

APPROVED
Board of Directors
Wynola Water District and
Wynola Estates Fire Safe Council
January 13, 2024, 9:05 a.m.
22135 CA – 79 Santa Ysabel CA 92070

- 1. Call to Order: 9:00 a.m.**
- 2. Roll Call of Board of Directors:**
 - **Jim Madaffer, President-present**
 - **Ron Placa, Vice President-present**
 - **Brenden Kelso, Treasurer-present**
 - **Sandie McCann-present**
 - **Steve Kincaid, present**
- 3. Additions to the Agenda-none**
- 4. Approval of meeting minutes of December 9, 2023.**
 - i. Motion from Kincaid and second from Madaffer to approve minutes.**
5 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Absent
- 5. Public Comment – Opportunity for members of the public to address the Board on matters within the Board’s jurisdiction. People addressing the Board are requested to state their name and address for the record. None**
- 6. Treasurer’s Report: Brenden Kelso**
 - i. Total balances for all WWD banking, savings, and CD accounts:**
\$559,935.00
 - ii. Karen Kincaid needs to call Chase Bank to arrange a meeting with the signers to come down and open a CD account.**
- 7. Office Manager’s Report: Karen Kincaid**
 - i. The WWD mailbox in front of Kincaid’s driveway at 4824 Mountainbrook Rd is being used for paying checks and dropping off permission slips for the fire safety program.**
 - ii. The Bischoff’s house at 1634 Oak Forest Rd is now in Escrow.**
 - iii. The EFT document for Apportionment Taxes that are deposited into Wells Fargo Bank has been sent to the County. WWD is requesting the funds be deposited to Chase Bank, as we are closing the Wells Fargo account. The County needed more documents, which were mailed out on January 9, 2024.**
 - iv. Three lots on Riverwood (78, 79, 80) were purchased by Craig Faulkner.**
 - v. The vacant lot on the corner of Mountainbrook and Riverwood was gifted to the National Black Contractors Foundation of America.**

8. Old Business

a) Report by Board President Jim Madaffer (this will include the actions taken to date since the last board meeting on December 9, 2023).

- i. The president of the Pine Hills Mutual Water Company, Mike Madigan, visited our water district meeting. The difference between the WWD and Pine Hills is that Wynola Water is a state agency that must adhere to government rules and regulations. Pine Hills is a private entity that has approximately 280 lots.**
- ii. Madaffer shared pictures of the dirty water that is coming out of the wells in Wynola Estates. The water quality is not good, which leads the WWD board into researching a water treatment system.**
- iii. Our current water storage tanks hold a total capacity of 110,000 gallons of water storage. Cal Fire would prefer that our storage tanks hold 350,000 gallons.**
- iv. WWD has capped four wells #1, 2, 6, and 8 that were nonproducing. It is a state mandate that the wells be capped so that no impurities get into the aquifer.**
- v. WWD has five working wells online currently.**
- vi. The water mains that deliver the water to the residents are over 50 years old and are made of concrete and asbestos. The life span is usually 50 years.**
- vii. The WWD is interested in having more water storage and will need to replace the one aging tank. The new tank will carry 200,000 gallons and will be located on an easement on the Lopez property next to the pumphouse.**
- viii. The area where the old tank is located will be removed and a water treatment system will be built in its place.**

b) Report by WWD Water Operator: Buddy Seifert

- i. As of January 1, 2024, there are new iron and manganese levels the State is requiring for drinking water. WWD is currently above the legal limits. This is another reason why a water treatment system is needed.**
- ii. All wells are currently tested monthly for these contaminants.**
- iii. We received a Compliance Order Violation for the manganese levels in our water which dropped us to an "F" rating.**
- iv. The Mission Scada system that we installed two years ago allows our water operator to monitor the capacity of water that we have and if a well is not pumping.**
- v. Because of the water quality, Buddy thinks we are going to have to start flushing more frequently. The problem with flushing more is the amount of water it wastes 20-40,000 gallons of water.**

- vi. The meters came in last Tuesday and Buddy and Rodney will be replacing them for residents that have the old meters.
- vii. We have asbestos pipes, but all the gunk that runs through the pipes has coated them so that the asbestos is not leaching through into our drinking water.
- viii. A question was asked how our water level is doing in the wells. According to our Mission SCADA system, our well water levels are in good shape.

c) Management Representation Audit Letter

- i. The audit for the Wynola Water District is complete. The auditors stated no problems were found, and everything is clear and accounted for. All finances and reserves are doing well. A motion by McCann and seconded by Placa to approve the Management Representation Audit Letter. Motion was approved. 5 Ayes, 0 Noes, 0 Absent.

