

Tualatin Valley Water District



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
1850 SW 170TH AVENUE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 17, 2010

Present: Commissioners: Richard Burke, Jim Doane, Jim Duggan, Marilyn McWilliams, Dick Schmidt

Management

Staff: Greg DiLoreto, Patty Rupp, Clark Balfour, Todd Heidgerken, Mark Knudson, Brenda Lennox, Dale Fishback

Staff: Jim Ure, Tina Alexander, Dean Fritzke

Public: Kathy Newcomb, Citizens for Safe Water

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, the words “Motion carried” mean the action of the Board of Commissioners was unanimous.

President Burke called the Regular meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

REPORTS BY GENERAL MANAGER AND MANAGEMENT STAFF

General Manager DiLoreto provided a progress report with respect to the Tualatin Basin Water Supply Project (TBWSP). The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) has completed their Dam Assessment Study and will be holding an internal meeting to release the results. The TBWSP partners have been invited to attend on February 25. Depending upon the findings, the BOR would begin immediately on the Corrective Action Study.

General Manager DiLoreto reported that the Solar Cells have been placed on the warehouse roof, and are producing electricity at approximately 10% of the District’s power needs. Once the dewatering facility is complete, this should increase to 20%.

There will not be a Board Work Session in March however, there may be a Work Session in April.

General Manager DiLoreto provided an update in terms of the customer who came to the TVWD office and displayed a weapon in his custody. The customer is now on an immigration hold. A letter has been delivered to the customer that states that he may no longer come onto TVWD property.

Jim Ure, TVWD’s Informational Technology Officer provided the department report for the Finance Department. (See handout attached).

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED AND COMMISSIONER TOPICS

A report was given by each Commissioner of the meetings they attended during the month.

Commissioner Doane raised a topic for consideration. He asked for an estimate of time and resources that District staff has spent responding to customers comments and requests. General Manager DiLoreto explained the adopted procedure to follow when topics are raised by Commissioners. A memo would be presented to Commissioner Doane and the Board. From that point, the Board would decide if the topic had been researched thoroughly or if additional communication should take place.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Kathy Newcomb – 17515 Cheyenne Way, Tualatin, OR, representing Citizens for Safe Water
Mrs. Newcomb mentioned that she planned to write what she spoke of at this meeting as a refresher with additional detail for the Board and that she would send it in before the next Board meeting. Mrs. Newcomb expressed concern with the January TVWD Board meeting cable broadcast in relation to a comment made by a Board member describing the Willamette Treatment Plant (WTP) as state of the art. She said that the comment was a kind of “puffery” that had been used for some time. She said that she had visited the WTP several times in order to gather information. Ms. Newcomb described her findings from other water treatment plants in other states that also use granular activated carbon and mentioned the use of ozone treatment. Mrs. Newcomb spoke of complaints and problems with Coffey Laboratories. She recommended that TVWD remove water quality test results, and comparisons between Bull Run water quality and that of the WTP from the TVWD website, as this may not be accurate. Mrs. Newcomb spoke of intersex fish or feminized fish that are yet to be studied in the Willamette River. She indicated that this is a priority for the Environmental Protection Agency as well as the US Geological Studies.

As suggested by Commissioner Schmidt and seeing no objections of the Board, President Burke granted Mrs. Newcomb one additional minute to conclude.

Mrs. Newcomb encouraged the Board to stop lawn watering or reducing it to a very tiny amount in terms of future conservation. She stated that one of the highest costs for TVWD customers is heavy lawn watering in the summer.

Commissioner Schmidt asked Mr. Fritzke, Water Quality Coordinator for the name of the lab that TVWD currently uses for water testing. Mr. Fritzke replied that the District currently uses Alexin Analytical Laboratories. Mr. Fritzke stated that a Board member, no longer on the Board, had recommended using Coffey Labs at the request of Citizens for Safe Water that TVWD test the water quality of the Willamette River at a time when water from the Wilsonville Water Treatment Plant (WTP) was being considered as an alternative source for the District. Commissioner Schmidt pointed out that once the state had decertified Coffey Labs, the company was bought and currently operated under a different name.

Commissioner Duggan pointed out that at the candidates forum last year, Mrs. Newcomb had discredited Coffey Labs and that he now finds it ironic that Mrs. Newcomb is asking for the information to be removed from the website. He clarified for Mrs. Newcomb the history behind the testing of the Willamette River. Commissioner Duggan pointed out to Mrs. Newcomb that during the time that Commissioner’s Gordon Martin and Lisa Melyan (both members of Citizens for Safe Water)

were elected in 2001 to the TVWD Board, the two, along with Dr. Scott, demanded that TVWD test the raw water quality of the Willamette River. Commissioner Martin and Dr. Scott insisted on using Coffey Labs to conduct the testing, at which time the lab was certified. They specified that they did not want the District to use any consulting firms that were affiliated with the WTP. Commissioner Martin was aboard the boat when the testing took place, and actually observed the testing procedures in the lab. He pointed out that this cost was paid for by the District's ratepayers.

President Burke voiced that he did not want a debate to take place. Commissioner Duggan agreed.

Commissioner Doane indicated that a number of issues had been raised. He asked that staff come back to the March 17 Board meeting and address the facts of summer to winter water ratios, and also address the issues raised by Mrs. Newcomb.

General Manager DiLoreto commented that the water quality testing data on the TVWD website is current data, and not that of Coffey Labs. Commissioner McWilliams added that this information is also available on the Willamette River Water Coalition's website.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Duggan and seconded by Commissioner Doane to approve the consent agenda consisting of the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2010. The motion carried.

BACKFLOW PROGRAM UPDATE (Power Point Slides Attached for Greater Detail)

Mr. Fritzke provided the PowerPoint presentation on the topic. On April 15, 2009, the Board of Commissioners approved a new backflow testing fee structure that includes two options for backflow device testing of residential backflow devices, the Silver Plan and the Gold Plan. He described the program as very successful.

Mr. Fritzke covered the following material:

- Rules and Requirements under OAR Chapter 333-061-0070
- TVWD Ordinance No. 1-96
- TVWD Written Program
- Overall Program Compliance (graph pg. 2)
- Backflow Compliance Rates 2005-2009 (graph pg. 3)
- 2009 Program Contract Tester Pool
- 2009 Program Silver Plan
- 2009 Program Gold Plan
- 2009 Gold/Silver Plan Successes
- 2009 Compliance by Class Code
- Observations Based on 2009 Results

- Future Goals:
 - Include Irrigation only accounts
 - Keep overall program revenue neutral with sufficient buffer to cover repair costs
 - Maintain consistent pricing for several years
 - Evaluate option for testers entering data directly
 - Include all class codes in the program
 - Provide online sign-up for customers to "opt in"
 - Provide e-mail notification to customers

In closing, Mr. Fritzke explained that there have been significant improvements in backflow testing compliance over the last two years. The Gold and Silver program have significantly improved customer service and reduced impacts to TVWD staff. Opportunities exist to further enhance the Backflow Program through improved compliance in non-residential classes by expanding the Gold and Silver Plans. In addition, direct data entry by contract testers, and email notification to customers to keep it sustainable.

Mr. Fritzke answered general questions of the Board including the integrity of contracted testers and customer shut-off fees for noncompliance. He explained that the testers know we are watching carefully.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Schmidt and seconded by Commissioner McWilliams to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:58 p.m. The motion carried.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUALATIN VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

BY _____ BY _____
Richard Burke, President Marilyn McWilliams, Secretary

Date Approved: March 17, 2010