

Tualatin Valley Water District



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
1850 SW 170th AVENUE
AUGUST 25, 2011
REGULAR MEETING

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

Management

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

Staff: Judi Tonks

Public: Lara Haehle, Dr. Bill Osmunson, Tim Erwert and Dan Rutzick with the City of Hillsboro

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

President Schmidt called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

REPORTS BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND MANAGEMENT STAFF

CEO, DiLoreto provided an update to the Board on the Tualatin Basin Water Supply Project. He reported that the Bureau of Reclamation completed the dam assessment study and initiated the corrective action alternative study. Tualatin Valley Water District (TVWD) staff is leading the efforts on the analysis of the pump station, and the intake, and a preferred alternative has been narrowed down. All information being gathered will be presented at a decision analysis workshop.

CEO, DiLoreto noted that he, Chief Engineer, Mark Knudson, and Manager of Office of Community Intergovernmental Relations (OCIR) Todd Heidgerken had recently met with City of Hillsboro staff and discussed Hillsboro’s water supply alternative study.

There next Work Session is scheduled for Tuesday, September 6 at 6 p.m.

CEO, DiLoreto reported that the recruiting process for a Human Resources Manager and a Chief Financial Officer is underway and will close on September 15. The goal is to hire replacements by early November.

Departmental Report:

Manager of Field Operations, Dale Fishback, provided the department report.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED AND COMMISSIONER TOPICS

A report was given by each Board member of meetings they attended for the month.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Lara Haehle, 1617 SW 173rd Ter., Beaverton, Oregon

Ms. Haehle came before the Board with concerns regarding fluoridation. She stated she moved to the District in 2010 and was concerned to learn that TVWD fluoridates the water. Ms. Haehle explained she had read published reports on the dangers of ingesting fluoride. She indicated that one article she had read stated that the Food and Drug Administration only approves fluoride for topical use. Ms. Haehle indicated she has also read that the American Medical Association recommends children not drink fluoridated water. She explained that her research showed a referendum in 1963 that was voted in by constituents of the Wolf Creek Highway District. She stated that she feels it should be a customer's personal choice, as opposed to mandatory fluoridation. Ms. Haehle suggested the Board look at the following website for further information regarding fluoride: www.fluoridealert.org.

Dr. Bill Osmunson, 17720 Jean Way #200, Lake Oswego, Oregon

Dr. Osmunson explained he has a Masters in Public Health and has been in dentistry for 33 years. He explained that he promoted water fluoridation for the first 25 years as a dentist. He presented a document with two requests for the Board. He explained that he would like TVWD to send out warning notices to customers regarding the dangers of fluoride ingestion. His second request was to have the opportunity to provide a presentation on fluoridation to the Board at a future meeting. Dr. Osmunson indicated his research found an article that said the Center for Disease Control recommends that fluoridated water should not be given to infants. Another article indicated that the American Academy of Pediatrics has said that mother's milk is the normative value against which all other forms of nutrition for an infant should be judged. He presented a hand drawn graph that depicted findings from 1930 to 1990 showing the increasing ratio of cavities of a 12-year-old child when fluoride was added to water sources. Another graph showed fluoride's activity on the brain and neurologic damage. Dr. Osmunson concluded his testimony noting that his findings show an 8 point drop in IQ in participants with a higher fluoride in blood serum than those with a lower fluoride in blood serum.

Board discussion:

Mr. Knudson explained that fluoride added to TVWD water is .7 parts per million (ppm) and is tested and accredited by the National Sanitation Foundation, specifically, categorized as a drinking water additive. In addition, it meets American Water Works Association (AWWA) standards for drinking water additive to test exactly for impurities; and if it is not certified to those levels, TVWD does not use it. TVWD has very rigid specifications that ensure that fluoride added is safe as a drinking water additive.

The Commissioners agreed that over the years there have been many pros and cons regarding fluoridation. For every doctor, dentist, or toxicologist that says it is bad; and there is one that says it is great, if given in an amount similar to what TVWD uses. Commissioner Burke pointed out that not all of TVWD is fluoridated. The Metzger area is not. He indicated that TVWD has used professional scientific pollsters and who have asked the fluoride question.

Repeatedly, people who do not have fluoride say they do not want it, and people who do have fluoride say they want to keep it.

The Commissioners agreed the fluoridation issue would have to be a citizen-driven process. The Commissioners suggested outlets like public access television, community meetings and various organizations to drive an attempt to vote for or against fluoride in the water system. These venues would be more productive than a Board Meeting. A vote of the people is needed to change fluoridation, not the Board making that decision.

Commissioner Duggan stated that in 2002 the District had an inquiry about fluoridation when the City of Beaverton voted to add fluoride to their water. He stated he has not seen anything convincing one way or the other. This Board made a policy decision in 2002 that TVWD was not going to initiate either adding fluoride to Metzger or take it off the Wolf Creek portion of the District for that reason. It was decided that it needed to be a citizen led effort.

Commissioner McWilliams noted that most chemicals are toxic at a high enough concentration. Fluoride is toxic to fish if it is at a high concentration. The amount (.7 ppm of fluoride) to TVWD water is a low concentration and it is thought to be beneficial to human beings and safe for fish.

