

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
METROPOLITAN DOMESTIC WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT  
PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA**

February 10, 1997  
Wilson Room  
Tohono Chul Park  
7366 North Paseo del Norte  
Tucson, Arizona 85704

**MINUTES**

Board Members Present: Marty Cramer, Chair  
Jim Doyle, Vice-Chair  
Letha Gardner, Member  
Sam Ray, Member  
Jim Tripp, Member

District Staff: Mark Stratton, General Manger  
Phil Higdon, Legal Counsel  
Michael McNulty, Legal Counsel  
Michael Land, Chief Financial Officer  
Warren Tenney, Clerk of the Board

**Call To Order and Roll Call**

Ms. Marty Cramer, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Domestic Water Improvement District (District), called the regular Board meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Mr. Jim Doyle, Ms. Letha Gardner, Mr. Sam Ray and Mr. Jim Tripp were present.

**Executive Session**

Mr. Jim Tripp moved that the Board of Directors hold an Executive Session. Mr. Sam Ray seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Board went into Executive Session at 5:33 p.m.

Executive Session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38.431.03 (A)(3), (consultation for legal advice with the attorney or attorneys of the District) and/or executive session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03 (A)(4), (to consider the Board's position and instruct its attorneys in pending or contemplated negotiations or litigation) regarding the following:

A. Litigation with the City of Tucson.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 5:56 p.m.

## **Regular Session**

### **I. Call To Order and Roll Call**

Ms. Marty Cramer, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Domestic Water Improvement District (District), called the regular Board meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Mr. Jim Doyle, Ms. Letha Gardner, Mr. Sam Ray and Mr. Jim Tripp were present.

### **II. Comments From The Public**

There was no comment from the public.

### **III. Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of Minutes -- January 13, 1997 Board Meeting.**
- B. Approval of Minutes -- February 3, 1997 Special Board Meeting.**
- C. Ratification of Billing Adjustments.**
- D. Ratification of Bill of Sale -- Highgate, Lots 1-41.**
- E. Ratification of Agreement for Mail Service.**

Mr. Tripp made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Ray seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **IV. General Business -- Items For Discussion and Possible Action**

#### **A. Litigation with the City of Tucson.**

There was no discussion or action regarding this item.

#### **B. Financial Report.**

Mr. Land distributed the completed budget summary to Board members. He explained that expenditures were under budget by \$500,000 because the District is not having to make debt service payments for Linda Vista Reservoir as originally planned. Capital expenditures were over budget for equipment purchased last year but received this year.

#### **C. Status of March 11, 1997 Special Bond Election.**

Mr. Stratton said the staff report provides the overview of the issue. The District will be posting an election notice in three public areas in each precinct. Staff has met the other legal issues required prior to the election, including all Spanish translations. The Pima County Division of Election has offered to provide passes if anyone wants to watch the tally of ballots on election night.

Ms. Cramer asked if interest exists for the election. Mr. Stratton said that there has been little interest; however, the support seems to be there. A survey conducted by the Bond Promotion Committee indicates a sizable support for the bond election. Ms. Cramer asked if the survey was of people that vote regularly. Mr. Stratton said yes. The Bond Promotion Committee is focusing on promoting the election with those voters most likely to vote. The Committee has raised almost two-thirds of its targeted donations. The Committee is focusing upon the two weeks prior to the election. Ms. Cramer asked if any public meetings have been planned. Mr. Stratton said none have been scheduled.

Mr. Ray reported that he had met with his neighborhood association. There were about 60 people at the meeting and they were favorable to his message about the bond election.

**D. Approval of Contract Amendment with Arizona Department of Water Resources on Lower Canada Del Oro Basin Groundwater Storage Monitoring Project.**

Mr. Tripp made the motion to approve the contract amendment No. AUGTU95-3-02 for the Lower Canada del Oro Basin Groundwater Monitoring Project with the Arizona Department of Water Resources. Ms. Gardner seconded the motion.

