

BISHOP AREA WASTEWATER AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
April 20, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pachucki called the Bishop Area Wastewater Authority Board of Directors Meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. in the City Council Chambers, 301 West Line Street, Bishop, California via video conference.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Pachucki.

3. ROLL CALL

Present:

Chairman Pachucki
Vice Chairman Muchovej
Board Member Stone
Board Member Schwartz

Absent:

none

Others Present:

Deston Dishion, Authority Administrator
Ron Phillips, City of Bishop City Administrator
Michele Rhew, Authority Secretary
Ward Simmons, Legal Counsel
Todd Thornburg, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Jennifer Krafcheck, Eastern Sierra Community Service District
Steven Nixon, Eastern Sierra Community Service District

4. PUBLIC COMMENT: NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC: See modified public comment procedure above. Under California law the Board of Directors is prohibited from generally discussing or taking action on items not included in the agenda; however, the Board of Directors may briefly respond to comments or questions received from members of the public. Therefore, the Board of Directors will be provided with all public comments but will not generally discuss the matter or take action on it.

Pam Bold of High Sierra Energy Foundation gave a brief overview of energy efficiency programs offered by High Sierra Energy Foundation.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR – NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC: All matters under the Consent Calendar are considered routine by the Authority and will be acted on by one motion.

A. FOR APPROVAL/FILING

1. Board of Directors of the Bishop Area Wastewater Authority Meeting Minutes – January 19, 2021

Board Member Stone made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented and Vice Chairman Muchovej seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

Ayes: Vice Chairman Muchovej, Board Member Stone, Board Member Schwartz, and Chairman Pachucki

Noes: None

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Budget Discussion

Chairman Pachucki opened the item and turned it over to Authority Administrator Dishion to review the item with the Board.

Board Member Stone questioned the insurance not showing a budget amount for the Board Errors and Omissions line item. Jennifer Krafcheck, Eastern Sierra Community Service District, commented that she believes the insurance included these items and will verify.

Vice Chairman Muchovej questioned the amount of one million budgeted for the irrigation project that is also referenced in another agenda item with an amount of two million. Dishion explained that the irrigation project will be broken up into three phases and the two million estimate is for the entire project. The one million is for phase one.

Pachucki verified the proposed budget presented is for discussion and will be approved and adopted at a later date. Dishion stated that is correct; this item is for the Board to review and make comments at this time. The budget needs to be adopted by June 30th and there will be a Special Meeting before this date to adopt the 2021/2022 Fiscal Year Budget. Muchovej commented that the Governor has announced that Covid will be over June 15th and this could impact the line item for quarterly Zoom meetings. Dishion mentioned that having quarterly meetings via Zoom saves the Authority money on travel expenses for Legal Counsel Ward. Ward mentioned that there are Brown Act Laws working their way to the Legislature to make attending by Zoom permanent. Dishion clarified that meetings could then be in-person or via Zoom.

There were no further comments or discussion on the item.

No public comments were received.

B. Update on Progress with LADWP on Property Acquisition

Chairman Pachucki opened the item and turned it over to Authority Administrator Dishion to review the item with the Board. Todd Thornburg, of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), also provided information on the progress for the property acquisition.

Pachucki asked what a reasonable expected time frame would be for having the letter from LADWP approved and to National Range Conservation Service (NRCS). Thornburg explained that he hopes to have approval confirmation this week but cannot give a firm date. Pachucki shared he appreciates Dishion's and Thornburg's efforts on the acquisition.

Pachucki asked Thornburg if LADWP has met with current lessees with regards to future transactions and Thornburg said yes. Pachucki asked if a letter is going out to the lessees regarding a summary of discussions and Thornburg explained there are letters being prepared along with renewals. Pachucki mentioned that it is his understanding to avoid the land going foul for a year, the use of the land will be extended but not the lease and asked if that is correct. Thornburg said that it is LADWP's hope to utilize permission for grazing in the interim period. Thornburg anticipates letters to go out to lessees in May.

Thornburg shared that Phase I Environmental has been completed and Phase II has been ordered and is currently in discussions. Dishion also mentioned that survey work has also begun. Dishion stated that it is important to keep clear the difference between the irrigation project progress and the sale of the land. Hopefully, the irrigation project construction will start by this time next year with the property sale to take place in a couple years.

There were no further comments or discussion from on the item.

No public comments were received.

C. Update on Irrigation Design

Chairman Pachucki opened the item and turned it over to Authority Administrator Dishion to review the item with the Board.

Vice Chairman Muchovej asked if competing bids will be necessary. Dishion stated yes and that Curtis Lutje of Laurel Ag understands that the project will go out to bid.

There were no further comments or discussion on the item.

No public comments were received.

D. Update on Progress with National Range Conservation Service (NRCS)

Chairman Pachucki opened the item and turned it over to Authority Administrator Dishion to review the item with the Board.

Vice Chairman Muchovej verified that the letter to be sent will indicate the money is only for Phase I and is not dependent on Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). Dishion confirmed the letter will state we will be on our land and will not go anywhere. Pachucki added that NRCS is waiting for a letter from LADWP explaining we have the right to go on the land to create the irrigation system.

Dishion also added that he applied for Proposition 1 Phase II money, in the amount of \$500,000, through the Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP).

There were no further comments or discussion on the item.

No public comments were received.

7. STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS

Authority Administrator Dishion reported to the Board on potential solar installation for the irrigation project and the Title 22 permitting process. Dishion also mentioned that the City has not billed for staff time for the fiscal year and will do so in June.

Authority Secretary Rhew updated the Board on the website progress.

There were no additional staff or board reports at this time.

8. ADJOURNMENT: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Bishop Area Wastewater Authority Board of Directors will be July 20, 2021, at 8:00 a.m. in the Bishop City Council Chambers, 301 West Line Street, Bishop.

Chairman Pachucki adjourned the meeting at 8:54 a.m. to the next regularly scheduled meeting on July 20, 2021.

Chairman Pachucki

Michele Rhew, Secretary