



Newsletter

Clear Creek Community Services District
5880 Oak Street, Anderson, CA 96007

Serving the Communities
of Happy Valley & Olinda
1963 - 2020

November 2020
Issue XI

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Board of Directors

Johanna Trenerry, Chairwoman
Irwin Fust, Vice Chairman
Virginia Bassham, Director
Mark Engel, Director
Murray Miller, Director



Manager

Kurt Born, General Manager

*Minutes from October 21st, 2020 ** Next BOD Meeting ~ November 18th, 2020*

DIRECTORS: Johanna Trenerry, Irwin Fust, Virginia Bassham, Mark Engel and Murray Miller

STAFF: Kurt Born, Cary Brown, Bill Palmaymesa and Christy Roberts

AUDIENCE: Dennis Possehn, Sandy Winters, Tammy Cole, Beverly Fickes and Cedric Twight (were signed in)

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chairwoman Trenerry led the Pledge of Allegiance

CONSENT/AGENDA: A motion was made by Director Miller and seconded by Vice Chairman Fust to approve the minutes from September 16, 2020, paid bills dated 9/25/2020 through 10/19/2020 and the August and September 2020 financial statements. Motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS: WIIN Act Final Contract – Signature – Ordinance 2020-13: General Manager Born stated that we are at a point of review, have had attorneys look at this and done negotiations. What this particular Ordinance does is, allow Johanna and myself to sign the contract so we can get it to the Bureau of Reclamation and move the process forward. The Board needs to decide on how we are going to pay for this, whether it is in 4 equal payments or one payment with a discount. I need direction on where to go with this. Vice Chairman Fust stated that a question that has risen in the past about this amendment that supposedly allows us 15,300 acre-feet of water in perpetuity. It is not specially pointed out in the amendment that we get to keep that and Skip, you were going to investigate that and bring it to the Board. Mr. Born stated that because the amendment doesn't talk about the contract allocation amount, it has nothing to do with the amount. This is openly related to paying the construction fees for the contract, that's it, so we can lower the cost of the Agricultural water. Mr. Fust stated that in the same token, it amends our contract with the Bureau of Reclamation for our water that is coming due in 10-years. If we do not sign this amendment, then we have to re-negotiate our contract with the Bureau in 10-years and who knows what we will get. The whole idea behind this amendment and the best part, is that we keep our 15,300 acre-feet of water in perpetuity. Are we guaranteed that? Mr. Born stated that there are no guarantees in life. Mr. Fust asked then why would we do this? Mr. Born stated because it is due and payable anyway, we have to pay this regardless. After a continued, very lengthy discussion between the BOD and the community. (which will be in the full minutes, on the website in Nov.) Chairwoman stated, hearing the comments of the Vice Chairman and community, coupled with the fact that I've attended few WIIN Act meetings and everyone agrees you are going to get your allotment in perpetuity. After discussions today and seeing the passion in the Board and the experience involved in those negotiations, I am influenced to move forward as well. Director Miller stated he was in favor. Motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

CVP Contract Conversion Complaint – Environmental Compliance: General Manager Born stated this is on here just for discussion. The Bureau of Reclamation is having some issues with the environmental part of the process. I am just providing this to the Board to keep you informed. There is really nothing to discuss, just keeping you informed of what is going on with the WIIN Act..

Pre-Prop 218 – Additional Steps – Community Advisory Committee: General Manager Born stated this was brought to him by Director Miller and he would like to speak about the Community Advisory Committee. Director Miller stated he submitted a term of reference and what the Committee would look like. The main motive is to add additional steps prior to the official Prop 218 notice. The additional Prop 218 steps we can look at would be to form a Community Advisory Committee to give feedback on any rate study we propose. The proposed rate study would go to them and they would make suggestions; add or change wording and bring it back to the Board. The Board would review and potentially approve it, then that proposal would be published in newsletter and online. Collect some feedback and hold a couple of informational meetings. In one of the informational meetings, the Board would finalize and adopt it and initiate the Prop 218 process. The main goal is to give us as much feedback as possible before initiating the Prop 218 process. Vice Chairman Fust stated we do need a Citizen Committee and some of the people have good ideas. At the Prop 218 meeting there was a discussion of Ag and trying to revive Ag in our District. I am in favor of putting together a Committee. I put together a road-map as to how we can proceed before the budget next year. I am suggesting that in the October or November meeting, we move approval of the annual CCI indexing rate increase. Mr. Born stated it's been supplied to you as a draft this month and is a 1.9% increase. Mr. Fust stated in November we appoint an Ad hoc Committee and my suggestion is 2-Board members and 3-5 community members to study and make recommendations on a rate structure that will insure a stable source of financing for the future and over a reasonable amount of time, replenish the reserve accounts. The plan should also consider a component that will address future capital improvements and well as an Agricultural plan. October through December, we will approve the WIIN Act, which is what we did today. Now we need to look at financing what we owe. January through March of 2021 the Ad hoc Committee will meet regularly to review and discuss annual budget expenses, reserves, capital improvement plan, a grant for the replacement of the distribution lines, a grant for replacing large meters, if necessary and a plan for expanding agriculture in Happy Valley and all of this discussion will lead to a recommendation for a rate structure that will support increased costs, rebuild reasonable reserves, have a structure that will provide a base rate for M&I and Ag the same for all meter sizes. It doesn't matter what size meter you have, you're only going to use so much water based upon what you can pay. The Committee should have a recommendation that would be structured with smaller increases over an 8 to 10 year period to make it less burdensome for customers and have capital improvement plan. In this road-map I

