any other questions from the Board. There were none. President Dandy then asked if there were any public comments. No public comments were offered.

Motion to authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with Foley & Lardner for federal government advocacy, and approve a supplemental budget appropriation for \$120,000 for federal lobbyist services, Director Berger; Second, Director Naumann. Roll call vote, six ayes (Berger, Eranio, McFadden, Mobley, Naumann and Dandy); none opposed; one absent (Maulhardt). Motion carries unanimously.

2. General Managers Report
Information Item

Mr. Guardado elaborated on the trip to Washington, D.C. He said Mr. Cardoza advised the group not to expect too much, but then later said the level of engagement from legislators was unprecedented in his experience. Mr. Guardado credited Congresswoman Julia Brownley and her staff for opening the door to other meetings, as well as the letter she wrote to NMFS which has made it possible for District staff to meet with Barry Thom of NMFS. He also reported that Jerry Gladbach of Castaic Lake Water District made an introductory call on behalf of the District to Congressman Steve Knight, who allocated a great deal of time to his meeting with the District. Overall, it was a very successful trip and the follow-up will be important to keep the momentum going.

John Watts from Senator Feinstein's office suggested the District contact their LA office and invite staff to tour the UWCD facilities, and a similar response from Senator Harris' office, which Mr. Guardado will be followed-up on.

Mr. Guardado also reported on his attendance at the City of Oxnard City Council meeting on July 25. A motion that omitted a key element dealing with a Naumann Road connection to the PTP system was moved from Consent Calendar for further discussion by Councilman Bryan MacDonald. Oxnard's Assistant City Manager Ruth Osuna was alerted to the omission by an email from Anthony Emmert and Mr. Guardado was able to amend the motion to include the PTP system portion, from Hueneme Road to the PTP, with Oxnard paying for the design and construction. Pleasant Valley was also in the meeting and didn't realize that was in the initial proposal. In addition, Ms. Osuna mentioned that the City has committed to UWCD for construction of the connection to River Park also.

Mr. Guardado also reported that Councilman Bert Perello stated on record during the Council meeting that he felt unprepared for meetings, and made a point of addressing City staff that they needed to be better prepared and they need to provide more information to the Councilmembers. Councilman Perello also complained about the ongoing cancellations of the RiverPark JPA meetings.

President Dandy asked Mr. Guardado if there was any action to report on the joint City Council-District meeting. Director Berger said that the District has a very strong ally in Bryan MacDonald and that he was looking forward to having a joint meeting between the City Council and the District.

In negotiating with Nossaman, the City of Ventura has raised issues of conflict of interest for the firm. Nossaman doesn't believe there was a conflict, but the City's attorney is adamant. This will be addressed in closed session at its next meeting, after which, it will be reported back to the Board.

President Dandy stated that, as an extension of the D.C. trip, he would like to have an ad hoc committee dealing with legislative issues, federal level funding and related topics.

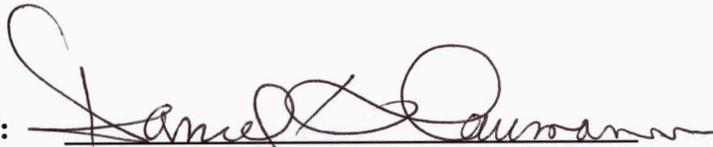
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President Dandy also reported that Mr. Trembley had collapsed during a golf tournament which resulted in him having a pacemaker installed. He is recovering at home and told Directors that he "has a new lease on life."

3. Adjournment 2:21p.m.

The Board adjourned to the next **Regular Board Meeting** on **Wednesday, September 13, 2017** or call of the President.

ATTEST:


Director Daniel C. Naumann, Secretary/Treasurer

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Board of Directors meeting of August 1, 2017.

ATTEST:


Kris Sofley, Clerk of the Board

