

Minutes

Sacramento Suburban Water District
Water Quality Committee
Monday, March 27, 2017

Call to Order

Director Wichert called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Directors Present: Bob Wichert and Dave Jones.

Directors Absent: None.

Staff Present: General Manager Rob Roscoe, Assistant General Manager Dan York, Amy Bullock, Mitch Dion, David Armand, Doug Cater and James Arenz.

Public Present: William Eubanks and Jeffrey Bensch.

Public Comment

None.

Announcements

None.

Consent Items

None.

Items for Discussion and Action

1. Water Quality Committee Mission Statement and Charter

Public comment from William Eubanks (Mr. Eubanks). Mr. Eubanks commented that he does not understand why a Water Quality Committee has been formed. He would like some clarification on why the Committee was formed. Mr. Eubanks stated that he thinks that too much detailed information to the general public could be misunderstood and detrimental to the organization.

Director Wichert stated that if the District is doing everything really great, then this will be the Committee to showcase that success. If the District has areas in which they could improve on, then this will be the Committee where those areas can be addressed and potentially improved on.

General Manager Rob Roscoe (GM Roscoe) stated that he does not think that it is unusual for water districts to have separate committees like this Water Quality Committee. In the past, water quality issues have gone through the Facilities and Operation Committee. If the District and Directors in the future decide that there is no need for a separate Committee, then they can choose to no longer have the Committee and any future meetings.

Director Jones addressed Mr. Eubanks' comments and concerns and stated that he thinks it's good to have the Committee set-up and established for potential needs the District might be faced with.

Director Jones stated that in regards to the Mission Statement, he wants to make sure that the Water Quality Committee does not take any authority away from staff. Staff has full authority to move on anything without coming to the Directors and Committee first.

GM Roscoe stated that he would like to take the Water Quality Committee's Mission Statement and Charter to the full Board for approval. Assistant General Manager Dan York (AGM) York stated that it did need to go to the full Board due to the fact the Committee is asking for authority to approve issues less than \$25,000.

Director Wichert recommended to the full Board approval and adoption of the Water Quality Committee Mission Statement and Charter; Director Jones second the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

2. Update on Water Quality - TCE at Well #N15

Mitch Dion (Mr. Dion) presented the staff report and introduced Jeffrey Bensch (Mr. Bensch) with Sierra West Consultants, Inc. Mr. Bensch went through a PowerPoint presentation.

Director Wichert inquired on what Trichloroethylene (TCE) is used for.

Mr. Bensch stated that TCE is an industrial solvent used as a degreaser.

Director Wichert inquired where TCE is used today.

Mr. Bensch stated that he was unsure where TCE is used today and does not believe it is a banned substance.

Director Wichert inquired if legal has looked at any of this.

GM Roscoe stated that legal has not looked at this and recommends that staff take the next steps to investigate.

Director Jones inquired when TCE first showed up in the wells and when the well went into service.

David Armand (Mr. Armand) stated that he has records of TCE from 2007 but levels of TCE have been there prior to 2007. The well went into service in the 60's.

Mr. Dion stated that this process is the same process the District goes through when the District is entertaining purchasing property when drilling new wells.

Mr. Roscoe stated that the sanitary sewer might be another possible source.

This was an informational item and staff will report back with an update at the next Water Quality Committee meeting if anything new has come about.

3. Water Quality 101 – Title 22

Mr. Armand presented the staff report.

Director Wichert stated that he would like to get an environment or atmosphere of discussion where the District does not just meet the regulatory limits, but the District exceeds them.

Mr. Armand stated that he believes the District does go above and beyond and exceeds the regulatory limits.

Director Wichert would like to know how the District is complying and requested an update on where the District is at on these scheduled tests.

Mr. Roscoe stated that we can provide the Directors with the requested information, but staff needs to know what exactly the Committee is looking to be updated on.

Director Jones would like to know why and when wells are taken down or even out of service. And if a well has been taken out of service, why it has been taken out of service.

AGM York requested that Mr. Armand clarify quarterly sampling and why it is done quarterly and when that may fall off the required sampling.

Mr. Armand stated that regulation states that its quarterly sampling for a minimum of a year and if Nitrates show stabilization the District can request yearly sampling.

Director Wichert inquired what the cost is for sampling.

Mr. Armand stated that a majority of the cost is staff labor. The sampling lab fee for nitrate is roughly \$60.00 to \$70.00 per sample. The more significant cost is the staff's time to obtain the sample.

This item was an informational item and an update to the Committee.

4. Division of Drinking Water Annual System Inspection

Jim Arenz (Mr. Arenz) presented the staff report and provided an update to the Committee.

Director Wichert inquired if there were any significant findings.

Mr. Arenz stated that there are no significant findings to report.

Mr. Arenz did inform the Committee that there were a large number of errors in the report and staff is in the process of informing the Division of Drinking Water of the errors for correction.

This item was an informational item and an update to the Committee.

5. Division of Drinking Water Monthly Water Quality Report

James Arenz (Mr. Arenz) presented the staff report.

Mr. Arenz stated that the report goes through a chain of command for multiple reviews.

This item was an informational item and an update to the Committee.

6. Water Quality Advisory Group

Public comment from Mr. Eubanks. Mr. Eubanks inquired about the intended use of a Water Quality Advisory Group.

Director Wichert stated that the group is so customers can address issues or concerns with the District's water quality.

Mr. Eubanks stated that he is not happy with the quality of water, stated it has too many minerals in the water. He has to replace shower heads every few years. Mr. Eubanks is concerned that having this Committee could open up the doors to problems if the public interprets the information incorrectly.

Director Wichert stated that he is curious on the staff feelings on the new Water Quality Committee.

Mr. Roscoe stated that he does not want to preclude the notion for a Water Quality Committee but personally does not see the need for a citizen Committee at this time and if the District is going to form one, staff needs some firm ground rules on what the Committee authority is.

No action taken at this time. A determination for the need of a Water Quality Advisory Group will be made at a later date.

7. Determine Frequency of Future Water Quality Committee Meetings

Public comment from Mr. Eubanks. Mr. Eubanks stated that there should not be future meetings because you could be opening a can of worms. If these discussions are necessary, maybe consider an Ad Hoc Committee. Does not see any sense of having a standing public Committee meeting.

Director Wichert would like the Water Quality Committee meetings to be quarterly on the Monday that the Regular Board meeting occurs.

Adjournment

Director Wichert adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.

Robert S. Roscoe
General Manager/Secretary
Sacramento Suburban Water District