

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ZONE 7
ALAMEDA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SPECIAL MEETING/BOARD WORKSHOP
August 31, 2011

Vice-President Palmer called the workshop to order at 8:45 a.m., in the Vintage Room, Hilton Garden Inn, 2801 Constitution Drive, Livermore, California. The following were present:

DIRECTORS:

SANDY FIGUERS (arrived at 11:30 a.m.)
JOHN GRECI
A J MACHAEVICH
CHRIS MOORE
SARAH PALMER
DICK QUIGLEY
WILLIAM STEVENS

ZONE 7 STAFF:

JILL DUERIG, GENERAL MANAGER
KURT ARENDS, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER, ENGINEERING
JOHN YUE, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER, FINANCE
TOM HUGHES, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER, EMPLOYEE SERVICES
REN NOSKY, GENERAL COUNSEL
JUDY RECTOR, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

MANAGEMENT ADVISORY TEAM (MAT):

COLTER ANDERSEN, OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR
TAMARA BAPTISTA, FINANCIAL & SYSTEMS SERVICES MANAGER
JARNAIL CHAHAL, ENGINEERING MANAGER
GERALD DEWITT, MAINTENANCE MANAGER
BARRY IVY, FACILITIES MAINTENANCE & CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR
MATT KATEN, PRINCIPAL ENGINEER/GEOLOGIST
CAROL MAHONEY, INTEGRATED PLANNING MANAGER
MIKE WALLACE, ASSISTANT TO THE GENERAL MANAGER
GINGER STATON, HUMAN RESOURCES ANALYST II

STAFF ADVISORY TEAM (SAT):

CAROLINE ABRAM, WATER PLANT OPERATOR
ANTHONY CHOI, ACCOUNT CLERK
JOEL LARSON, INSTRUMENT TECH
DAN MOY, SAFETY TECHNICIAN
JESSE SANCHEZ, MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR
LINDA VAN BUSKIRK, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
BRANDON WOODS, WATER RESOURCES TECHNICIAN II

Item 2—Citizens Forum -- No public comments.

Item 3—Board Workshop

Morning Session with Management and Staff Advisory Teams:

Training and Discussion on Culture and Mission Statement

Kurt Arends, Assistant General Manager, Engineering, introduced Ginger Staton who led the group in an ice-breaking introductory exercise.

When the exercise was completed, Mr. Arends introduced Training Consultant Brett Ives. Mr. Ives reviewed strategic planning topics including goals, values, core values, and a collective future view.

Mr. Arends noted that the Strategic Planning Committee wants to meet individually with the Board members to get a “roadmap” of where we are going so they can give the Board what they need.

Mr. Ives finished his training session by asking participants “what would you like to be able to say about Zone 7 in five years?” Kurt Arends and the Joint MAT/SAT Strategic Planning Committee facilitated the roundtable discussion and collected comments from those present.

Carol Mahoney, Acting Senior Geologist, Integrated Planning, responded that she would like to see in five years that Zone 7 would be able to say we have a good relationship with our local regulatory agencies and cities with respect to flood protection.

Director Bill Stevens said in five years he wants to see:

- No debit financing
- Reversing salt imbalance
- Zone 7 has taken control of flood control channels
- More Chain of Lakes
- Asset Management Plan is functional and “do-able” – in place and working
- Additional water supplies
- Water rates the lowest possible in this economy despite the political aspect of raising rates
- Maintain relationships with staff
- Zone 7 totally separated (from County), independent and in control of its destiny
- Have goals for grants in five years, i.e., grant for water treatment plant
- Use consultants less and have an in-house goal to provide services consultants did because in-house staff has proven that they can do it equal to or better than consultants
- Stretch goals – keep the “blue culture” in mind for every goal
- Functional SCADA
- Good emergency communication system
- Septic system approval by Zone 7, not Alameda County
- Drilling permit process not so cumbersome to protect groundwater

Director Chris Moore stated the following:

- Retailers say they do not want customers paying for things now that they will not see built until the future; they repeatedly suggest debt financing so that you can build things now when interest rates are cheap. He would also like to see relationships with regulators such as Fish & Game and Fish & Wildlife continue to improve.

Director AJ Machaevich said he wants to see:

- A continuation of water quality improvements
- Enhanced groundwater recharging
- Delta infrastructure fix
- Planned preventative maintenance – make sure things are working now and what to plan for in terms of maintenance in five years.

Barry Ivy, Facilities Maintenance and Construction Supervisor, wants to see a continued operation of water supply.

Jarnail Chahal, Engineering Manager, would like to see a review of existing infrastructure to identify opportunities for improvement projects that would increase efficiency.

Director John Greci said in five years he wants to see:

- Address the Zone 7 Mission Statement goals whether you have money or not.
- Be able to afford catastrophes.
- Maintain reliability.
- Brainstorm for random thoughts and innovative, proactive ideas.
- He asked staff not to be afraid to bring ideas to the Board's attention.

Director Richard Quigley added:

- Since water is the core of Zone 7 business, he wants a clear 100 percent understanding of what watershed is.
- Keep it Simple (KIS) motto acknowledged and used.

Pony Yim, Water Quality Chemist, noted the water quality issue and asked the Board to give direction, i.e., City of Pleasanton water quality issues where some are seasonal. Talk about taste and odor issues.

Gerald DeWitt, Maintenance Manager, suggested brainstorming a list of 12 opportunities regarding how to best collaborate with retailers such as offering contract lab services, etc.

President Sandy Figuers stated he hopes in five years Zone 7 is as good as it is today because we do not have any fundamental complaints about our product. He also asked if there is anything that Zone 7 is not actively addressing and working on.

Mr. Arends thanked everyone for their thoughts and said that the Joint MAT/SAT Strategic Planning Committee would use these as a starting point to review the Strategic Plan and get back to the board with more questions and suggestions regarding possible updates to the Strategic Planning Priorities.

After a lunch break, President Figuers reconvened the meeting and the members of the Management Advisory Team and Staff Advisory Team were excused.

Afternoon Session:

Status Update and Discussion on Separation

After a discussion on Zone 7's separation from Alameda County and the transition issues, the Board of Directors directed the General Manager to follow a dual path approach through legislation and the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) and gave further direction to the General Manager to pursue a lobbying effort to begin crafting legislation tailor-made for a future Zone 7, similar to the Santa Clara Valley Water District legislation, with a goal of introducing it in January 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.