

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY
May 4, 2015

At 10:20 a.m., President Dick called to order the Special Meeting of the Municipal Water District of Orange County Board of Directors, Conference Room 101, at the District facilities, 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, California.

MWDOC DIRECTORS

Brett R. Barbre
Larry Dick
Joan Finnegan (absent)
Susan Hinman (via teleconference)
Wayne Osborne
Sat Tamaribuchi
Jeffery M. Thomas

STAFF PRESENT

Robert Hunter, General Manager (absent)
Karl Seckel, Assistant General Manager
Maribeth Goldsby, Board Secretary
Harvey De La Torre, Prin. Water Res. Planner
Joe Berg, Water Use Eff. Programs Mgr.
Keith Lyon, Prin. Water Res. Analyst
Heather Baez, Governmental Affairs Manager
Jessica Ouwerkerk, Public Affairs Manager
Russ Behrens, Legal Counsel (via teleconference)

ALSO PRESENT

Ellin Chariton
Dawn Curtis
Sean Fitzgerald
Ellin Chariton
Dawn Curtis
Brett Babos
Jim Leach
Damon Micalizzi

O.C. Department of Education
O.C. Department of Education
Discovery Science
OC Dept. of Education
OC Dept. of Education
The Ecology Center
Santa Margarita Water District
Yorba Linda Water District

TELECONFERENCE SITE

President Dick announced that Director Hinman would be participating via telephone conference from Santa Cruz, California. (All agenda requirements pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act were complied with.)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Representatives from Inside the Outdoors, Ellin Chariton and Dawn Curtis reiterated their comments from the PAL meeting and encouraged the Board to delay action on the School Program, for a more transparent process.

Mr. Brett Babos from The Ecology Center also commented that he would be happy to present background on The Ecology Center and highlighted several of their accomplishments, and he distributed materials on The Ecology Center.

ACTION ITEMS**S. 235 & H.R. 167 – THE WILDFIRE DISASTER FUNDING ACT OF 2015**

Upon MOTION by Director Barbre, seconded by Director Osborne, and carried (6-0), the Board voted to support S. 235 and H.R. 167 – The Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2015 and authorized the District send a letter indicating our support. Said vote was conducted by roll call, with Directors Barbre, Dick, Hinman, Osborne, Tamaribuchi, and Thomas voting in favor; Director Finnegan was absent.

CONSIDER AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR SCHOOL PROGRAM

President Dick advised that the Public Affairs & Legislation (PAL) Committee discussed the Review Committee's recommendation (to authorize the General Manager enter into contracts with both the Discovery Science Center and The Ecology Center in respective amounts of \$220,000 and \$80,000 for fiscal years 2015-16 through 2017-18, per the details outlined), however PAL recommended the Board authorize the General Manager enter into a contract with Discovery Science Center for the K-5 program (\$220,000), and solicit proposals from The Ecology Center, Inside the Outdoors, and Discovery Science Center for a high school program (\$80,000).

Considerable discussion ensued, with Director Barbre referencing comments from the PAL Committee meeting regarding MWDOC's RFP process and how he believed both Discovery Science Center and The Ecology Center had an unfair advantage. It was noted that Legal Counsel Behrens advised that the District complied with the RFP provisions, which were legal and proper.

Director Barbre stated that he was uncomfortable with the process, and he made a MOTION, which was seconded by Director Osborne, for the Board to extend the current contract the District has with the Discovery Science Center for the 2015-16 school year (under the same terms), and over the next year conduct another RFP process on the school program (for implementation in the 2016-17 school year).

Discussion ensued regarding Director Barbre's MOTION with Directors Dick, Thomas, Tamaribuchi, and Hinman indicating they would prefer moving forward with the PAL Committee recommendation, and could not support Director Barbre's MOTION.

President Dick called for the vote, and the MOTION failed by a vote of 2-4; with Directors Barbre and Osborne voting in favor, and Directors Dick, Thomas, Tamaribuchi, and Hinman opposing. Director Finnegan was absent. Said vote was conducted by roll call.

Following discussion, and upon MOTION by Director Tamaribuchi, seconded by Director Hinman, and carried (5-1), the Board authorized the General Manager to enter into a contract with Discovery Science Center for the K-5 program in the amount of \$220,000, and solicit proposals from The Ecology Center, Inside the Outdoors, and Discovery Science Center for a high school program at a cost not to exceed \$80,000. Directors Dick, Osborne, Thomas, Tamaribuchi, and Hinman voted in favor; Director Barbre opposed. Director Finnegan was absent. Said vote was conducted by roll call.

Mr. Seckel advised that the proposals from The Ecology Center, Inside the Outdoors, and Discovery Science Center would be presented to the next PAL Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Dick adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maribeth Goldsby, Secretary