

Minutes
Water Conservation Commission
May 3, 2012

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM. Commission members Jim Ford, Dan Amadeo, Jan Shriner, and Tom Jennings were present. James Derbin, Brian True and Paul Lord were present from staff. Commission members Harold Krotzer and Ruth Krotzer did not attend with an excused absence. Commission member Carroll Meuse was absent. CSUMB and the US Army did not send a representative to attend this meeting.

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

Commissioner Dan Amadeo inquired whether there was a response to the question raised by Director Jan Shriner during last month's meeting regarding the Brown Act. Mr. True responded that there was a response and that he proposed to provide the answers during Agenda item 8 or 9.

3. Approve the Draft April 5, 2012 Minutes:

Commissioner Amadeo made a motion to approve the draft April 5, 2012 minutes as written. Director Shriner seconded the motion. The draft April 5, 2012 minutes were approved unanimously with Commissioner Jim Ford abstaining.

4. Consider the Design and Text for a Water Conservation Placard for Posting in Public and Private Facilities:

Mr. Lord introduced this item. The objective of the item was to receive input from the Commission regarding placards and stickers for posting public places. Mr. Lord read the operative section of the MCWD Water Code. Mr. Lord provided past examples of stickers and placards that MCWD has produced and then shared examples of some new ideas and formats obtained from a web-site that could be used to generate the design and produce the items. Discussion followed. There was consensus that the "world in a drop of water" image was powerful and should be used as a basis for designing the new product. Another suggestion was to include the MCWD web-site address somewhere on the item. Mr. Lord agreed to contact Commissioner Ford regarding the potential use of both "prohibition" and "take action" language on the same piece of information.

5. Review the Draft FY 2012-2013 Conservation Budget:

Mr. Lord introduced this item. The Commission members asked some clarifying questions about the data being reviewed. Mr. Lord provided a description of each line item and an update of proposed budget amounts within the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Conservation budget.

6. Consider the Water Conservation Commission Scope of Duties and Responsibilities:

Mr. True introduced this item. Immediate consensus was that the discussions regarding this item would be continued next meeting because of the absence of three Commissioners from the current meeting. There was also consensus that the form of the Commission's answer to the Roles and Responsibilities question would be recommendations to the District Board proposing revisions to the Board Procedures Manual (the section concerning the WCC) and the WCC Procedures document. Mr. True agreed to draft current changes into the documents to help focus the future discussions.

Mr. True shared with the Commission ideas from Commissioner Amadeo about specific responsibilities and tasks that the Commission could undertake. Commissioner Amadeo clarified that the ideas were actually a listing of things that the WCC has done over the last couple of years based on his review of past meetings and agendas. Other ideas discussed during the meeting were having Commissioners be "ambassadors" to the community regarding conservation and public information, having Commissioners provide quotations/messages for inclusion in MCWD newsletters, the incorporation of "social media" in the WCC roles and responsibilities, and include the specific task of having the WCC review and propose changes to their roles and responsibilities on an annual basis.

One of the concepts previously discussed was the seats on the Commission held by the US Army and CSUMB. Mr. True re-iterated to the Commission that the direction to staff from the MCWD Board of Directors was to bring an item to the Board that eliminates the Commission positions for CSUMB and the Army. Staff was soliciting input from the WCC itself because there was some question regarding what to do with the seats besides simply eliminating CSUMB and the Army from them. After discussion, the consensus was that, rather than eliminating the seats entirely, the seats should remain on the Commission position roster (but not filled by representatives from the Army or CSUMB), have the roster spots be re-termed as Public Member positions, and that the two positions should be filled with a focus on obtaining students from within the service area willing to serve as Commissioners.

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

Mr. True introduced this item. The two items proposed by staff for inclusion on the June 7 WCC agenda were acceptable to the Commissioners.

There was a suggestion to add a subject termed "review BMPs" to the "future items" list; staff agreed to add the topic to the list.

There was a brief discussion regarding whether or not to hold the proposed meeting on July 5, 2012 in light of the Holiday schedule. Tentative consensus was to continue to plan to hold the meeting.

Commissioner Ford asked if it was possible to obtain an update on the MCWD augmentation projects at next month's meeting; staff agreed to add the topic to the "future items" list and to ask the District General Manager or Deputy General Manager to provide such an update since the staff normally present at the WCC meeting is not authorized to provide public information on the topic.

Director Shriner requested that a subject be added to the "future item" list regarding training for the Brown Act and for work-place violence. Director Shriner related to the WCC recent events during which she felt threatened and that the language used was both indicative and a warning sign of pending violence. Director Shriner read to the WCC a definition of work-place violence and some examples of warning signals. Director Shriner then re-iterated her question from the previous WCC meeting regarding the Brown Act and whether training on that topic should be added to the "future item" list too. Mr. True responded to that question at this moment in the meeting, acknowledging the fact that the response was to serve as the response to Commissioner Amadeo's question raised during the Public Comment period. The response was that Brown Act training was only informally conducted in the past but that training regarding the Brown Act was not a legal requirement. Mr. True observed that the District Board was not required to have formal Brown Act training either; however, the Ethics Training conducted by the District on-line included information regarding the Brown Act. Mr. True then provided the WCC with a memo providing information regarding on-line training and other resources that the Commissioners could access as their interest dictates. With that response, the Commissioners' consensus was that a "future item" regarding Brown Act training was not needed but that training in work-place violence should be added to the "future items" list.

8. Receive Update on Board/District Activities:

Director Shriner commented that the Board is working on the FY 2012/2013 Draft Budget and re-iterated her concerns about work-place violence.

9. Receive Comments from Commission Members:

Director Shriner provided a recent article from the Monterey Herald regarding growing lettuce using hydroponics and commented that the Salinas Valley is a huge agricultural center and agricultural water use affects everyone in the region.

10. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 PM.