

Minutes

Sacramento Suburban Water District
Facilities and Operations Committee
Thursday, July 27, 2017

Call to Order

Director Schild called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Directors Present: Neil Schild and Dave Jones.

Directors Absent: None.

Staff Present: General Manager Rob Roscoe, Assistant General Manager Dan York, Amy Bullock, John Valdes, Dana Dean, Mitchell McCarthy, David Espinosa and Jim Arenz.

Public Present: William Eubanks and Mitch Dion.

Public Comment

None.

Announcements

None.

Consent Items

1. Minutes of the April 27, 2017 Facilities and Operations Committee Meeting

Director Schild moved to approve Item 1; Director Jones seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

AYES:	Schild and Jones.	ABSTAINED:	
NOES:		RECUSED:	
ABSENT:			

Items for Discussion and Action

2. Participation in In-Conduit Hydro Pilot Project with InPipe Energy and SMUD

John Valdes (Mr. Valdes) presented the staff report.

Chair Schild inquired if staff were to put this at Antelope, would the pressure reduction still be at Verner and will it reduce flow and efficiency.

Mr. Valdes stated that staff is only looking at Antelope right now and it would not affect flows.

Director Jones inquired what the requirements would be for maintenance and if there would be an easement.

Mr. Valdes stated that In-Pipe would maintain it and at sometime in the future the District would have the opportunity to purchase it, but then the maintenance would be the District's responsibility once the District owns it. In regards to the easement the District would just have to provide access and does not believe there is an easement issue.

Director Jones inquired where this would be installed and would it affect operations.

Mr. Valdes stated that it would be installed inside the PRV building and that it would not affect our operations.

Chair Schild stated that it seems that this is not very far along and that this is for information only.

Director Jones inquired how much money In-Pipe would get back on this and how are they making money on this.

Mr. Valdes stated that it's an 80/20 deal. 80% to In-Pipe, 20% to the District. In-Pipe has worked through the numbers and they believe it will pay for itself maybe even sooner than their projections.

Public comment from William Eubanks (Mr. Eubanks) stated that it does not make any sense why the District would entertain this idea. For \$9,000.00 a year it does not seem like a good idea to have a private company come in and install their equipment in the District's system and guarantee there will not be any disruptions to the District. The payback on this doesn't seem right.

Assistant General Manager Dan York (AGM York) inquired if staff should bring this item back to the committee at the next Facilities and Operations Committee meeting.

Director Jones stated to only bring this agenda item back to the committee if staff has more information or concrete evidence to make a decision.

Chair Schild agreed with Director Jones recommendation.

3. Meter Replacement Program – Request for Proposal

AGM York presented the staff report.

Director Jones inquired that he sees some flaws in it because other districts use different meters and can see complications when negotiating with five different vendors, but can also see some advantages to working together to get the prices down.

AGM York stated that there could also be the same issues relating to the meter reading technology.

Director Jones inquired what would happen on a warranty issue.

AGM York stated that warranty issues are discussion items that staff still need to work out.

AGM York mentioned that at this point only the District, Citrus Heights Water District, Orangevale Water Company and San Juan Water District are participating in the initial discussions.

Chair Schild stated that the Committee is not putting any effort into this and that he understood that this agenda item was an informational item.

4. Fleet Asset Management Plan

AGM York presented the staff report.

Director Jones stated that the workhorses of the fleet, the vehicle that are used every day should be kept in top shape, but believes the water conservation department could use vehicles that are 10-12 years old.

Chair Schild stated that some of the vehicles that are used 5 to 6 thousand miles or less a year should be vehicles that should be taken out of service and sold.

AGM York stated staff is looking at vehicles that are being under utilized, only based on mileage, to determine if they can be sold and purchase a pool vehicle as a replacement vehicle.

Chair Schild stated that he thinks the vehicle point system that is in place is working well and does not need to be amended.

Director Jones stated that there are only three vehicles in the fleet that run a two man crew.

Public comment from Mr. Eubanks. Mr. Eubanks stated the newer vehicles these days have lower maintenance needs and stated the District has enough vehicles verses staff.

AGM York stated that the county and most other districts go by 6 years or 80,000 miles. The District is the only utility company in the area that goes by the vehicle point system. The reason the District is still on the point system is because they get a little more out of the vehicles on the point system than the 6 year/80,000 mile program. However, AGM York stated that the current utilization of the point system has the District behind the replacement schedule as a large number of vehicles are over 15 years old.

AGM York stated that this is an informational item to the committee that will go to the full Board as an informational item.

Chair Schild stated that he does not think this should go to the full Board.

AGM York stated that staff will proceed with identifying which vehicles to replace for the upcoming budget process.

5. Well Operation & Efficiency Testing

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

Chair Schild stated that staff needs to find out why these wells are not producing and if there is a good reason why the wells are not producing then consider doing an assessment on if the well or wells should be abandoned or rehabilitated.

Director Jones inquired if we are still using the District's groundwater well asset management plan.

Mr. Arenz stated that staff is doing its best to follow the groundwater well asset management plan.

AGM York informed the committee that this was an information item and no follow-up is necessary.

6. Update on Aquifer Storage and Recovery

Mr. Valdes presented the staff report.

Chair Schild stated that staff should refer to this as in-lieu of recharge program, there is no aquifer storage program.

Chair Schild inquired if we have any records of the City of Roseville's operation.

AGM York stated that he does not think that the City of Roseville is using the aquifer storage recovery (ASR) program right now.

Mr. Valdes stated that he believes Rio Linda Elverta Community Water District is the only other District looking into the ASR program right now.

Director Jones inquired if you can put chlorinated water back in the groundwater basin.

Mr. Valdes stated you can not put chlorinated water back in the groundwater basin.

General Manager Rob Roscoe (GM Roscoe) stated there are a number of valley towns pursuing the ASR program, City of Woodland, City of Tracy and the City of Stockton. The District has not pursued the ASR program because they haven't needed to and the District does a lot of in-lieu banking.

GM Roscoe and AGM York informed the committee that this was an informational item.

7. Alternative Work Week Schedule

AGM York presented the staff report.

Director Jones stated that he would like to see a more detailed presentation on how this affects and accommodates staff and the customers.

Chair Schild stated that later hours would probably benefit the customers who are coming in the late afternoon after they get off work to pay their bill.

Public comment from Mr. Eubank. Mr. Eubanks stated that he believes the District is running 20 years behind the times. He believes that the District should accommodate flexible hours and certain personal accommodations.

Mr. Roscoe stated that he agrees with Mr. Eubanks and believes it will help on employment retention.

Mr. Eubanks stated that he believes staff and management is slow in filling budget approved and needed positions. The approach to recruiting new employees outside of the industry is lacking plus with the retirement system reverting back to 2% at 62 with new employees having to pay the 7% fee is not an attractive retirement benefit. He finds the salary survey that the District conducts is ridiculous given that the District has always targeted the middle salary range. He believes the District should target the higher range salary to help with attracting and retaining any new hires. Employees are leaving the District and going to work for other utility companies for substantially higher pay. He

does not see staff or the Board doing anything to address this issue and would like to see the District come into the 21st century.

Adjournment

Director Schild adjourned the meeting at 4:53 p.m.

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