

Draft Minutes
Water Conservation Commission
March 1, 2012

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Commission members Jim Ford, Dan Amadeo, Harold Krotzer, Jan Shriner and Ruth Krotzer, were present. James Derbin, Brian True and Paul Lord were present from staff. CSUMB and the US Army were not represented at this time. Carroll L. Meuse was present from the public.

2. Public Comments on Any Item Not on the Agenda:

There were no comments.

3. Approve the Draft February 2, 2012 Minutes:

Commissioner Harold Krotzer stated that he wanted to clarify the comment he made in the second paragraph on page 2 of the February 2nd minutes. He said that the reason he made that comment was because at the February 2nd meeting, Director Shriner suggested requiring applicants to have water experience in order to be appointed to the Commission. Commissioner Harold Krotzer said that when he applied for the Commission, two Board members voted against his appointment and he had over fifteen years of experience in the water business. He added that he didn't understand why Director Shriner voted against his appointment when he had the water experience that she was suggesting as a requirement. Director Shriner answered that she didn't remember voting against him and didn't remember seeing that he had water experience.

Commissioner Amadeo made a motion to approve the draft February 2, 2012 minutes as written and include in the March 1st minutes, Commissioner Harold Krotzer's clarification of his comments on the February 2nd minutes. Commissioner Ruth Krotzer seconded the motion. The draft February 2, 2012 minutes were approved with Commissioner Ford and Director Shriner abstaining from the vote.

4. Review, Consider, and Discuss Revisions to the Procedures of the Water Conservation Commission:

Mr. True introduced this item. Commissioner Ford, noting the absence of Mr. Meuse's name on the agenda, asked for clarification if Mr. Meuse's application was approved by the Board. Mr. True answered that there were only three Board members present at the last Board meeting and they did not make the appointment at that meeting. He added that Mr. Meuse's application would be going back to the Board in the near future. Director Shriner explained that to approve anything at the Board level, there needed to be three affirmative votes and although there were three Board members present, there was one abstention so the appointment failed.

Mr. True explained that the following were suggestions from both the Board and the Commission. The Commission reviewed and commented on each suggestion individually.

- Consider recommending the addition of the provision to send Public Service Announcements regarding vacant Commissioner positions in the Marina Gazette, the Monterey County Weekly, and the Monterey Herald. (Director comment)

Commissioner Amadeo commented that the Board needs to realize that although a Public Service Announcement may be sent to the newspapers listed, there is no guarantee that they will be published. Mr. True said that he corresponded with all three papers and they were all agreeable to running the Public Service Announcement for free although some had certain restrictions and some said that it depended on space availability; but he stressed that there was no guarantee when or if the Public Service Announcement would run. The Commission unanimously agreed with this suggestion.

- Consider recommending not paying anything whatsoever for advertising vacant Commissioner positions. (Director comment)

Mr. True said that this was closely related to the previous bullet. The Commission unanimously agreed with this suggestion.

- Consider recommending a specific definition for “a good reason” in the event a Commissioner wishes to be excused from being absent at a WCC meeting. (Director comment)

The Commission discussed plausible reasons for absences. Commissioner Amadeo commented that he felt a “good reason” was a personal or family emergency and suggested adding that to the Board’s “good reasons” of illness or out of state. The Commission unanimously agreed with this suggestion.

- Consider recommending adding a standing, voting position on the Commission to a person representing agricultural interests by amending the MCWD Board Procedures Manual. (Commissioner and Director comment)

Commissioner Ruth Krotzer commented that she didn’t feel agriculture was the Commission’s forte and it didn’t seem relevant to bring those issues here. She added that any modification of the Commission composition would require Board action. Director Shriner stated that agriculture uses over 90% of the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin which is shared by the District and added that there are grants available for agencies to help conserve water in agriculture. The Commission discussed what the requirements would be for the proposed agricultural position.

Commissioner Harold Krotzer made a motion to fill the current vacant positions without adding an agricultural position. Commissioner Ruth Krotzer seconded the motion. The Commission agreed with this motion with Director Shriner abstaining.

- Consider recommending the appointment of the Environmental Senator of the Associated Students of CSUMB as the representative for CSUMB. (Commissioner comment)

Commissioner Ruth Krotzer asked if this open position had been advertised. Mr. True commented that this position is appointed by CSUMB and the District Board recently asked for an update on the attempts to contact and fill the CSUMB and Army positions. The Commission discussed the need to specify “Environmental Senator of the Associated Students of CSUMB” as the representative or if it should be anyone who was associated with CSUMB.

