



Board of Trustees
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 5, 2015
6:00 P.M.
Board Room
Minden-Gardnerville Sanitation District
1790 Hwy. 395
Minden, Nevada

Board Members Present:

Raymond Wilson
Barbara Smallwood
Mark Dudley
Michael King
Robert Allgeier

Staff Members Present:

Frank Johnson
April Burchett
Bill Peterson
Brian Buffo
Bruce Scott
Sarah King

Others Present:

Krista Jenkins
Eli Kersh
Lance Dohman

Board Members Absent :

None

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Ray Wilson, Chairman.

Public Comment: - There was no public comment.

Claims Review and Approval – Questions were asked by the Board and answered by Frank and Sarah. **Motion by Mike King to approve the claims received for April, 2015 in the amount of \$33,814.36 and to approve the payroll-related expenses paid during April, 2015 in the amount of \$79,366.15.** Seconded by Mark Dudley. There was no further discussion on the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes of April 7, 2015 Regular Board Meeting and April 9, 2015 Special Board Meeting – **Motion by Barbara Smallwood to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2015 Regular Board Meeting.** Seconded by Bob Allgeier. Motion carried.

Bruce noted that he was at the special meeting. **Motion by Bob Allgeier to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2015 Special Board Meeting with the noted correction.** Seconded by Mark Dudley. Motion carried.

Douglas County Mosquito Abatement / Aquatic Environments – Represented by Krista Jenkins from Douglas County Mosquito Abatement and Eli Kersh and Lance Dohman from Aquatic Environments. Krista explained the techniques used in the past year to help with mosquito abatement. There is still a vegetation issue, which is what she would like to discuss with the Board. Last year the Mosquito Abatement sprayed a barrier, and MGSD was not charged for this, as was discussed with the Board, since it was done so efficiently between their equipment and MGSD staff. Lindell Lane was treated today.



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Krista noted that Henry Dreyer cleaned out the ditch last year, so the water is moving. Mark asked if it would help if the water was piped through the north field. Krista explained that if they can prove the ditches are an historic use, then they can do what is needed to treat the mosquitos. Krista gave a PowerPoint presentation showing the areas that were sprayed by air last year. She also pointed out the areas that cannot be accessed by the ground or water at this time for treatment. She is expecting a helicopter, but she doesn't have a date at this time, so there will probably be a hatch in those areas before the helicopter can get there. She has done some research to mitigate the problem spots that have heavy vegetation, and found a solution with Aquatic Environments. She has also spoken to Jennifer Davidson at the Town of Minden, who can help with grant preparation. Krista felt that the problem didn't need to be entirely resolved this summer, but suggested working with the Town and the ranchers to figure out how to manage it on a yearly basis. Krista stated that they can do an adulticide this year, but the regulations are getting stricter, and she will need to be careful in its use. It's up to the Board to decide how to proceed and who to work with regarding vegetation control and irrigation management.

Eli Kersh introduced himself and Lance Dohman. Aquatic Environments is a large wetland restoration and maintenance firm. He explained that they worked with the San Diego Mosquito and Vector Control District in the past, which had a similar problem as MGSD, but with a larger area. They found that leaving the wetland area alone is not the best method for management, since it creates excess vegetation, which in turn will prevent the larvacide from reaching the wet areas. Eli showed a video of the products they have available for vegetation management. He proposed using an amphibious device, known as a Marshmaster to remove the excess vegetation. It can cut the willows and mulch the cattails, and it can cover several acres in a day. He stated they preferred to help come up with a designed plan, in order to increase the flow in the ditches for irrigation as well as for wildlife. He noted that wildlife will also eat the larvae and enhance mosquito control. Lance explained that the Marshmaster can also spray herbicides in order to replace the vegetation with native species. Ray asked if it has to be done each year. Eli explained there will need to be a regular maintenance plan, otherwise it will overgrow again. Discussion followed regarding the time period for regrowth. Lance suggested working with a portion of the area to see how it reacts. Mike asked if there is a mechanism to thin out the mulch. Eli explained that the Marshmaster has a raking attachment which will rake the mulch and create new berms and new habitats. There are also several disposal sites in the area, so that would also be an option. In addition, there would be hand crews to assist with the raking. Mark noted that after the vegetation is mowed, then rechanneling of the ditches could be considered. Mike asked if a controlled burn of the mulch would be an option, and Lance said the trick is to get the mulch dry enough to keep it from creating too much smoke. Frank noted that the willows were accidentally burned about 15 years ago. Eli stated that with the drought, the mowing would go much faster. He emphasized that it's preferable to do small areas each year over a period of years, rather than doing the entire area in one year, since working with small areas is better for the natural vegetation. Lance stated that if there is a regular maintenance plan, the vegetation becomes discouraged and naturally the treatment areas and budgets grow smaller over time.



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Ray asked about cost. Eli and Lance stated that one full day is \$1800, plus a one-time fee for mobilization, which is less than \$1,000. Krista felt that somewhere between 25 to 30 acres need to be treated. The Board asked Lance and Eli to work up a proposal for submittal. Ray would like to get it on the June meeting. Barbara asked about the impact of the removal of agricultural acreage by Park Ranch. Bruce explained that the proposed vegetation clearing does not impact the land application of the effluent. Krista said they can also do a mini demonstration, and she will work with Lance and Eli to get that set up. Ray asked them to prepare a plan for what needs to happen each year, and the anticipated cost for each year. Bob asked how many acres MGSD owns, and Frank will get the number.

Wells Fargo Bank -- Motion by Bob Allgeier to table the discussion for Wells Fargo Bank for this meeting and be tabled until the June Meeting. Seconded by Barbara Smallwood. Motion carried.

Tesco Controls – Frank reminded the Board about Keith Webb’s presentation at the April 7, 2015 meeting. Placer Electric came out, but he is still waiting for their findings. Frank wondered if the project should be done over a couple of years, in case it will be more than the budgeted amount, but the Board preferred doing the entire job at once. Bob asked if it replaces the existing computers, and Frank believed it does, but he will double check. Bob asked for clarification that there will be no costs incurred before July 1, and Frank stated that would be the case.

Motion by Bob Allgeier to approve the SCADA System Upgrades as presented by Tesco Controls at the April 7, 2015 Regular Board Meeting, at an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00. Payment for the system will be made after the budget approval and after July 1, 2015. Seconded by Mark Dudley. Motion carried.

Attorney-Client Conference: Bill reported on the following:

ARRA Loan: Bill stated the letter was mailed to the State Finance Board, and he anticipated that this item will be placed on their agenda. Someone from MGSD will need to attend the meeting.

GRGID: He spoke with Mike Rowe regarding the tax rate increase, and Mike stated that GRGID is not contesting the tax issue. Bill sent a memo to Mike regarding the charges and legal basis for charging them their share of the heat loop costs. If we don’t hear back from them soon, then the next step is to send a bill. Discussion followed regarding the aliquot cost of the project.

Park Ranch: Bill stated that he prepared an amended contract for Park Cattle based on the assumption that the Board would release the acreage. He noted that Park Ranch asked to be removed from the May meeting agenda pending a decision from Douglas County. Bill confirmed with Bruce that they have excess acreage to meet the minimum acreage noted in the agreement. He also worked in language in case



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they don't have replacement acreage available. Bill noted that MGSD will still need to give consent, unless there are legitimate grounds to withhold consent. He explained that a court would look at whether the area would be able to be used for the purpose intended in the agreement. Bruce replied that it is actually a small area for irrigation, and he was quite comfortable with removing this area. He would be concerned if they were to keep chipping away at the acreage. Bruce emphasized that it is important not to lose the three reuse areas. Bill also stated that there could be specific areas within the overall area that would be critical for reuse. Bruce stated that they have worked with NDEP to create the specific areas, and this particular location was workable for MGSD's reuse needs. Barbara expressed concern that the area is so close to the ponds. Bill thought it could be handled through the contract, and to state that the acreage reverts back to reuse if this project is discontinued or denied. Barbara was comfortable with that. Discussion followed regarding uses by right and by special use permit within the A-19 zone. Frank suggested that part of MGSD's approval would be to supply MGSD with power for the pump station.

