

## **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT, MAY 24, 2021:**

*A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District was held Monday, May 24, 2021, at 2029 East Avenue Q, Palmdale, CA 93550 and via teleconference. President, Gloria Dizmang, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.*

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

At the request of President Dizmang, Facilities Manager Bligh led the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

### **2) Roll Call.**

#### **Attendance:**

Gloria Dizmang, President  
Vincent Dino, Vice President  
Don Wilson, Treasurer  
Kathy Mac Laren-Gomez, Secretary  
Amberrose Merino, Assistant Secretary

#### **Others Present:**

Dennis LaMoreaux, General Manager  
Adam Ly, Assistant General Manager  
Alondra Espinosa, Assistant General Counsel  
Mike Williams, Finance Manager  
Judy Shay, Public Affairs Director  
Chris Bligh, Operations Manager  
Jim Stanton, Information Technology Manager  
Dawn Deans, Executive Assistant  
0 members of the public

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

It was moved by Director Mac Laren-Gomez, seconded by Director Dino, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to adopt the agenda, as written:

President Dizmang – aye  
Director Dino – aye  
Director Wilson – aye  
Director Mac Laren-Gomez – aye  
Director Merino – aye

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

There were no public comments for non-agenda items.

**5) Presentations:**

**5.1) None at This Time.**

There were no presentations.

**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 Board Meeting Held May 10, 2021.**

**6.2) Payment of Bills for May 24, 2021.**

President Dizmang announced the items included in the Consent Calendar after which it was moved by Director Dino, seconded by Director Wilson, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to approve those items included in the Consent Calendar:

President Dizmang – aye  
Director Dino – aye  
Director Wilson – aye  
Director Mac Laren-Gomez – aye  
Director Merino – aye

**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 Authorizing Staff to Enter Into a Contract for the Website Redesign Project With Neumeric Technologies Corporation. (\$50,000.00 – Information Technology Manager Stanton/Public Affairs Director Shay)**

Information Technology Manager Stanton provided an overview of the bids received for the website redesign, and after a brief discussion of the options included with the website redesign, it was moved by Director Merino, seconded by Director Mac Laren-Gomez, and unanimously carried by all members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting on the following roll call vote to enter into a contract for the

Website Redesign Project with Neumeric Technologies Corporation in the not-to-exceed amount of \$50,000.00:

President Dizmang – aye  
Director Dino – aye  
Director Wilson – aye  
Director Mac Laren-Gomez – aye  
Director Merino – aye

**7.2) Discussion and Clarification of Palmdale Water District Rules and Regulations Articles 4.07.3.c and 4.07.5, Reports of Directors. (No Budget Impact – General Manager LaMoreaux)**

General Manager LaMoreaux stated that this item is presented for the Board's clarification on the detail of reporting requirements for Director compensated meetings followed by a brief discussion of reporting requirements, the current Meeting Reporting Form, transparency and relevant detail for the reports, and the option of oral or written reports, and there was no action taken on this item.

**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 2021 Budget:**

- a) None at This Time.

There were no conferences, seminars, or training sessions to consider.

**8) Information Items:**

**8.1) Reports of Directors:**

- a) Standing Committees; Organization Appointments; Agency Liaisons:

**1) Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency-AVEK. (Director Dino/Director Mac Laren-Gomez, Alternate)**

Director Dino, AVEK Liaison, reported that on May 11, he attended an AVEK Board meeting where they took action to award multiple contracts for chemicals and to approve their first quarter customer newsletter.

**2) Outreach Committee. (Director Mac Laren-Gomez, Chair/Director Merino)**

Director Mac Laren-Gomez reported that the Outreach Committee met on May 12 and discussed planned activities, such as Coffees with Directors, webinars, videos, and possible tik-tok videos to promote the District's message and that at the recent ACWA Conference, it was recommended that each agency identify its personality.

**3) Finance Committee. (Director Wilson, Chair/President Dizmang)**

Director Wilson reported that the Finance Committee met on May 19 and discussed the total due of \$852,000 as of April 30 from delinquent accounts due to COVID-19, revenue being above projections, the audit, personnel and operation costs, the two \$10 million bond issues scheduled for 2021 and 2022 to fund \$30 million in capital projects by 2025, and the hope to increase the District's bond rating.

**4) Personnel Committee. (Director Mac Laren-Gomez, Chair/Director Merino)**

Director Mac Laren-Gomez reported that the Personnel Committee met on May 20 and discussed updates to the Facilities Department job descriptions, COVID-19 staff requirements for the District's operations, and a closed session was held for the General Manager and General Counsel annual evaluations.

