

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS OF ELSINORE VALLEY  
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District was held via teleconference, through a call-in number clearly noted on the meeting Agenda, posted in accordance with the Brown Act.

Directors Present

Andy Morris, President  
Phil Williams, Vice President  
Harvey Ryan  
Darcy M. Burke  
Jared McBride

Staff Present

Greg Thomas, General Manager  
Ganesh Krishnamurthy, Assistant General Manager – Eng. and Operations  
Robert Hartwig, Assistant General Manager- Business Services  
Steve Anderson, Legal Counsel  
Terese Quintanar, District Secretary/Administrative Services Supervisor  
Susie Evans, Sr. Executive Assistant  
Christina Ramirez, Executive Assistant  
Margie Armstrong, Director of Strategic Programs  
Jason Dafforn, Director of Engineering and Water Resources  
Jase Warner, Director of Operations  
Jennifer Dancho, Director of Human Resources  
Greg Morrison, Government Relations Officer  
Tim Collie, Water Operations Manager  
Parag Kalaria, Water Resources Manager  
Scott Thompson, Accounting Manager  
David Smith, Maintenance Manager  
Matthew Bates, Engineering Manager  
Shawnelle Morelos, Principal Engineer, Capital Projects  
Christina Henry, Community Relations Manager  
Bonnie Woodrome, Community Affairs Supervisor  
Kaitlyn Wu, Community Affairs Specialist  
Haley Munson, Water Efficiency Specialist  
Isabel Casteran, Safety Officer  
Patrick Allen, Water Quality Analyst  
Ruben Murillo, Field Maintenance Superintendent  
Barbara Mason, Contract Administrator  
Darryn Flexman, IT Supervisor  
Anivey Casanada, Senior Office Assistant

Others Present

Public  
Raquel Ayala Vargas

<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>
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The meeting was called to order by President Morris at 4:00 p.m.

<b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b>
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A motion was made by Director Burke, seconded by Director Williams, and carried unanimously to approve the Agenda as presented.

<b>PUBLIC COMMENTS</b>
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The meeting was opened to public comments on the teleconference and in the room and there were none.

<b>Item I.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS</b>
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*Minute Order #5581*

President Morris opened the meeting for nominations.

A motion was made by Director Ryan, seconded by Director Burke, and carried unanimously, to:

- 1. Elect Director Williams as Board President for 2021.**

A motion was made by Director Williams, seconded by Director Ryan, and carried unanimously, to:

- 1. Elect Director Burke as Board Vice President for 2021.**

A motion was made by Director Burke, seconded by Director Williams, and carried unanimously, to:

- 1. Elect Director Ryan as Board Treasurer for 2021.**

<b>Item II.0 - CONSENT CALENDAR</b>
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*Resolution Nos. 20-12-01*

*Minute Order #5582-5585*

A. APPROVAL OF:

1. Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of November 24, 2020
2. Minutes of the Regular Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of November 17, 2020
3. Demands
4. Receive and File the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020 (*MO# 5582*)
5. Appropriation Limit for Fiscal Year 2021 (*Reso. No. 20-12-01*)
6. Professional Services Agreement with Reeb Government Relations for State Lobbying Services (*MO# 5583*)
7. Professional Service Agreement with The Charrette Agency for the District Branding Project (*MO# 5584*)
8. Reorganization of Board Committees (*MO# 5585*)

Director McBride requested to pull Consent Calendar Item A.7 for discussion.

A motion was made by Director Williams, seconded by Director Burke, and carried unanimously to:

**1. Approve the Consent Calendar non-pulled items.**

Director McBride expressed his concern with the price and the new logo replacement regarding Consent Calendar Item A.7. He felt this was not a necessity at this time.

Director Williams commented the logo has been around for over 30 years and believes a refresh would be good and can help EVMWD make a larger presence in the community.

Director Burke responded to Director McBride’s comments and opined that this is an opportunity to learn more about our customers. We only hear one facet from our constituents in our own areas. This gives an opportunity for an independent third-party to do the research. Qualitative and quantitative data will be provided to make better decisions. The \$130,000 is something that will be discussed at future budget discussions and is a best guess. She expressed she is more interested in what our customers are thinking, how they communicate and supports that we need to understand the data. Today we are only taking action on the initial contract with Charette to perform the research.

Director Ryan referred to the staff report and commented the \$130,000 will be a separate action later. He agreed that obtaining the data on our customers is very important.

Director Morris commented that for some time now, it’s been known that the logo needed to be refreshed and replaced and opined that the dollar amount for this work was a little low. He suggested the rebranding be done in phases, perhaps over several budget cycles to break it up.

A motion was made by Director Burke, seconded by Director Williams, and carried with a majority vote, with Director McBride opposing to:

**1. Approve the Consent Calendar Item No. A.7. Professional Service Agreement with The Charrette Agency for the District Branding Project.**

**Item III.0 BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Item III.A PRESENTATION OF THE 2020 PUBLIC RELATIONS SOCIETY OF AMERICA INLAND EMPIRE CHAPTER RECOGNITION FOR COMMUNICATIONS**

*Minute Order #5586*

Ms. Woodrome shared that EVMWD recently received several awards from the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) for excellence in public outreach. The Polaris Awards recognize exemplary public relations efforts that successfully incorporate sound research, planning, implementation, and evaluation. These

awards represent the highest standards of performance in the public relations and communications profession within the Inland Empire.

