

Indian Creek-Westridge Community Services District Board Meeting
February 11, 2025
Northern Inyo Hospital Ancillary Building, 2957 Birch, Bishop, CA

The meeting was called to order at 5:58 p.m. by Board Chairperson Casey Dean. Present were Directors Randy Gillespie, Sarah Petersen, Robert “Muddy” Waters; District Manager Terry Tye; District Operators Don Buser and Kim Derr; District residents Dean Lewis, Bill McMullin; Paradise Mutual Water Company member Chris Hrabak.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the November 12, 2024 meeting were approved unanimously (moved Gillespie, seconded Petersen).

Operations and Maintenance Report: Mr. Derr reported the following. Mr. Tye attended a public meeting conducted by a representative of California Senator Alvarado-Gil. He later met with Senator Alvarado-Gil. Both times he requested an exemption of the water meter mandate for small rural districts. Mr. Derr corrected a problem with a hydrant on Meadow Street. The alteration may have been done by a county sweeper. Mr. Tye asked Mr. Derr to remind the county that it cannot use the hydrants without District permission. Annual water samples were collected and sent to the State. Most results were “non-detect.” A couple were over the reportable limit but not significantly. Sutton Tree Service inspected and trimmed trees. A major pit burn was done.

Finance Report--Quarterly: Mr. Tye presented the report. The balance in the bank stands at \$752,480, including an O & M total of \$345,978 and Capital Funds of \$406,502.

Mr. Tye reviewed O & M expenses.

Mr. Tye summarized the work done so far that would have been covered by the grant that was ultimately not approved. This included work on hydrants, which is done, and work on isolation valves. There are plans to work on a main between Morningside Drive and Laurel Street. The cost of one tie-in is \$190,000.

2024 Pumping Totals: These were included in the meeting agenda packet.

Response from SWRCB to October 24, 2024 Letter from T. Tye Regarding Rejection of Rate Increase and Request for Guidance on Meter Mandate: Mr. Tye reached Sean McCarthy after several attempts. Mr. McCarthy said he will be unable to address this topic until May because he is handling water system problems in Los Angeles that were created by the recent fires.

Cross Connection Control Plan Development (Revision of Schedule by Contractor Corbin Swafford): Mr. Tye reported that he is working with Mr. Swafford, who has been contracted for \$6,000. Mr. Tye read Mr. Swafford’s progress report. There was a good response rate to the cross connection questionnaire the District sent to its customers. A draft of the plan is scheduled to be completed by April 15. It will be presented to the board at the May meeting. If it is approved, there will be a physical

inspection of each property. If a problem is found, the property owner will be responsible for correcting it. Otherwise, the District will do the work and bill the property owner. Ms. Petersen asked about Fourth Amendment rights regarding District representatives going on people's property. Mr. Tye explained that this is allowed according to a District ordinance. Mr. Dean asked about anti-syphon valves for sprinkler systems. Mr. Swafford and Mr. Tye will look into this. Mr. Tye addressed Mr. Waters' question about water pressure problems.

Board of Directors Election of Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer: Mr. Tye explained that it is important to have elected officers, and the District would gain more credibility if it has a more formal Board structure. Mr. Dean agreed, explaining the value of having someone to conduct meetings if the Chair is unable to attend. Mr. Tye distributed a letter from Board member Ted Williams, who was not present, with his suggestions for the three positions.

Ms. Petersen nominated Mr. Dean for the Chair position. Mr. Gillespie seconded. All approved.

Mr. Dean nominated Ms. Petersen for the Vice Chair position. Mr. Gillespie seconded. All approved.

Mr. Dean nominated Mr. Gillespie for the Treasurer position. Ms. Petersen seconded. All approved.

There was a discussion about the term of the three positions.

A motion that new officers will serve for four years, starting at the adjournment of this meeting, was approved unanimously (moved Petersen, seconded Gillespie).

Update on Meeting with Senator Alvarado-Gil Regarding Meter Mandate, Appeal to Amend

SB552: Mr. Tye reported that he attended a public meeting with a representative from Senator Alvarado-Gil's office. At a later date, he met personally with the Senator. She asked him to prepare a summary of our District's system and the request for an exemption from the meter mandate. The summary requests an exemption for districts with less than 1,000 connections. Senator Alvarado-Gil's office asked if this could be amended to districts with less than 500 connections (ICWCSD has 298). The Senator's staff is creating language for the amendment, which will be presented in mid-February.

Mr. Tye reviewed some of the language in SB552, including the section about the State being responsible for payment to fulfill the meter mandate.

Mr. Tye mentioned that the State wants water systems to consolidate. Sierra Highlands CSD has been leaning toward consolidating with the City of Bishop, at an estimated cost of \$24 million. Mr. Tye asked Sierra Highlands' general manager Fred Finkbeiner if they might be interested in consolidating with our district. They are, so this will be a topic for discussion at our May meeting.

Presentation on the District Project to Create a Database of all District Documents, Including Maps, Paper Files, and Electronic Communications. This project started approximately three years ago to establish and maintain in perpetuity a complete electronic record of all District records for future

operators and management. Dean Lewis, IT Specialist, set up the system. Joe Almeida began the long process of scanning each document. When he left the area, Linda Bull continued to do this. Mr. Tye and Mr. Lewis commended Ms. Bull for the fine job she is doing on the massive task. New documents will continually be added.

Mr. Lewis gave a visual presentation of how to use the system. He agrees that this is an important step that will benefit the District in the future.

Chris Hrabak suggested adding videos on how each process is done.

Mr. Gillespie asked about board member Ted Williams' term on the board. Mr. Tye stated that Mr. Williams will probably be present for the last time in May. Mr. Tye said that there are two potential candidates to fill Mr. Williams' position. Mr. Gillespie suggested asking district resident Bill McMullin if he is interested in applying for the position.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.
Minutes submitted by Stephanie Sheltz