

LAVWMA
Livermore-Amador Valley Water Management Agency
Minutes
Regular Meeting of Board of Directors
Wednesday, November 15, 2023
6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Chair Bob Carling called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Chair Bob Carling; and Directors Evan Branning, Ann Marie Johnson, Jeff Nibert, and Julie Testa. Vice Chair Arun Goel was unable to attend the meeting.

Staff Present: General Counsel Alexandra Barnhill, Assistant Treasurer Herman Chen, DSRSD Assistant General Manager Jan Lee, DSRSD Operations Director Dan Gill, and General Manager Chuck Weir

Member Agency Staff Present: Livermore Water Resources Manager Anthony Smith

Others: Castro Valley Sanitary District Board Member Tim McGowan, Maze & Associates representative Maria Munoz

4. Order of Agenda/Acknowledgement of Posting

There were no changes to the Agenda.

5. Comments from the Public

Tim McGowan introduced himself to the Board as an engineer with East Bay Municipal Utility District and Castro Valley Sanitary District Board member. He stated that he saw the General Manager flyer at the CASA Conference in August and that he has been attending Board meetings and will be applying for the position. He indicated that he looked forward to the recruitment process.

6. Consent Calendar

- a. Board Meeting Minutes for the August 16, 2023 meeting.
- b. Resolution No. 23-07 Approving Continuation of Emergency Action Procurement for the Repair of the Livermore Interceptor Pipeline.

Director Browning motioned, seconded by Director Testa, to approve Consent Calendar Item Nos. 6.a. and 6.b.

There were no comments from the public. The Motion passed unanimously (5 – 0) by a roll call vote.

7. Nutrients in San Francisco Bay: Update on Watershed Permit Negotiations

General Manager Weir introduced Jackie Zipkin, EBDA General Manager. He stated that she is also Vice Chair of the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA). Ms. Zipkin provided a PowerPoint presentation on nutrients in the Bay, algal blooms in 2022 and 2023, wastewater treatment plants are the largest source of nutrients, nitrogen is the biggest concern, and efforts by the Regional Water Board and BACWA to craft the third version of the watershed permit for nutrients, which will be issued in 2024. She discussed efforts by the EBDA and LAVWMA agencies to reduce nutrients over time. The LAVWMA agencies are focusing on water recycling to meet their requirements. Board members asked questions regarding future projects and costs.

This was an information item only requiring no action by the Board. There were no comments from the public.

8. Financial Reporting for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024.

Assistant Treasurer Chen provided a summary of the first quarter financial report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024. He noted that expenses are tracking normally. He also noted that the return on investments continues to increase due to the investment in T-bills through the Charles Schwab account.

This was an information item only requiring no action by the Board. There were no comments from the public.

9. Acceptance of the Audit Report for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

Assistant Treasurer Chen introduced Maria Munoz from Maze & Associates, who conducted and prepared the audit report. Ms. Munoz stated that this was a clean audit with an unmodified opinion, which is the highest level. She stated that there were no issues with their working with DSRSD staff and she thanked them for their cooperation and assistance. Director Nibert asked if they looked at projections on the fund balances, particularly the replacement funds. General Manager Weir stated that the fund balances are reviewed during the budget process and that the Livermore pipeline project presents a challenge for next year since it is a Livermore sole-use project and that funding from FEMA and California Office of Emergency Services are expected, but the amount is unknown at this time.

Director Johnson motioned, seconded by Director Nibert, to approve the Audit Report for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2023 as prepared by Maze & Associates.

There were no comments from the public. The Motion passed unanimously (5 – 0) by a roll call vote.

10. LAVWMA Quarterly Report of Operations, 1st Quarter, FY2023-2024

General Manager Weir provided an overview of the report and noted the various charts showing pump performance, electrical usage, and maintenance activities. He noted that the normal budget data was not included in this report as it was not available when the report was prepared. The second quarter report will include that information. At this time energy costs are well below budget, but that will change once wet weather starts.

This was an information item only requiring no action by the Board. There were no comments from the public.

11. Project Status Reports – Purchase of Three Vertical Turbine Pumps, the San Leandro Sample Station Improvements Project, and the Emergency Repair of the Livermore Interceptor Pipeline

General Manager Weir noted the three pumps were delivered on October 3, 2023 and that the first one has been operating successfully since October 11, 2023. The other two pumps should be installed before the end of the year. Photos of the pump delivery and installation were shared with the Board. Mr. Weir noted that the process to purchase and manufacture six 500 horse power pumps took nearly ten years to complete.