Commissioner Amadeo made a motion to take this issue back to the Board of Directors to put pressure on CSUMB to appoint someone to fill the position and if no response is received within sixty days, the Board may consider making the CSUMB position an at-large public member position. The motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Harold Krotzer made a motion to fill the position with anyone from CSUMB regardless of their position. Commissioner Ruth Krotzer seconded the motion.

Commissioner Amadeo clarified the motion to fill the position with either a CSUMB student or faculty member. Commissioner Harold Krotzer seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously agreed with this suggestion.

- Consider recommending that the WCC develop and include within the WCC Procedures an interview and scoring process for prospective new Commissioners when position vacancies exist. (Commissioner comment)

Director Shriner commented that City Council uses an interview and scoring process and suggested implementing a similar process for the Commission. Commissioner Ford commented that the City Council process is very flawed and did not suggest the same process for this Commission.

Commissioner Amadeo made a motion to request the Board direct staff to develop a draft check list for interviews by the Commission for future Commissioners. Commissioner Harold Krotzer seconded the motion. Mr. True commented that the Commission application would be a good starting place and suggested adding some general questions to it. The Commission unanimously agreed with this suggestion.

- Consider recommending that the WCC meet Quarterly rather than Monthly. (Director comment)

Commissioner Amadeo made a motion to remain on a monthly meeting schedule. Commissioner Ruth Krotzer seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously agreed with this suggestion.

5. Consider Requesting Past Applicants to Re-Submit WCC Commissioner Applications In Order to Fill Vacant Commissioner Positions:

Director Shriner commented that she didn't think they should require the applicants to re-submit their applications. She said that they should be contacted to see if they are still interested. Commissioner Ford stated that there could be changes in the applicants' information and recommended having them fill out new applications. Commissioner Ruth Krotzer agreed with Commissioner Ford that new applications should be filled out.

Commissioner Amadeo made a motion to re-contact past applicants to see if they are still interested and to update the application if needed. Commissioner Harold Krotzer seconded the motion. The Commission agreed with this suggestion with Commissioner Ruth Krotzer voting no.

6. Review, Consider, and Discuss the Water Conservation Commission Scope of Duties and Responsibilities – the “Residential” Best Management Practice:

Mr. True introduced this item and explained that this was the vehicle the Commission was using to clarify and perhaps expand the roles and responsibilities of the Commission. He explained that there are two categories of Best Management Practices (BMP); the Foundational and Programmatic. Mr. True explained that the Foundational BMP's are things that the State recommends that the District does on an annual basis for the rest of their existence; and, the Programmatic BMP's are ones that once achieved could go away.

Mr. Lord explained that the five residential BMP's were: 1) Residential assistance for single and multi-family residential customers; 2) Residential landscape water use surveys; 3) High-efficiency clothes washer rebate program; 4) Residential toilet replacement program; and, 5) Water efficient building standards for new development. He reviewed those BMP's with the Commission. Commissioner Amadeo questioned graywater systems and asked if they would be included in the BMP's. Mr. Lord stated that he would look into graywater and rain catchment systems to see if there were any state requirements.

7. Review Proposed and Suggested Agenda Items for April 5, 2012 and Future Dates:

Commissioner Amadeo asked to have a discussion on the reorganization and how it impacts the Water Conservation Program and the District's ability to comply with all the BMP's at the next meeting.

Commissioner Ford suggested a discussion on the units of measure for Water Sense and Energy Star as a possibility of revising the incentive program.

Mr. True said that the April 5th meeting will discuss the “Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional” BMP; addition funding for the Landscape Incentive Program; the Consumer Confidence Report; discussion on the results of March agenda items 4 and 5; and, discussion on the reorganization.

8. Receive Update on Board/District Activities:

Director Shriner commented that at the February 24th Board meeting, the Board approved sending the Brown Act violation to the Grand Jury. She said that regarding the reorganization, other employees are picking up additional responsibilities and getting additional compensation for that. Director Shriner stated that there were letters released from Cal Am, the Water Resources Agency and the District that were in regards to the Regional Desalination Project. She asked anyone interested to contact her and she would forward them the letters. Director Shriner said that the budget was coming up and the Board would be working on that. Director Shriner informed everyone that the videographer, Richard Newhouse, passed away unexpectedly and the services were set for March 11th.

9. Receive Comments from Commission Members:

Director Shriner noted that the meeting lasted almost two hours and thanked everyone for their time.

Commissioner Ruth Krotzer asked when the next conservation event was. Mr. Lord commented that last weekend he was at the BRAC open house. He added that the next event was a green day event at the Army Department of Finance, but it was not open to the public. Mr. Lord said that on March 24th the Water Awareness Committee was holding an event in Spreckles.

10. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.