have indicated that from January to March 2021, we seek to solidify grants for replacing distribution lines, valves and large meters. Then at the April 2021 meeting, the Ad hoc Committee will present to the Board a new suggested rate structure. That will start the Prop 218 process and a Prop 218 meeting in June 2021. Director Engel stated he has a concern and its related to meter base rates. We definitely need to look at whether or not abandoning meter size base rates altogether will jeopardize grants because I got indication earlier that was the case and we need to know that. I think the rate recommendation that RCAC came out with was a little absurd. It went to the Community because the Community asked for it and we thought that was a feasible request. I wasn't surprised it got turned down, it wasn't a good fit for our Community. Meter size base rates could be a workable solution if it helps us get into grants. Maybe a tiered approach. I'm just saying this would keep us in the meter size safe place for the benefit of securing future grants. Director Bassham stated she likes the Vice Chairman's informative road-map. I agree that we have a lot of talented customers that could really help us with these tough financial decisions and help provide solutions. Director Miller stated he enjoyed reading the road-map and one thing he would add is posting it and getting wider feedback. Mr. Fust stated we could also add an informational public meeting. Chairwoman Trener stated some concerns and questions she had (all noted in the minutes that will be posted to the website in Nov.) Vice Chairman Fust made a motion for the Board to make up an Ad hoc Committee made up by the citizens, with 2 Board Members and 3 community members. We will appoint those members and finalize that Committee at November meeting. We will also discuss what the roll of the Committee will be and that is my motion. Director Miller seconded. Director Bassham stated she is going to abstain because she's not sure. I love that the Community is going to be involved but not taking the place of the Board. Mr. Fust stated to comment on what Virginia said if I may; the Committee is not taking the place of the Board because the Board has the ultimate decision-making call in this District. The Committee is going to help the Board make a good decision. This Board has the authority to make the decisions and that is it. Mrs. Bassham stated she is still going to abstain for right now.

CCI Rate Increase – 1.9%: Director Miller stated that his concern is that having consumption-based tiers and I'm just wondering if we could amend that? I know that it was mentioned in relation to RCAC, that it no longer legal and if so, why are we continuing with that? Mr. Born stated it's not a practice the State follows but it is with the Bureau of Reclamation, which is who we have our contract with and they do follow. They consider it water conservation and they consider it a necessary component. The Federal Government supports it and the State does not and we are following it because we have a Federal contract. It's trying to satisfy 2 regulatory agencies, simultaneously for a District like ours and we have to do our best to satisfy both and I don't believe the meter size base rate fits our Community at all. I am working on this. Mr. Fust stated as it stands right now, you will be bringing back this CCI rate increase at the November meeting, correct? Mr. Born stated yes. Director Engel stated his concern is with this CCI increase and the Community perception of, okay you got an increase and then we are talking about a rate increase again. Somehow, we need to make it clear that this is not the ultimate saving of the District. 1.9% is not going to do it and not a solution to our problem. Audience Cedric Twilight stated in regard to the rate increase and that forming the Committee will look at that big picture. I think that forming this Committee sooner, rather than later and seeing where this 1.9% is so that there is public outreach and that folks know that there is a plan and this takes us from point A to point B. I'm just concerned it's going to be a piecemeal approach without any solid planning and the planning needs to get out in front.

Board Meeting Formats: General Manager Born stated this is just seeking suggestions on possibly getting a different format. The Zoom format is kind-of working for us but has been touchy at times. I just want to know if anyone has other suggestions. After a discussion, two members suggested two other forums, Microsoft and Meet. Manager Born stated he would look into these.

The rest of the minutes, in full length will be posted as soon as the BOD approves them at the November 18, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting.

**Water Usage In Acre Feet
March 1, 2019 to February 29, 2020**

Month	Previous Year	Current Year	+/-
March	112.3	141.9	+29.6
April	155.5	188.2	+32.7
May	278.7	298.2	+19.5
June	474.2	466.1	-8.1
July	697.4	714.3	+16.9
August	650.9	659.6	+8.7
Sept	493.8	541.4	+47.6
YTD	2862.8	3009.7	+146.9

Figures reflect Meter readings at Whiskeytown Dam, less the water diverted to Centerville CSD.

**Weather Observations
September 2020**

Monthly High & Low Temperatures

High	106	Low	62
Avg. High	79	Avg. Low	67

Year to Date Rainfall Totals are from January thru December

Rainfall Totals	2018	2019	2020
MTD	0.0"	0.0"	0.00"
YTD	6.11"	16.53"	16.29

CIMIS

The California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) is a program unit in the Water Use and Efficiency Branch, Division of Statewide Integrated Water Management, California Department of Water Resources (DWR) that manages a network of over 145 automated weather stations in California. CIMIS was developed in 1982 by DWR and the University of California, Davis (UC Davis). It was designed to assist irrigators in managing their water resources more efficiently. Efficient use of water resources benefits Californians by saving water, energy, and money. Visit the website @ www.cimis.water.ca.gov.

Water Saving Tips:

Water during the cool part of the day, in the morning or evening.

REMINDER

Clear Creek C.S.D. would like to remind customers to please call the District Office any time water service needs to be turned off or on inside the meter box. This will ensure that District valves will only be operated by District employees, thus protecting the customer from charges incurred if valves are broken or meters are damaged. A field staff member is on-call during the weekends and evenings. 530-357-2121

**~ Crop Reports ~
Due December 1, 2020**



If you are on Agricultural Rates, please make sure to fill out and turn in your crop report by December 1, 2020. Any crop reports not turned in by that date risk being removed from the Agricultural Rates. If you are on Agricultural Rates and didn't receive a Crop Report in your bill you can go online @ clearcreekcsd.org and download one or come by the office and pick one up. Any questions, please call the office at 357-2121.



"This District is an Equal Opportunity Provider"