**b) General Meetings Reports of Directors.**

Director Merino reported that on May 11, the ACWA/JPIA virtual meeting had technical issues; that on May 12 and 13, she attended the Special District Leadership Academy's Module 3 – The Board's Role in Finance and Fiscal Accountability where they discussed a written policy for credit card use, tipping, an at-home work policy, fraud, and changing auditors; that on May 20, she attended a Board briefing; that also on May 20, she attended the Personnel Committee meeting; and that on May 24, she is attending the Palmdale Water District Regular Board Meeting.

Director Wilson reported that on April 8 rather than April 4, he attended a Board Briefing; that on April 14, he attended an Outreach Committee meeting; that on May 12, he attended an Outreach Committee meeting; that on May 17, he attended a Financial briefing; that on May 19, he attended the Plant 42 Environmental Restoration Advisory

update meeting where they discussed PFO's, PFA's, and the TCE plume; and that on May 20, he attended a Board briefing.

Director Mac Laren-Gomez reported that on April 22 rather than April 23, she attended a Board briefing and the District's Earth Day webinar; that on May 11, she attended the ACWA/JPIA meeting; that on May 12, 13 and 14, she attended the ACWA/JPIA and ACWA Conferences where health care, catastrophic losses, telemedicine during COVID, programs available to the District, federal issues, enterprise fleet management and electric vehicles, the shifting landscape for California water, renewable energy, new prevailing wage requirements, diversity and equity, energy trends, finances, utility operation reviews, hydropower, zero emission vehicles, region 8 mutual cooperation, the financial impacts of COVID, and communication were discussed, and she visited the exhibitors; that also on May 12, she attended the Outreach Committee meeting; that on May 16, she attended the Antelope Valley Watermaster Public Water Supplier meeting where they discussed water theft for marijuana farms; that on May 20, she attended the Personnel Committee meeting; and that also on May 20, she attended a Board briefing.

Director Dino reported that on May 11, he attended an AVEK Board meeting; that on May 13 and 14, he attended the ACWA Conference and will submit a written report; that on May 19, he attended the Environmental Restoration Advisory Board update meeting; that on May 20, he attended a Board briefing; that on May 24, he is attending the Palmdale Water District Regular Board Meeting; that on May 25, he will be attending an AVEK Board meeting; and that on May 27, he will be attending the Palmdale Water District Special Board Meeting.

President Dizmang reported that on May 19, she attended the Finance Committee meeting; that on May 12, 13, and 14, she attended the ACWA/JPIA and ACWA Conferences for which she previously submitted a written report and that assistance from the United Way for those who cannot pay their bills due to COVID-19 was discussed, several sessions were difficult to gain information from, and she also visited some of the exhibitors; that on May 17, she attended a briefing for the Finance Committee meeting; that on May 18, she attended a briefing with Public Affairs Director Shay regarding her Coffee-With-a-Director; that on May 20, she attended a Board briefing; that on May 25, she will be attending her Coffee-With-a-Director; and that on May 27, she will be attending the Palmdale Water District Special Board Meeting.

**8.2) Report of General Manager.**

Facilities Manager Bligh provided an overview of the District's new 2021 Kenworth Water Truck.

**a) May 2021 Written Report of Activities Through April 2021.**

General Manager LaMoreaux stated that he submitted a written report included with the agenda packets if there are any questions; highlighted that a drought monitor section was added; and stated that staff is working on public outreach messaging for the Stage 1 request for a 15% voluntary reduction in water use and on securing additional water followed by discussion of the use of table tents at restaurants to help reduce water use.

He then stated that staff has had several meetings with the General Manager and staff of United Water Conservation District regarding joint projects and that Ad Hoc Board Committees for both agencies have been requested for further discussion of these projects.

**8.3) Report of General Counsel.**

Assistant General Counsel Espinosa provided an overview of the process for increasing Directors' compensation.

General Manager LaMoreaux then provided a brief update on SB223, which has been placed in a suspense file by the Appropriations Committee, and SB222, which is still proceeding.

He then stated that a regulation has been proposed that beginning in 2024, any heavy equipment needing replacement must be replaced with an electric vehicle with the goal of having an entire electric fleet by the late 2040's.

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

President Dizmang requested future agenda items for "Status on the District's wind turbine" and "Discussion of Directors explaining the drought and water conservation measures to customers through Facebook."

There were no further requests for future agenda items.

10) **Adjournment.**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

  
Secretary