9. New Business:

- a) Adan Ortega, Jr. is the chair of the Metropolitan Water District, which is the largest agency in the United States. Adan is the principal of Ortega Strategies Group. He has worked in government relations for 30 years and has helped lead efforts to bring technical assistance to small community water systems in disadvantaged communities around California.
 - i. Ortega created the California Association of Mutual Water Companies Joint Power Risk Insurance Management Authority. The smaller water companies didn't have the connections needed or money to adhere to the laws or purchase insurance. By joining the CAMWCJPRIMA, large companies now have the ability to help legislate and help the smaller water companies with insurance prices and legislation that benefits both small and large water companies. This agency has over 500 small systems in California. They help with insurance needs more than ACWA. The County Water Authority buys their insurance from the CAMWCJPRIMA.
 - ii. His group also runs the Community Water Systems Alliance which represents systems that mostly represent disadvantaged water communities. Basically, it is large water systems helping smaller water systems.
 - iii. If the WWD joins this alliance, we will have many benefits available to help our district. Classes and training at reduced discounts are just a few benefits available.
 - iv. Adan is finding that State grants are not available at this time because of the State's deficit.

- v. To install a water treatment system that would meet WWD needs would cost in the range of \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. The operating cost per year would be approximately \$40,000.
- vi. Adan explained that obtaining a grant for this treatment system would possibly take years to go through the State of California's rules and regulations. Having money in the bank does not look good for a grant because we have no debt. Grants can take up to seven years and the cost of the system would double from what they are today.
- vii. The WWD will probably need to apply for a loan to pay for the treatment system.
- viii. Adan's suggested that we hire a company to draw the plans first. Second, we would need to hire a person that would help us shop for loans, do an initial study of what is needed to treat the water, and hire an engineer at approximately \$300 an hour. There are many avenues with the USDA that could be looked into on getting grants or loans and how we could fit their criteria.
- ix. A collective plan should be put together on what treatment we want, size of the structure, fire concerns because of the zone we are in, and submit that information to the various loans and grants that are available.

b) Presentation by Ria Banerjee, Founder and CEO, We Think Global, Inc. She will discuss the treatment systems that her company sells.

- i. The WWD wells currently produce between 6,500 to 7,000 gallons per hour.
- ii. The ENVIRO is a patented physio-chemical clarification system that has superior turbidity and heavy metal removal capabilities. It is a single mobile unit with customized throughput. The ENVIRO can be combined with ECUBE, STP and other proprietary technologies to meet customer needs.
- iii. Helps in cleaning polluted lakes, ponds, small rivers, channels, and industrial water basins.
- iv. Helps in cleaning/dewater any type of sludge / sediment.
- v. Enviro process eliminates the costly need for items such as multiple transfer pumps, settling or holding tanks, or sand filters. Its compact design makes mobilization easier and less costly.
- vi. wtgclimatetech.com/water-and-environmental-technologies/
- vii. <https://waterneer.com/clariflocculator-manufacturer-in-india/>
- viii. The Enviro treatment system would be placed where the small tank currently resides.
- ix. The Enviro treatment systems last about 25-30 years.

- x. Operating costs would be 50 cents to 80 cents per 1000 gallons.
- xi. The cost for this system would be approximately \$650,000 to below \$1,000,000.
- xii. Adding a tank and storage would cost approximately \$1.2 million
- xiii. Jim would be in favor of putting solar on the other tanks that would lessen the electricity operating costs.
- xiv. If rates had to increase for a treatment system, it could be done by raising the water rates or through the property tax revenues, which would be done via a Proposition 218 vote.
- xv. A distribution system (new pipelines) would be an extra cost. We might be able to apply for a grant for this part of the project.

10. Meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Meeting of the Wynola Estates Fire Safe Council has been deferred until our February 10, 2024, meeting.

Next Meeting: February 10, 2024, 9 a.m. (2nd Saturday of every month) @ Santa Ysabel Nature Center.