Ruben Murillo and his team were recognized for the “Here For You” photograph that was used for the COVID 19 Outreach and advertising. Kaitlyn Wu, Haley Munson and staff were also recognized for the audiovisual short form video that was created and shared in various platforms.

#### **Item IV. A GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT**

Mr. Thomas reported we recently received \$660 from the Community Action Partnership (CAP) Program which is a utility assistance program for Riverside County residents. Customers can apply and receive up to \$2,000 to help offset utility bills. This program will be promoted through our outreach efforts. He gave kudos to Christina Henry and Tammy Ramirez for all their efforts.

California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) sent a letter to champion within the water community ensuring essential water operators are one of the priorities for receiving the COVID vaccine. California’s Governor Newsom has a task force that will determine the prioritization of vaccine distribution.

The Upper Temescal Valley Salt and Nutrient plan amendment was approved by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and he thanked staff in the Strategic Programs, Water Resources and Engineering Departments. This was a six-year project and will be a cost savings for the District, in the long term.

Mr. Thomas concluded with the water supply report. The snowpack in the Sierra’s is at 44% of normal. The local supply is at 70-80% of normal, however, we were at similar levels last fall. La Niña is being projected this year, with less rain than previous years. The State Water Project allocation is at 20%.

#### **Item IV. B LEGAL COUNSEL’S REPORT**

Mr. Anderson reported the FPPC issued an advice letter last month for Metropolitan Water District (MWD). A Director, who is a retired engineer was approached to work with a consulting firm who had ongoing contracts with MWD. There was concern of Government Code 1090 violations and advice of FPPC was the man could work the contract, specifically because MWD has a policy that the General Manager can approve up to \$250,000 without board approval. Since the board did not have to take action on this contract, there was enough separation. In addition, there are provisions in the law where it is a case by case basis to avoid Government Code 1090 issues for even larger contracts.

#### **Item IV. C BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Director McBride reported on the recent EMWD/EVMWD joint meeting where the Delta Conveyance Project was discussed. The MWD’s board unanimously passed to fund the share of environmental planning and preconstruction of the project. He mentioned on their website, the sister agencies who supported this project were listed, however EVMWD was not listed. Also discussed was the Quail Valley Sewer project with another \$500,000 received to help fund this effort. He

commented EMWD has done a great job getting financing and grants for this project. Director Ryan added PFAS was also discussed at this meeting. Director McBride continued to report on his attendance at the Wildomar City Council meeting. Since some Wildomar staff recently tested positive for COVID, they are currently disinfecting, and offices are closed. There was mention of a funding agreement for Bundy Canyon Road widening project. He mentioned there are a lot of struggling businesses.

Director Ryan reported on the ACWA Region 9 meeting earlier today. COVID was discussed as was the Region 9 & 10 Conference program.

Director Burke attended the Canyon Lake Property Owners Association meeting which was the best attended virtual meeting yet. She was able to get a lot of information out to a lot of people. She also attended the Canyon Lake City Council meeting. Councilman Bonner was honored, and a video of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala was shown. She also participated on ACWA Ag Committee and the ACWA Fall Conference. At the Ag Committee, she learned there is a draft blueprint being circulated and she asked for a copy of it. She attended the MWD meeting also, where they authorized their share of Delta project and amendment to the contract. It was a very long meeting, with lots of comments on the Delta. There was a lot of discussion on how they take the calls. Calls are taken numerically by area code, so 951 area codes are taken much later than those calls from as far as San Francisco. Not all directors were present for this meeting, but it did pass under Consent Calendar. There was a lot of discussion about the Chairwoman's appointment, which ended up being postponed because of the need for discussion of the admin code and when those appointments should be made. She also mentioned that an elderly woman drowned in Canyon Lake yesterday, which makes three drownings this year.

She thanked Director Morris for his service and the method by which he demonstrates "fair for all." She wished a Happy Hanukkah to those who celebrate the festival.

Director Williams asked to adjourn this meeting in honor of Brandon Yates, who passed away recently.

Director Morris reported that Mayor Nigg was re-elected for a second term for the City of Wildomar. Council Member Ben Benoit will no longer be on the City of Wildomar/EVMWD joint committee meeting, Council Member Joseph Morabito will replace him. He also reported the Bundy Canyon widening project involves relocation of some of our facilities and we should be getting an update from staff.

<b>Item V.0      DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS AND REQUESTS</b>
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Director McBride complimented Director Morris on his job as president having an equitable, fair and just way of accepting differing opinions. He congratulated Directors Ryan and Williams on their success in their election. He also congratulated staff for the awards received.

Director Ryan congratulated President Williams for his election win and also thanked Director Morris for his job as president. He echoed Director McBride's comments, and added that Director Morris was very objective and brought the best out of everyone. He thanked Director McBride for the congratulations on the campaign. He looks forward to another four years serving the District.

Director Morris thanked everyone for the comments and relayed appreciation for the last two years as president.

<b>Item VI.0    ADJOURNMENT</b>
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The meeting was adjourned 4:48 p.m. in honor of Brandon Yates.

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Phil Williams, President of the  
Board of Directors of the  
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

ATTEST:

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Terese Quintanar, Board Secretary  
to the Board of Directors of  
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District