Ms. Cramer asked if only staff time was involved. Mr. Mike Block, District Hydrologist, answered that was correct. Staff will continue to do the monitoring. It is hoped that enough rain will be received to provide enough data so that the study does not have to be continued.

Ms. Cramer asked what the cost will be for the District. Mr. Block said \$15,000 for the final two quarters of the year. The US Geological Survey will match the monies with an additional \$15,000.

Ms. Cramer called for a vote for the motion to approve the contract amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

**E. Approval of Amendment to the Avra Valley Recharge Project Lease Agreement with Central Arizona Water Conservation District.**

Mr. Tripp made the motion to approve the amendment to the Avra Valley Recharge Project lease agreement between the Central Arizona Water Conservation District and Metropolitan Domestic Water Improvement District, contingent upon District legal counsel's approval of any remaining changes requested by the Central Arizona Water Conservation District. Mr. Ray seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Stratton noted that staff had reported today that more than 800 acre feet of water was recharged at Avra Valley Recharge Project in January 1997. A new facility permit will need to be applied for. Mr. Stratton emphasized that the project has done much better than anticipated. Mr. Block noted that the Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD) had notified him that a break in the canal at Red Rock will shut down the canal for a month.

**F. Approval of Change Orders No. 4 to the Contract with The Ashton Company, Inc. For Water Facility Upgrades at Magee & LaCholla Site.**

Mr. Tripp made the motion to approve Change Orders No. 4 to the contract with The Ashton Company, Inc. for the additional work required for the Facility Upgrades at the Magee and LaCholla site. Mr. Doyle seconded the motion.

Mr. Tripp noted that the site looked real good with the fence blending in with the overall environment. Mr. Ray asked what color had been used for the fence. Mr. Maish said the color was wild grasses.

Ms. Cramer called for a vote for the motion to approve Change Orders No. 4. The motion passed unanimously.

**G. Status of District Water Conservation Program.**

Mr. Warren Tenney reported that the District has been developing continually its conservation program since the summer of 1994. With the creation of the newsletter in 1994, the District had a means to provide information to customers about water conservation. In February 1995, the Board adopted a toilet rebate program. The program has shown that a household can save approximately 20 gallons a day by replacing their old toilet with an ultra low flush one. For example, the St. Johns Palms Apartments installed a low flow toilet in each of its 368 units. The average water usage for the past three months compared with the same months a year ago at the apartment complex showed a reduction of approximately 620,000 gallons a month. The month of January 1997 compared with January 1996 showed more than 1,000,000 gallons were saved. While other factors such as weather can contribute to a reduction in water usage, participation in the toilet rebate program has to be considered an important component.

Mr. Tenney explained that the Board of Directors adopted a new rate structure November 1995 that has a strong conservation component. Based on correspondence with customers on how to reduce water usage, the new rates have made people aware of their water consumption. The District has participated for three years now with the Southern Arizona Seniors Program. This program has senior volunteers conducting energy and water audits at the homes of senior citizens on fixed incomes. The District has provided the conservation devices for the water component of the audits. From participating in the program, the District learned that more water savings could actually be achieved from replacing aerators than the showerheads. The District then developed an aerator retrofit program. The District is providing to requesting customers a kitchen aerator and two bathroom aerators. To date, 1,500 requests have been made. If 25 percent of our customers participate, approximately 25 million gallons could be saved annually. Fifty percent participation may save 50 million gallons annually, which is comparable to two percent of the District's annual water consumption. Continual education is important for a successful conservation program. Additionally, the District has talked with Tucson Water about developing together a commercial audit program. The District is also exploring an association of water providers that would work together to provide information.

Ms. Cramer said she was impressed with the District's conservation efforts.

Mr. Ray asked if the toilet rebate program is still continuing. Mr. Tenney answered yes.

