

# **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT, MARCH 9, 2020:**

*A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District was held Monday, March 9, 2020, at 2029 East Avenue Q, Palmdale, California, in the Board Room of the District office. President, Vincent Dino, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.*

## **1) Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence.**

At the request of President Dino, Director Wilson led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

## **2) Roll Call.**

### **Attendance:**

Vincent Dino, President  
Kathy Mac Laren, Vice President  
Gloria Dizmang, Treasurer  
Don Wilson, Secretary  
Robert Alvarado, Assistant  
Secretary

### **Others Present:**

Dennis LaMoreaux, General Manager  
Eric Dunn, General Counsel  
Adam Ly, Assistant General Manager  
Judy Shay, Public Affairs Director  
Scott Rogers, Engineering/Grant Manager  
Peter Thompson II, Resource & Analytics Director  
Dawn Deans, Executive Assistant  
3 members of the public

## **3) Adoption of Agenda.**

It was moved by Director Alvarado, seconded by Director Mac Laren, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting to adopt the agenda, as written.

## **4) Public Comments for Non-Agenda Items.**

There were no public comments for non-agenda items.

## **5) Presentations:**

### **5.1) Biological Research Related to Bird Species at Lake Palmdale. (Callyn D. Yorke, Ph.D./General Manager LaMoreaux)**

Mr. Callyn D. Yorke, Ph.D., provided an overview of the bird research he has conducted at Lake Palmdale, including 50 breeding residents, 37 winter residents, and 167 transients, for a total of 264 documented species since he began his research in 1986. He

then reviewed the Clark's Grebe and Western Grebe breeding species, which nest at Lake Palmdale with up to 40 of each species recorded in September, along with their courtship behavior followed by discussion of having Dr. Yorke's research available at the public library, the wetlands areas in the Antelope Valley he has surveyed and researched, the differences and similarities between male and female birds, and the importance of the cottonwood trees to nesting and migratory birds.

The Board then thanked Dr. Yorke for the presentation.

**6) Action Items – Consent Calendar: (The Public Shall Have an Opportunity to Comment on Any Action Item on the Consent Calendar as the Consent Calendar is Considered Collectively by the Board of Directors Prior to Action Being Taken.)**

**6.1) Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting Held February 24, 2020.**

**6.2) Payment of Bills for March 9, 2020.**

**6.3) Approval to Ratify the Entry into and Authorization of Funding Purchase Options in the 2020 State Water Contractors Dry Year Water Transfer Program. (\$2,500.00 Initial Deposit – Budgeted Under Water Purchases – Resource and Analytics Director Thompson II)**

President Dino announced the items included in the Consent Calendar after which it was moved by Director Mac Laren, seconded by Director Alvarado, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting to approve those items included in the Consent Calendar.

**7) Action Items - Action Calendar (The Public Shall Have an Opportunity to Comment on Any Action Item as Each Item is Considered by the Board of Directors Prior to Action Being Taken.)**

**7.1) Consideration and Possible Action on Approval of Resolution No. 20-5 Being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Approving the Adoption of the 2019 Update to the Antelope Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. (No Budget Impact – Engineering/Grant Manager Rogers)**

Engineering/Grant Manager Rogers provided an overview of the purpose of the update to the Antelope Valley Integrated Regional Water Manager Plan, and after a brief discussion of the benefits of updating the Plan, it was moved by Director

Dizmang, seconded by Director Mac Laren, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting to approve Resolution No. 20-5 being a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District Approving the Adoption of the 2019 Update to the Antelope Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

Resolution No. 20-5 is hereby made a portion of the minutes of this meeting.

**7.2) Consideration and Possible Action to Vote for the Public Agency Director and Alternate Public Agency Director on the Antelope Valley Watermaster Board. (No Budget Impact – General Manager LaMoreaux)**

General Manager LaMoreaux provided an overview of the Public Agency Director position on the Antelope Valley Watermaster Board and staff's recommendation to vote for Director Mac Laren as the Public Agency Director and Barbara Hogan from Littlerock Creek Irrigation District as the Alternate Public Agency Director after which it was moved by Director Dizmang, seconded by Director Alvarado, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting that the Palmdale Water District vote for Kathy Mac Laren for the Public Agency Director and Barbara Hogan for the Alternate Public Agency Director on the Antelope Valley Watermaster Board.

**7.3) Consideration and Possible Action on Authorization of the Following Conferences, Seminars, and Training Sessions for Board and Staff Attendance Within Budget Amounts Previously Approved in the 2020 Budget:**

**a) Special Districts Summit West to be Held June 10, 2020 in Anaheim.**

After a brief discussion of the conferences, seminars, and training sessions, it was moved by Director Dizmang, seconded by Director Mac Laren, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting to approve the following conferences, seminars, and training sessions for Board and staff attendance within budget amounts previously approved in the 2020 Budget: Special Districts Summit West to be held June 10, 2020 in Anaheim.

