

## Minutes

Sacramento Suburban Water District  
**Facilities and Operations Committee**  
Monday, February 12, 2018

### Call to Order

Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

### Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Roll Call

Directors Present: Dave Jones and Robert Wichert.

Directors Absent: None.

Staff Present: General Manager Dan York, Amy Bullock, Matt Underwood, Dana Dean, Rob Roscoe, David Morrow, Jim Arenz, Dan Bills and Annette O’Leary.

**Public Present:** William Eubanks.

### Announcements

None.

### Public Comment

None.

Chair Jones noted how he will be conducting the Committee meetings and noted that he will follow the agenda and if there are any public comments that the comments are kept at a respectable time.

### Consent Items

#### 1. Minutes of the October 4, 2017 Facilities and Operations Committee Meeting

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

AYES:	Jones and Wichert	ABSTAINED:	
NOES:		RECUSED:	
ABSENT:			

### Items for Discussion and Action

#### 2. Fixed Network Meter Reading Issues

Matt Underwood (Mr. Underwood) presented the staff report and went through a hands on demonstration of different meters and meter box lids.

Chair Jones inquired if the District is the only one regionally having issues with this product.

Mr. Underwood stated that our District is the only one in northern California that has this product. He noted that there is another district in southern California that has this product and others across the United States, but is not aware if the others are experiencing the same issue.

Director Wichert inquired what other districts are using similar to this product.

Mr. Underwood stated that other districts are using Sensus, Badger, Neptune and Aclara meters.

Director Wichert inquired if staff had to, could the meters be read manually.

Mr. Underwood stated that yes the meters could be read manually, however, that would be a lot of meters to read and it is a labor intensive process.

Director Wichert inquired who makes the top of the line meter product.

Mr. Underwood stated that there are two products that are hot on the market. Sensus makes a flex-net system, however, it is expensive and they don't have great customer service. The other product is cellular with Badger.

Director Wichert commented that he would like staff to inquire with the district in southern California that has deployed the same system to see if they are experiencing the same issues.

Mr. Underwood noted that he will reach out to the southern California district and get back to the Committee on his findings.

Director Wichert inquired to staff what the implications would be if the District went to flat rate.

Mr. Underwood stated that there would be a number of issues going to flat rate, one issue is not having enough staff to perform manual reads. The other issue is having to make the transition from metered rate to a flat rate and then have to go back to metered rates by 2025 that is required by state law.

Public comment from Mr. Eubanks. Mr. Eubanks requested clarification on the fixed network meter reading issues.

Chair Jones requested that staff keep the Committee updated as new information comes up.

### **3. Drive-By Automated Meter Reading System Issues**

Mr. Underwood presented the staff report.

Director Wichert inquired who the dollar fee goes to.

Mr. Underwood stated that the dollar fee is called a service fee and is included in the package deal. He further noted that the fee is associated and paid to the cellular networks like Verizon or Sprint.

Director Wichert stated that if the fee is a service fee, then he assumes that the fee would be minimal, no more than a penny.

Mr. Underwood stated that he had not gotten down in the details of the breakdown of the service fee, but it is a fee passed on as a service charge in the package.

Director Wichert inquired if Mr. Underwood is worried about Badger going out of business, even though Badger has been around for a long time, but wonders if staff has any concern.

General Manager Dan York (GM York) inquired what the cost comparison endpoint is for the KP unit.

Mr. Underwood stated that the cost is the same for the KP unit and the benefit or cost saving would be there is no network infrastructure to install and to maintain.

Director Wichert inquired if the District's focus group is talking with other districts or agencies using the new technology and how it is working for them.

Mr. Underwood confirmed that the focus group is talking and networking with other districts and agencies using the product.

GM York commended Mr. Underwood and Todd Artrip on all the time they have spent working with Badger on the issue and negotiations.

Director Wichert stated that he sees the benefit to move forward with the cellular meter and with the way technology is progressing it only makes sense to proceed with the cellular technology units.

Public comment from Mr. Eubanks. Mr. Eubanks inquired if the District has the capacity to proceed with moving forward to replace all the units within a six month period. He further suggested to get away from the company that the District is currently using and go before the full board for approval to pursue the new cellular product and newer technology.

GM York commented that the District is proceeding with changing out the units in large blocks of subdivisions for meter reading efficiencies and failed units. If the failed units begin occurring in mass, staff would ask for a budget amendment.

Chair Jones commented that if the District proceeds with replacing all of the meters at the same time, then in 10 years the District will be in the same boat having to replace them all again. Suggested it may be better to stagger the transition.

4. **Main Replacement Program - Master Service Contract for Service Lines**

Dana Dean (Mr. Dean) presented the staff report.

Chair Jones inquired why GM Construction was not listed on the staff report as bidding out for the project.

Mr. Dean stated that GM Construction could not get bonded for the project.

Committee agreed with staff recommendation to move forward presenting the item to the full board as a Consent Item for approval of contract.

5. **Regional Water Meter Replacement Study**

Mr. Underwood presented the staff report.

Director Wichert inquired if the District has a meter asset maintenance system.

Mr. Underwood stated that the District does have a meter asset maintenance system.

GM York stated that the District is going to continue participating in the discussions and potential collaboration and staff will keep the Committee updated as new information comes up.

6. **2018 Water Transfer Program**

GM York presented the staff report.

Director Wichert inquired on what districts Sacramento County needs in order to proceed.

GM York stated that Sacramento County needs Carmichael Water District and Sacramento Suburban Water District to conduct a pilot water transfer.

Director Wichert inquired if it would be surface water.

GM York stated he does not know yet if its surface water or ground water.

Rob Roscoe (Mr. Roscoe) clarified ground water substitution verses surface water and the cost per acre foot.

Committee agreed with staff recommendation to move forward to present the item to the full board as a Consent Item for approval.

**Adjournment**

Chair Jones adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

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Dan York  
General Manager/Secretary  
Sacramento Suburban Water District