

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE TWENTYNINE PALMS WATER DISTRICT  
72401 HATCH ROAD, TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA 92277**

**September 27, 2023 / 4:00 P.M.**

Call to Order and Roll Call

President Carol Giannini called the Board meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Those responding to roll call were, Bob Coghill, Carol Giannini, and Randy Leazer. Michael Arthur was absent. Also present were General Manager Matt Shragge, Maintenance Superintendent Mike Minatrea, Treatment/Production Superintendent Robert Shelton, Financial Consultant Cindy Byerrum, and District Secretary Cindy Fowlkes.

Pledge of Allegiance

Tim Gomieo led the pledge.

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

None

Public Comments

Jeffrey Johnson of Twentynine Palms spoke to his concerns regarding the City's sewer project and the depletion of ground water levels.

1. Appointment to Fill Vacant Board Seat

One applicant submitted a letter of interest and is eligible to serve according to the San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters.

Director Coghill made a motion to appoint Amy Woods to fill the vacancy, seconded by Director Giannini, and approved by the following roll call vote:

Ayes:	Directors Coghill, Leazer, and Giannini
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Director Arthur

Ms. Woods was sworn in taking the Oath of Office administered by District Secretary, Cindy Fowlkes.

2. Approval of Resolution 23-10 Commending Tim Gomieo for Over Thirty-five Years of Public Service

Director Leazer made a motion to adopt Resolution 23-10 commending Tim Gomieo for over 35 years of public service, seconded by Director Coghill, and approved unanimously by all those present. Director Arthur was absent.

3. Approve Director(s) to Attend ACWA Fall Conference and Expo (November 29<sup>th</sup> and November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023) and to Provide Daily Meeting Stipend

Director Woods made a motion for Director(s) to attend the ACWA Conference and provide daily meeting stipend, seconded by Director Giannini, and approved unanimously by all those present. Director Arthur was absent.

4. Hexavalent Chromium (Cr6) and Legislative Affairs Updates

Adan Ortega and Yasmeen Nubani with Ortega Strategies Group were present and provided the Board with a hexavalent chromium and legislative affairs update. The Community Water System Alliance, which the District was a founding member, has grown to include several agencies small and large, including the Coachella Valley Water District and Orange County Water District whose General Manager is being named as ACWA Board President.

The District, along with the Community Water System Alliance, has submitted comment letters to the State Water Resources Control Board with concerns, particularly:

1) Fiscal impact associated with the implementation of the proposed maximum hexavalent chromium contaminant level, along with consideration of (12) additional drinking water related MCLs that would compound treatment costs for each contaminant.

2) Factors not considered in the economic feasibility study. Most notable, costs associated with administrative and technical capabilities of the staff and ultimately increased commodity rates to cover expenses associated with implementation. The District's service area is classified as disadvantaged and the costs incurred by these mandates will get passed along to the consumers.

3) Compliance period is not sufficient to apply and obtain grant funding. COVID has also created issues with acquiring supplies needed to meet compliance mandates.

Matt thanked Adan and Yasmeen for their work on the District's behalf.

5. Consent Calendar

- Minutes of a Regular Meeting held on August 23, 2023
- Audit List

Director Coghill, moved to approve the Minutes and Audit List, seconded by Director Leazer, and approved unanimously by all those present. Director Arthur was absent.

6. Items Removed from the Consent Calendar for Discussion or Separate Action  
None

7. Management Reports

7.1 Maintenance

Mike Minatrea reported that the District responded to 44 Underground Service Alerts, had 1 water main leak, 1 water meter leak, 2 service line leaks, 1 fire hydrant repair/maintenance, installed 0 new services, replaced 3 customer gate valves, performed 6 leak audits, painted 0 fire hydrants, performed 5 customer pressure checks, replaced 3 water meters, Tested and exercised emergency generators and sounded wells for May. 0 water waste inquiries were received. 0 AMI/AMR meters were replaced. There was a total of 838 work orders that were processed during the month.

7.2 Water Quality

Robert reported water production was down 17.93% as compared to the same month in 2013. 40 routine and 11 special water samples were taken. All special samples tested negative for Colilert. All current wells meet the 2.0 mg/L standard fluoride variance set by the State Water Resource Control Board. All samples tested were below the variance.

7.3 Finance

Cindy Byerrum reported on year end for fiscal 2023, noting the following:

- The District's investments ended with \$6 million. Water sales ended at 83% of budget, due in part to the unexpected rain events.
- Capital impact fees ended at 511% of budget.
- CDs, CLASS, and Laif ended higher than expected due to interest rates.
- Fuel costs and electric costs were higher than expected.
- Outside services and general administration is over budget due to GASB mandates.
- Total operating expenses ended at 92%.
- Pension and OPEB trust is not currently being funded as they are losing money, but is being closely monitored.
- The Reserve Policy currently requires the District to have at minimum 180 days of expense set aside.

7.4 General Manager

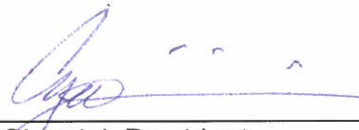
Matt congratulated Tim Gomieo for his 35 years of public service. Director Amy Woods was welcomed to the Board. The District had a large generator stolen. It was recovered by the District and is currently in a repair shop for repair estimates. Deputies Stumbo and Ables were thanked for their diligent work in the recovery effort, as well as the Wonder Valley community. The lead and copper survey is progressing quite well. Director Coghill, Leazer, and Arthur attended the CSDA conference in Monterey with Matt. GIS is currently being used for USAs (digalerts). It has streamlined the process and reduced the time staff takes to close a ticket.

8. Future Agenda Items and Staff Tasks/Directors' Comments and Reports

Director Woods recognized her mother who recently moved to Twentynine Palms and her boyfriend who were both in the audience.

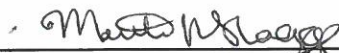
9. Adjournment

On motion by Director Leazer, seconded by Director Woods, and approved by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at: 5:08 p.m.



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Carol Giannini, President  
Board of Directors

Attest:



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Matthew Shragge, Board Secretary  
Twentynine Palms Water District