

Minutes
Water Conservation Commission
January 3, 2013

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Commission members Dan Amadeo, Jan Shriner, Ruth Krotzer, Harold Krotzer, Carroll Meuse, and Tom Jennings were present. Brian True, Paul Lord, and Paula Riso were present from staff. Grace Silva-Santella was present for the public.

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

No comments were made.

3. Approve the Draft December 6, 2012 Minutes:

Commissioner Amadeo noted that the minutes did not show Director Shriner as present and asked that they be corrected. Commissioner Ruth Krotzer made a motion to approve the revised draft minutes. Commissioner Harold Krotzer seconded the motion. The motion was passed with 5-Ayes, and 1-Abstained (Jennings).

4. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the Water Conservation Commission:

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to elect Commissioner Amadeo as Chair. Commissioner Meuse seconded the motion. Director Shriner suggested tabling this item until February after the City Council and MCWD appoint their members.

Commissioner Amadeo made a substitute motion to table this item until March to allow time for the commission reappointments. Director Shriner seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

5. Consider Participation in World Water Day 2013:

Mr. True said that this item was for the Commission to discuss and cautioned that staff's availability to help with this was very limited. Mr. Lord commented that there was an event at CSUMB in February that he will be participating in and he can have something at the booth to draw attention to World Water Day.

Commissioner Harold Krotzer asked what goal Director Shriner was trying to achieve in bringing attention to World Water Day. Director Shriner commented that the recognition of water cooperation is the topic of World Water Day this year. Commissioner Harold Krotzer suggested keeping water conservation on a local level. Commissioner Amadeo suggested that this item was going to discuss participation in World Water Day and with Mr. Lord attending an event at CSUMB he could maybe bring some recognition to it. He also suggested crafting an article for publication. Director Shriner said she would like to see putting something together that would have no financial impact. Discussion followed.

Agenda Item 5 (continued):

Commissioner Amadeo suggested he and Director Shriner draft an article and bring it to the February WCC meeting for approval. Commissioner Ruth Krotzer asked if the article would say the District supported the United Nations. Commissioner Amadeo said that he didn't know what the article would contain, but they would look at it at the February meeting and vote on it then. Ms. Santella-Silva commented that a letter could be crafted to support World Water Day and it makes sense for the District to participate in a non-political way.

6. Consider the WCC Recommended Clarification Regarding Commissioner "Vacancies" By Re-Setting the Commissioner Positions' Terms and Appointment Schedule:

Mr. True introduced this item and reviewed the charts to re-set the Commissioner terms. Discussion over the term dates and when they should expire followed. Ms. Santella-Silva commented that having set terms will help everyone understand when terms will expire and be available for public to apply.

Commissioner Meuse made a motion to forward this item to the Board for consideration. Commissioner Harold Krotzer seconded the motion. Commissioner Amadeo clarified that it was for Alternative 3. The motion was passed unanimously.

7. Review Landscape Incentive Program Expenditures and Available Funds for Program Expansion:

Mr. Lord introduced this item, reviewed the chart and explained the incentives budgeted over the last five years and how much has been paid out to customers. Commissioner Amadeo suggested looking at the current incentive programs, what funds are available in those budgets, and possibly moving some of the money around to either enhance current programs or add new incentive programs. There was discussion on the Hot Water Recirculation system rebates with Mr. Lord stating that there usually is an influx of rebate requests following District rebate announcements. Mr. Lord said that the biggest boost to the rebate program is advertising.

8. Review Proposed and Suggested Agenda Items for the February 7, 2013 WCC Meeting:

Commissioner Amadeo stated that the article on World Water Day will be brought back in February and he would like to continue discussion on incentive programs. Mr. True answered that the first draft of the Conservation budget will be on the agenda. Director Shriner commented that she would like to see the Workplace Violence Training and Brown Act Training and voiced her concern that they were opening the District to liabilities. Commissioner Amadeo said that he would support Brown Act Training because it could have consequences.

Commissioner Harold Krotzer asked when they would have time to discuss water conservation and other important issues with all the discussion on World Water Days, the Brown Act and all the other crap.

Agenda Item 8 (continued):

Director Shriner said that the words Commissioner Harold Krotzer just used were an example of violence in the workplace. Commissioner Ruth Krotzer said that to know Commissioner Harold Krotzer as a person would know his verbiage. Director Shriner said that the word “crap” is against the District policy. Commissioner Amadeo reiterated that the real issue is that if there is training the Board thinks they should have they should do it. Mr. True said that he will put an item for Workplace Violence/Brown Act Training.

Ms. Santella-Silva commented that moving the WCC meeting date would be beneficial to allow time for items to be forwarded to the Board and suggested discussion of the meeting date on a future agenda.

Director Shriner commented that she would really like to see Workplace Violence Training on the next agenda as there are signs of imminent violence. Commissioner Ruth Krotzer asked what those signs were. Commissioner Harold Krotzer said it was probably his outburst as imminent violence. Commissioner Ruth Krotzer asked if there were ever outbursts at City Council meetings when people get frustrated. Commissioner Amadeo agreed that it has happened at City Council meetings and that it has happened at the District meetings as well. He said that it did come down to what training the Commission really needs and should have.

Director Shriner said that in March 2012 the Marina Police Chief recommended Violence Training for this Commission. She said that it would be wise to hold it in February and have the General Manager provide the training. Mr. True said he would check the General Manager’s schedule.

9. Receive Update on Board/District Activities:

Director Shriner stated that there was a meeting scheduled for January 8th and one of the items was to recommend committee appointments. She said they would also be discussing holding two Board meetings a month, suspension of the HDR contract, and honoring Ken Nishi and Dan Burns.

10. Receive Comments from Commission Members:

Commissioner Harold Krotzer apologized for acting childish with his outburst and he apologized to Director Shriner. He added that when he was first appointed to this Commission he really enjoyed it, but now it may be getting to be too much. Commissioner Harold Krotzer said that he would be ending his term and maybe Ms. Santella-Silva could step into his vacancy. He stated that it wasn’t just because of Director Shriner although he did recall her moving to another seat when he sat next to her once. Commissioner Harold Krotzer apologized and said he didn’t want Director Shriner to be uncomfortable.

Agenda Item 10 (continued):

Commissioner Amadeo asked if the letter discussed a couple of months ago ever went out to the organizations regarding the 20% water reduction by 2020. Mr. Lord answered that they were just finalizing the mailing addresses and they would go out soon. He said there was also discussion about bringing this item to the Joint City District meeting. Commissioner Amadeo said if there isn't any response from the organizations, he would like the Commission to discuss it again.

Director Shriner suggested giving a presentation at the City's Public Works Commission where it will get some television coverage.

11. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.