Commissioners agreed that water chemistry is a balancing act. Each year a Consumer Confidence Report is sent to all TVWD customers.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Burke moved to approve the consent agenda (Regular Meeting Minutes of July 28, 2011). Commissioner Doane seconded. Commissioner Duggan indicated that he did not attend the meeting of July 28, 2011; therefore, he would abstain. The motion passed four votes in favor and one abstention.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CITY OF HILLSBORO'S WITHDRAWAL OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES FROM TVWD'S SERVICE TERRITORY PURSUANT TO HILLSBORO URBAN SERVICES AGREEMENT

Tim Erwert, Water Project Manager II, City of Hillsboro (City) Water Department and Dan Rutzick, Urban Planner II, City of Hillsboro Planning Department explained the City of Hillsboro's request for withdrawal of properties from TVWD's service territory. Mr. Erwert reported that approximately 1400 tax lots previously annexed into the City limits and located in the City service area by the 2003 Urban Services Agreement between TVWD and the City need to be formally withdrawn from TVWD service territory. This withdrawal is viewed as a housekeeping measure. The City has been working with the County Assessor's Office to "clean up" its service area boundaries and tax lots. All of these properties are within the City limits, most are served by City water, and the few that are not, are either vacant or have a well. None of the properties currently receives water from TVWD.

CEO, DiLoreto commented that this is a classic example of a Senate Bill 122 agreement that was developed between the City of Hillsboro and TVWD in 2003 and follows exactly the work TVWD has been doing with the City. Staff has no issues with the withdrawal and recommends approval.

Board discussion:

Commissioner Burke asked if any issues might surface later.

Mr. Erwert explained that there are a few lots on the west side of Cornelius Pass Road that are still served by TVWD. The City does not have lines to serve them and the lots are still in the TVWD area. The City is not asking to withdraw those properties at this time.

CEO, DiLoreto stated that Cornelius Pass Road was chosen as the firm boundary, however; at such time that the City does start to serve those customers, TVWD will transfer those to the City.

The Board of Commissioners expressed appreciation to the City of Hillsboro and to TVWD staff for making this an easy process for the Board. Groundwork was laid many years ago when establishing a planning boundary and there is no need for those sites to remain within TVWD since general obligation bonds are no longer levied on property. The positive working relationship the District has with the City of Hillsboro and Washington County is beneficial to everyone concerned and is demonstrated by not having a contentious turf battle over valuable properties from a water provision perspective.

Commissioner Doane moved to authorize CEO, DiLoreto to submit a letter on behalf of the Board to the Hillsboro City Council in support of a withdrawal of listed properties from TVWD's service territory pursuant to Hillsboro Urban Services Agreement. Commissioner Burke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PARTNERS FOR A SUSTAINABLE WASHINGTON COUNTY AMENDED AGREEMENT

Mr. Heidgerken explained that TVWD is one of 11 public agencies that are members of PSWCC. TVWD helped form and create that organization. He pointed out that TVWD is the lead administrative agency for PSWCC and provides staffing. Douglas Tsoi works for TVWD but spends his time as a coordinator and speaker of PSWCC.

Mr. Heidgerken identified two primary reasons this request is before the Board: 1) The agreement has a three-year term limit which is expiring this year. He stated that it is time to revisit and extend the current agreement with changes amending to automatically renew annually unless an organization is specifically discontinued; and 2) PSWCC wants to broaden its involvement beyond governmental entities to businesses and organizations within Washington County who are active in the sustainability field. PSWCC would like to continue to work with these businesses and organizations. The amended and restated agreement creates a "Member" category to allow for non-governmental participants to contribute yearly dues and serve as an ex-officio member of both the PSWCC Governing Board and Operations Team. Currently only governmental entities can be a part of the PSWCC. Mr. Heidgerken pointed out that CEO, DiLoreto serves on the Governing Board and Cheryl Welch serves on the Operations Team of the PSWCC. Staff recommends approval of the amended agreement.

Board discussion:

CEO, DiLoreto explained the Governing Board discussed this issue and a number of the Governing Board members had concerns with the private sector taking over the Sustainable Washington County Community program. He stated the Governing Board only votes on the budget. "Members" will participate in the budget process. The Governing Board felt the amount of the dues should be the same as what government agencies pay for membership. CEO, DiLoreto clarified that the agreement was entered into as an ORS 190 (a private entity cannot enter into an ORS 190).

CEO, DiLoreto further stated a category for non-profits is offered at a reduced dues rate and is categorized as ex-officio. He indicated that this might change in the future, however at the present time wording was necessary for the Governing Board members to agree to this amendment and allow entities such as PGE to join, which would be advantageous to PSWCC.

Commissioner McWilliams moved to approve the CEO, or his designee to authorize the amendments to the PSWCC Cooperative Agreement. Commissioner Duggan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Burke and seconded by Commissioner Doane to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:50 p.m. The motion carried.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUALATIN VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

BY _____ BY _____
President, Dick Schmidt Secretary, James Duggan

Date Approved: September 21, 2011