Mr. Stratton noted that the District's conservation efforts were also to comply with the Arizona Department of Water Resources' (ADWR) requirements to reduce the District's overall water consumption. With approximately 95 percent of our customers residential, it is difficult to reduce water consumption as some water providers can by targeting turf irrigation, commercial or industry. The District will continue to focus upon education. The District and other water providers are working with ADWR staff regarding the development of the Third Management Plan. Water providers are contending that the Third Management Plan needs to include incentives to use renewable water supplies because conservation alone will not reach safe-yield. Mr. Mark Myers noted that water providers in Phoenix Active Management Area are having similar concerns. ADWR has been actively pursuing conservation for 15 years and now some additional efforts need to be made.

Mr. Tenney said that the District has been striving to be proactive with its conservation program despite its standing with ADWR.

#### **H. Approval of Membership in Water Conservation Alliance.**

Mr. Tripp made the motion to approve the District working with other water providers to form an alliance or cooperative that will augment the District's water conservation program and improve the region's overall water conservation efforts with a formal contract to be brought before the Board of Directors for its approval. Mr. Ray seconded the motion.

Mr. Gary Woodard of the University of Arizona's Water Resources Research Center stated that the City of Tucson has had the capability of having an effective full service water conservation office due to the size of its water department. Most other water providers in the Tucson Active Management Area (TAMA) are much smaller and unable to dedicate a full staff to water conservation. However, those water providers overall constitute a large usage of water in the TAMA. These water providers could work together on conservation projects that would benefit each other. This would provide economies of scale as well as a means for sharing information and results from conservation projects. A professional person would staff the program so that the individual providers do not need their own conservation expert.

Ms. Cramer asked if the idea for a water alliance had been presented to others. Mr. Woodard said that he had spoken with others, but this was the first presentation to a governing board. Ms. Cramer asked if others appeared interested. Mr. Woodard said that he was pleasantly surprised by the enthusiasm that the idea has generated. Ms. Cramer asked if any large providers have expressed interest. Mr. Woodard said Pima County has expressed interest since water conservation can reduce the pressure on its wastewater treatment facility. Ms. Cramer noted that the District's cost for the alliance is projected at \$20,500. Mr. Woodard noted that the figure was

based on a calculation of taking a third for equal participation, a third for population, and a third for water use.

Mr. Stratton asked Mr. Woodard if the Town of Marana had been contacted since the Town was the newest municipal water provider. Mr. Woodard noted that he had initially contacted people from Metro Water District, the Town of Oro Valley, Community Water Company of Green Valley and Avra Valley Water Coop. Mr. Tenney has contacted the Town of Marana and the Town has expressed interest.

Ms. Cramer asked how the alliance would affect Mr. Tenney's time. Mr. Tenney said that after the alliance was established, his time on conservation would be reduced. The alliance would improve the District's overall conservation program, not replace it.

Ms. Cramer called for a vote for the motion for the District to participate in forming a conservation alliance. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **V. General Manager's Report**

Mr. Stratton reported that the reports from the divisions detailed the amount of work staff has been doing the past month.

Ms. Cramer asked for more information about the office site status. Mr. Stratton said that Mr. Charles Huckelberry, County Administrator, had indicated that Pima County is planning to auction the surplus property that the District is interested in. However, the previous owner has threatened a possible lawsuit if the County does not use the overall property, which is larger than the portion the District wants, for the purpose that it was donated. The office site property would actually be a trail head to the linear park and to a children's park, which would be within the context of what it was donated for. If the former property owner files a lawsuit, it will lengthen when the District can acquire the site. The District may need to consider if it wants to explore alternative sites or delay the construction of the office.

#### **VI. Legal Counsel's Report**

Mr. McNulty reported that he had no additional issues to discuss.

#### **VII. Future Meeting Dates; Future Agenda Items**

The next regular Board meeting is March 10, 1997.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

The Board adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

  
Martha L. Cramer, Chair 3/10/97

ATTEST:

  
Clerk of the Board