Ethics: Bill presented a memo to the Board regarding the ethics concerns with Mike King's election to the Board. Bill noted that the Board had asked him to prepare a template of the topics Mike could or could not discuss or vote on, but it was difficult to put together a template since there are so many situations that could come up. He instead put together some guidelines to consider in order for the Board to come to a decision on whether there is a conflict of interest. He felt that Mike was already sensitive to these issues. Mike asked to go on record that he agreed with Bill that he was sensitive to this issue, and he felt that Bill did a good job in presenting the guidelines. He will take it to heart and live by it. Mike thought it was common sense, and he hoped the rest of the Board was satisfied. The Board agreed.

GRGID: Ray explained that the reason the two letters to Mike Rowe were included in the packet came from a meeting a couple of months ago between him, Bob, Frank and Bill. Bill looked at the older agreements and that we did have a case to stand on to get money from GRGID.

Engineer's Report: Bruce Scott reported on the following:

Sonic: Sonic has pulled their permits and construction is beginning.

Reservoir Repair: Bruce reported that the repair work on the reservoir should be completed soon, and it appears that the cost will be less than estimated. He anticipated that the cost would be closer to \$120,000 rather than \$160,000. In hindsight, they should have used different materials when the pond was constructed. Barbara mentioned that Red Lake has a new dam, and they probably have wind action as well.

Sharkey's: Bruce noted that Sharkey's is open for business.



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Washoe Tribe: Bruce reported that he received civil improvement plans for the Washoe Tribe convenience store. It appears to be complicated, but at first glance, it looks like it's going to work.

District Manager's Report – Frank Johnson reported on the following items:

EDU Allocations: 5.8 EDU's were sold to Sonic during the month of April.

Reservoir Repair: He is still working with the insurance company regarding the claim for the wind damage. He spoke with Alan Reed yesterday and was communicating with the insurance company by email. They are looking at one more thing to see if there is a way to cover the damage. At this time the insurance company's position is that MGSD is not covered for lakes, dams, rivers, and reservoirs, unless it's a threat to public safety. Mike asked if we should be looking at the policy, and Bill stated that Frank has provided it to him, but he hasn't yet reviewed it. Discussion followed regarding the size of the claim and whether wind is excluded as a peril in the policy. Frank pointed out that Alan Reed will be at the June Board meeting. Bob noted that Pump Station #4 is covered for \$180,000, and he wondered why they would they insure the pump stations but not the reservoirs. Frank stated he asked them the same question. Bob asked that Alan be present at the budget meeting. Discussion followed regarding earthquake and flood coverage for the collection system. Bob stated that the repair of the reservoir should be shown under the capital expenses, and he made a motion to amend the capital budget to include an item for wind damage to the reservoir (there was no second to the motion).

GRGID Interceptor Line: Discussion followed regarding GRGID's share of the maintenance on the interceptor line. Frank and Bruce stated that there have been only minimal issues with that line. Bruce thought that we would now do more monitoring of the flows in that line.

Gas Line Break: Frank reported that Southwest Gas found a gas leak on MGSD's side of the meter, and the operations staff was able to use the GapVac truck to dig a trench to repair the line. He mentioned that this repair is another example of the need for the equipment acquisition proposed in the 2015-2016 budget. Discussion followed regarding replacing the gas line.

Electric Gate: Last Sunday, the operator on call found 2 dogs floating in the one of the ditches. One dog was drowned and one was saved. Frank noted that the gate in the back needs to be accessible, but by leaving the gate open; there has been unauthorized access to the area in the past. Frank suggested installing an automatic gate with codes for all the people who use it. He has obtained verbal estimates. The Board asked Frank to get a firm estimate by the budget meeting. Barbara asked about a log of who comes in the plant. Frank has already looked into that, and he noted that the entry codes could be linked to the SCADA system.



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Administrative Report by Staff – There was no report by Staff.

Board Comment – Barbara commented on the will serve letter for Corley Ranch. She would like to know how many will serve letters are out in the public, on an ongoing basis. Barbara was concerned that the letter states that we will serve them. There should be a list each time one is issued and an expiration date. Bill stated that we can condition the letter so that it isn't a commitment to capacity.

Mark mentioned that Jerome Etchegoyhen had surgery for a tumor.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Approved by the Board of Trustees as presented on:

_____ June 2, 2015 _____
Date By
Barbara S. Smallwood, Secretary

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