**8) Information Items:**

**8.1) Reports of Directors:**

**a) Meetings; Standing Committee/Assignment Reports; General Report.**

Director Alvarado reported that on February 25, he attended the Outreach Committee meeting; that on February 28, he attended the Antelope Valley Board of Trade Business Outlook Conference; that on March 3, he attended the Palmdale Fin and Feather Club Board meeting; that on March 4, he attended the Palmdale Water District's Water Ambassadors Academy; and that on March 5, he attended a Board briefing with General Manager LaMoreaux and Assistant General Manager Ly regarding tonight's Board Meeting.

Director Mac Laren reported that on February 27, she attended the Palmdale Recycled Water Authority meeting; that on February 28, she attended the Antelope Valley Board of Trade Business Outlook Conference; that on March 5, she attended a Board briefing via telephone with General Manager LaMoreaux and Assistant General Manager Ly regarding tonight's Board Meeting; and that she could not attend the Read Across America event as she attended a think-tank session with several legislators and AVEK representatives to discuss the housing and homeless crisis and several proposed bills, and she reminded those attending of the Proposition 218 process for water agencies.

Director Dizmang reported that on February 28, she attended the Antelope Valley Board of Trade Business Outlook Conference; that on March 6, she participated in the Read Across America event at the Palmdale Learning Plaza; and then that afternoon she attended a Board briefing with General Manager LaMoreaux regarding tonight's Board Meeting.

Director Wilson reported that on February 25, he attended the Outreach Committee meeting; that on February 28, he attended the Antelope Valley Board of Trade Business Outlook Conference; that on March 3, he attended a meeting with President Dino, General Manager LaMoreaux, Assistant General Manager Ly, and Human Resources Director Emery; that this week he attended the Palmdale Water District's Water Ambassadors Academy; and that he participated in the Read Across America event with President Dino and others and read to four other classes the next day.

President Dino reported that on February 25, he attended an AVEK Board Meeting; that on February 27, he attended the Palmdale Recycled Water Authority meeting; that on March 2, he attended an Agenda Review and Approval meeting with General Manager LaMoreaux; that on March 3, he attended a meeting with Director Wilson, General Manager LaMoreaux, Assistant General Manager Ly, and Human Resources Director Emery; that on March 5, he attended a Board briefing with General

Manager LaMoreaux and Assistant General Manager Ly regarding tonight's Board Meeting, and he also went to the Palmdale Learning Plaza for the Read Across America event; and that on March 9, he is attending the Palmdale Water District Regular Board Meeting.

**8.2) Report of General Manager.**

General Manager LaMoreaux stated that he has no report.

**8.3) Report of General Counsel.**

General Counsel Dunn reported that Driscoll & Omens filed suit against the District and 82 different agencies up and down the state regarding water rates and the Proposition 218 process; that a meeting is scheduled for March 31 to coordinate efforts on how to best defend the agencies named in the suit; that this suit is now a complex claim with a case management meeting scheduled in June; and that this firm previously filed multiple suits against school districts over physical education issues.

**9) Public Comments on Closed Session Agenda Matters.**

There were no public comments on closed session agenda matters.

**10) Closed Session Under.**

**10.1) Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation: A Closed Session Will be Held, Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9 (d)(4), to Confer With General Counsel Regarding Anticipated Litigation to Which the District May be a Party, One Case.**

At 7:06 p.m., President Dino called for a closed session pursuant to Government Code §54956.9 (d)(4), to confer with General Counsel regarding anticipated litigation to which the District may be a party, one case. He reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 7:37 p.m.

**11) Public Report of Any Action Taken in Closed Session.**

General Counsel Dunn reported that a closed session was held pursuant to Government Code §54956.9 (d)(4), to confer with General Counsel regarding anticipated litigation to which the District may be a party, one case; that the case involves the National

Resource Defense Council suing the federal government over biological opinions affecting management of the Delta species; that the State Water Contractors is intervening in this lawsuit and has asked agencies to join them to defend the interests of the State Water Project; and that unanimous action to authorize the District to join this lawsuit was taken by all members of the Board of Directors present in closed session.

**12) Board Members' Requests for Future Agenda Items.**

At the request of Director Alvarado, Director Wilson stated that his grandson, Wyatt, is on the front page of the latest edition of The Employee Buzz.

Director Dizmang stated that she has requested General Counsel Dunn provide general election guidelines and guidelines for compliance with the Brown Act for attending fundraisers for the three Directors up for election later this year.

There were no requests for future agenda items.

**13) Adjournment.**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

  
Secretary