The San Leandro Sample Station Design Improvements Project is underway. Submittals and requests for information are being submitted by the contractor McGuire and Hester. They are being reviewed and returned by the engineer, HydroScience. Supply chain issues are a concern for some of the big valves. Both the contractor and engineer continue to push the supplier to provide the equipment to keep the project on schedule. It is not scheduled to be completed until July 2024.

The Project for the emergency repair of the Livermore interceptor pipeline is also proceeding. Easements are now required with only city of Livermore and Zone 7 Water agency due to the current alignment. The easement terms are being negotiated and will be finalized after the project is completed. Right of Entry permits allow the construction to proceed. The design was modified to not require any additional easements from Steelwave Company. The project will occur within the existing easement on the Steelwave property. The project is scheduled for completion by the end of February 2024. The project is approximately 20% complete at a cost of \$1,500,000. Costs have continued to rise and are now projected to be over \$6,000,000. This will require a budget modification as indicated in the next agenda item. It is recommended to increase the project cost to \$7,000,000 to cover any unanticipated issues. Photos and short videos of the project were shared with the Board to illustrate the trenchless technology being used.

General Manager Weir discussed some of the issues dealing with State regulatory agencies and FEMA. He complimented DSRSD staff for their efforts in managing this project on behalf of LAVWMA and City of Livermore.

This was an information item only requiring no action by the Board. There were no comments from the public.

12. Modification No. 2 to the Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2023/24

General Manager Weir stated that the only change to the budget is to increase the cost for the Livermore interceptor pipeline project from \$5,000,000 to \$7,000,000. This results in modifying some of the capital cost tables in the Budget document. Everything else remains the same.

Director Branning motioned, seconded by Director Testa, to approve Modification No. 2 to the Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2023/24.

There were no comments from the public. The Motion passed unanimously (5 – 0) by a roll call vote.

13. Update and Response to Various Legal and Legislative Issues

General Manager Weir provided an overview of the various November 2023 updates from CASA and BACWA. These documents provide information related to all the regulatory and legislative issues facing wastewater treatment agencies, including nutrients, PFAS, and collection systems. The documents included CASA’s list of nearly 100 bills that they have been tracking on behalf of the wastewater community. Director Tests asked about legislation for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU). General Counsel Barnhill stated that some of the bills would prohibit an agency from collecting fees for ADUs under certain sizes. This could negatively impact an agency’s ability to cover costs that result from the ADU and would end up being subsidized by the General Fund since Prop 218 prohibits existing ratepayers from paying for services they do not receive.

This was an information item only requiring no action by the Board. There were no comments from the public.

14. General Manager’s Report

General Manager Weir highlighted several areas of his report, including asset management, response to the GM recruitment, capital projects, PG&E usage, the Regional Water Board inspection report of LAVWMA facilities, and a letter from SDRMA stating that there were no paid property or liability claims in FYE23. Three people have contacted Mr. Weir regarding the GM position and all are well qualified. The most notable item for PG&E is that the average cost per kWh has increased 20% above last year. Fortunately this was projected and incorporated into the Budget. DSRSD’s operation staff also do an excellent job in aligning pumping and other high energy operations to occur during the lowest cost electricity cycles to reduce costs when possible.

This was an information item only requiring no action by the Board. There were no comments from the public.

15. Matters From/For Board Members

Director Testa inquired about the status of the solar project at the pump station. General Manager Weir stated that it was on hold as the property is owned by DSRSD. DSRSD is completing its own Energy Master Plan and it is not known if a solar project will be part of their plan. Director Testa stated that she hoped one would be included since it could offset a huge energy cost for the agency ratepayers. DSRSD Assistant GM Jan Lee stated that their Board would be reviewing the Plan and recommendations in January 2024. Director Johnson offered to carry Director Testa’s message to the DSRSD Board at that time. There were no comments from the public.

16. Next Regular Board Meeting, Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

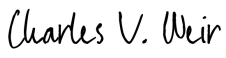
The next Board meeting will be held at DSRSD’s Board Room.

There were no comments from the public.

21. Adjournment

There being no further action, Chair Carling adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Minutes Approved by the Board February 21, 2024.

DocuSigned by:

F94385304F064AC...
Charles V. Weir
General Manager

C:\Users\chuck\Documents\Weir Technical Services\LAVWMA\Agendas\2023\2023-11\2023-11-15_LAVWMA_Board_Mtng_Minutes.docx