

Indian Creek-Westridge Community Services District Board Meeting
November 12, 2024
Christian Science Church, West Line Street and Grandview Drive, Bishop, CA

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Board Chairperson Luis Elias. Present were Directors Casey Dean, Dave Mappus, Sarah Petersen; District Manager Terry Tye; District Operators Kim Derr and Don Buser; District residents Linda Bull, Susan and Randy Gillespie, Tiffany Lau, Dean Lewis, Bill McMullin, Gretchen Schumacher, Robert “Muddy” Waters.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the August 13, 2024 meeting and October 23, 2024 hearing were approved unanimously (moved Mappus, seconded Dean).

Operations and Maintenance Report: The following are some of the activities Mr. Derr reported. Assisted back flow specialist in completing inspections, which passed. Responded to a call about a water leak in front of a house; the house has a private well, so it is not District responsibility. Mr. Derr and Mr. Buser replaced a service valve on Indian Creek Drive. Noticed low pressure yellow strobe light was on at Well 5. Nothing seemed amiss. It turned out to be a malfunctioning Sensaphone, so Mr. Tye contacted Frontier. Attended public hearing about the District’s proposed rate increase. Responded to a structure fire; fire department was on the scene. Worked with Mr. Tye on purchase of extended warranty from Quinn Cat for Well 5 backup generator.

Finance Report--Quarterly, Revised Annual 2024-2025 Budget, Recap of Public Hearing: Mr. Tye presented the report. The balance in the bank stands at \$771,469, including an O & M total of \$381,380 and Capital Funds of \$390,089.

Mr. Tye explained the revised budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Increases for staff salaries, which had been below the market rate, are sustainable for now. A rate increase may be necessary in about two years due to cost-of-living increases.

Mr. Tye reported that at the October 23, 2024 public hearing it was announced that 221 out of 298 District customers voted against the proposed rate increase. Since this was more than 51% of votes, the proposal was not approved.

Letter to State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Informing Them of Public Hearing and Request for Advice on Meter Mandate: The day after the public hearing Mr. Tye sent the required letter about the hearing and its result to the State Water Resources Control Board. SWRCB stated that grants for meter installation will not be available until at least 2026. Loans are available but they would require repayment, which would lead to a rate increase.

Cross Connection Control Plan: Mr. Tye presented information about a new SWRCB mandate for a cross connection plan. The District hired Corbin Swafford, a cross connection specialist and device inspector, who will be paid \$6,000 to implement a plan, conduct a hazard assessment survey, and submit a plan to SWRCB by the due date of July 1, 2025. He and Mr. Tye will work together on this. Part of the process will be to go to each home to look for potential hazards. There is no deadline to fix problems but the District will take care of them and bill the respective customers. Each of those would have to be inspected annually. Mr. Mappus explained the inspection process he was involved in when he worked for the City of Bishop. There was a discussion about how to handle inspections.

Mr. Tye summarized the cross connection policy the District implemented in 2009. It includes a lengthy section of requirements and expectations. Currently there are six connections the District inspects annually.

Announcement of Retirement of Directors Elias and Mappus. Swearing in of New Members. Appointment of Board Chair and Representative on Owens Valley Groundwater Authority. Mr. Elias and Mr. Mappus stated that they are not seeking reelection. They will serve until their term expires on December 6, 2024. Mr. Tye explained that their appointed replacements, Mr. Gillespie and Mr. Waters, will be able to start voting after December 6, 2024. Ms. Petersen and Mr. Dean are seeking reelection unopposed.

Mr. Elias asked for a volunteer to serve as interim board chair until February, 2025 when the new board members can select a chair. Mr. Dean agreed to serve as interim board chair until February, 2025.

Mr. Tye explained that Mr. Elias and Mr. Williams have been representing the District on the OVGA. He suggested that Ms. Petersen replace Mr. Elias due to her vast knowledge about water-related topics. Mr. Elias agreed. Ms. Petersen accepted and was appointed.

Mr. Tye explained that Mr. Elias is one of three checkbook signatories. He is stepping down from the board, so someone has to replace him. Mr. Dean volunteered to do this.

Mr. Dean's appointment as interim board chair until February of 2025, Ms. Petersen's appointment as District OVGA representative, and Mr. Dean's appointment as check signatory were approved unanimously (moved Mappus, seconded Dean).

Mr. Tye swore in Mr. Dean, Mr. Gillespie, Ms. Petersen, and Mr. Waters. Each signed the oath.

Mr. Mappus said he has served for 28 years. He has seen many improvements since he joined the board. He said that board members have a big responsibility and thanked the new members for stepping up.

Mr. Elias agreed with Mr. Mappus's comments. He welcomed the new board members and said that Mr. Tye is dedicated and conscientious.

Mr. Tye presented a token of appreciation to Mr. Elias and Mr. Mappus.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.
Minutes submitted by Stephanie Sheltz