

**SEAL ROCK WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE
Regular Board Meeting & Rate Hearing & Budget Hearing
by Zoom Conference Call and In Person
May 9, 2024**

Introduction to Remote Meeting:

SRWD held this meeting through Zoom video conferencing. Due to the limited capacity for in-person meetings, the public was encouraged to attend the meeting electronically.

Present:

Commissioner Karen Otta was present at the Zoom video conferencing. Present in person in the board room were Commissioner Rob Mills, Board President; Commissioner Paul Highfill, Member, Commissioner Glen Morris, Member; and Attorney Jeff Hollen, Legal Counsel. Staff: Adam Denlinger, General Manager; Joy King-Cortes, Office/Finance Manager; Trish Karlsen, Bookkeeper; and Brad Wynn, Lead Operator.

Excused Absences: Commissioner Sandra Mies-Grantham

Call Regular Meeting to Order:

President Rob Mills called the regular board meeting to order 4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 9, 2024, and introduced the commissioners and staff present in the board room. No member of the public was in attendance in person. Present on Zoom was John French.

Announcements/Public Comments:

President Rob Mills asked if there were any announcements. Commissioner Paul Highfill had no announcement; Commissioner Karen Otta had no announcement; Commissioner Glen Morris had no announcement; General Manager, Adam Denlinger had no announcement; Joy King-Cortes, Office/Finance Manager had no announcement; Trish Karlsen, Bookkeeper had no announcement; Attorney Jeff Hollen had no announcement; Brad Wynn, Lead Operator had no announcement; and President Rob Mills had no announcement.

Public Comments:

President Rob Mills asked John French who attended through Zoom if he had a comment and he responded that he had no comment.

Consent Calendar:

Items on the consent calendar are the April/May 2024 Invoices List for approval; the April 11, 2024, Regular Board Meeting minutes; the April 18, 2024, Budget Committee Meeting minutes; the April/May 2024 Financial Report; USDA Project Monitoring Report No. 44; and the General Manager's Monthly Report. President Rob Mills asked if each commissioner reviewed the consent calendar items. Commissioner Glen Morris answered YES; Commissioner Paul Highfill answered YES; Commissioner Karen Otta answered YES. Commissioner Glen Morris motioned to approve the consent calendar. Commissioner Paul Highfill seconded the motion. The motion passed with 4 YES votes and 0 NO votes.

Discussion and Information Items:

Juneteenth (June 19):

The GM, Adam Denlinger presented to the board the subject of Juneteenth for discussion and consideration as a paid district holiday. Juneteenth commemorates the abolition of slavery in the United States, signifying a pivotal moment in American history. Both the federal and the state offices honor the significance of this historical event. President Joe Biden solidified this recognition by signing the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law in 2021. The Oregon State Legislative Assembly adopted Senate Joint Resolution 31 in 2001, to declare observance of "Juneteenth, June 19 of each year, to be a day for celebration statewide of the dignity and freedom of all citizens." The Oregon State Senate unanimously passed House Bill 2168 on June 1, 2021, officially designating Juneteenth as a State holiday. Juneteenth highlights the importance of recognizing and honoring its historical and cultural significance within our community. Taking steps to include Juneteenth as a paid holiday requires Board action. To gather insights into how other municipalities handle this holiday, our staff reached out to neighboring communities. Our research indicates that many other municipalities will be observing Juneteenth as a paid holiday. Commissioner Karen Otta motioned to recognize Juneteenth (June 19) as an official paid District Holiday. Commissioner Paul Highfill seconded the motion. The motion passed with 4 Yes votes and 0 No votes.

Decision Items:

Amendment No. 6:

Jacobs Engineering submitted Amendment No. 6 of EJCDC Owner-Engineer Agreement in the amount of \$48,550. Project continues to extend past the original contract final completion requiring engineering and project management time.

66 Services also include support and coordination with WesTech. It also includes allowance up to the revised contracted
67 amount for owner directed activities for arbitration, SCADA, and integration support to transition to the integrator of record
68 and on all engineering support to operations and maintenance. Atty. Jeff Hollen reported that the meeting he and Adam
69 attended with Jacobs Engineering this morning was good and feels there is now a collaborative effort to prepare for
70 arbitration. Commissioner Karen Otta motioned to approve Amendment No. 6 of the EJCDC Owner-Engineer Agreement.
71 Commissioner Glen Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed with 4 YES votes and 0 NO votes.
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73 **Public Hearing:**

74 President Rob Mills opened a public hearing in accordance with ORS Chapter 264.312 to receive public testimony
75 regarding the water rate adjustment for FY 2024- 2025. John French, a member of the public attending through Zoom
76 commented that the 3.5% rate increase is fair compared to other service providers that have a 7% rate increase. The
77 office received emails from three customers, Michelle Mease, Gary Dawson, and Amanda Remund as public comments.
78 The GM, Adam Denlinger responded to these emails. There was a discussion of the email from the owner of Waldport
79 KOA who commented that her water bill went up 50% comparing the water usage from August 2022 and August 2023
80 with 171,213 gallons water usage. Office staff explained that the 2022 commercial water rate for water usage from 20,000
81 gallons and above was \$15 per 1,000 gallons. This volume of water charges has never been adjusted. The water rate
82 adjustment in 2023 adjusted the volume of water usage range for commercial water usage of over 17,000 to 49,999 to a
83 higher rate of \$25.25 per 1,000 gallons. The water rate adjustment in 2023 also adjusted the volume of usage range for
84 commercial water usage of 50,000 gallons and above to a higher rate of \$29.00 per 1,000 gallons. These adjustments
85 were needed to bring the commercial rate where it should be. The 121,214 (171,213-50,000) above the 50,000 gallons
86 water usage was charged the higher rate in August 2023. The effect of the proposed FY 2024-25 water rate adjustment
87 will increase the monthly bill by an average of 3.5%. Using the 171,213 gallons commercial usage will increase the bill by
88 \$92 or 1.93%. President Rob Mills closed the Rate Hearing at 4:30 p.m.
89 President Rob Mills opened a public hearing in accordance with ORS Chapters 294.453 and 294.456, to receive public
90 testimony regarding the SRWD proposed FY 2024 - 2025 Budget, approved by the SRWD Citizen Member Budget
91 Committee on April 18, 2024. Staff had no recommended change to the approved budget. There was no public comment
92 or testimony received in writing. John French, a member of the public who attended through Zoom had no comment.
93 President Rob Mills closed the public hearing at 4:31 p.m.
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95 **Reports, Comments, Correspondence:**

96 The district is recruiting to fill the vacancies for two field operators that have been advertised.
97 Commissioner Glen Morris commented that he and his wife accompanied a former commissioner, Daryl Eldridge, and his
98 wife on a tour of the Water Treatment Plant (WTP). He expressed that Adam Denlinger, GM, and the water operators did
99 a good job in handling the tour. The visitors were impressed with how the WTP looks and how it works.
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101 **Executive Session:** None

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103 Atty. Jeff Hollen reported that he has a meeting on May 22, through Zoom with the arbitrator and the opposing lawyer.
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106 **Adjournment:** Commissioner Glen Morris motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Paul Highfill seconded the
107 motion. President Rob Mills adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.
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110 **Next Board Meeting:** June 13, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. Regular Board Meeting.
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Approved by Board President

Date: