

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FEBRUARY 13, 2019 – 6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: President Schelly called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Directors present: President Schelly, Vice President Peter Szabadi, Director Kunkle, Director Hunt, and Director Gin. General Manager Michael Creighton, Chief Financial Officer Hosny Shouman and Board Secretary Jeannine Olsen were also present.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: as we honor the passing of Terry Lyons, former IWD General Manager.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

WORKSHOP FOR SHORT AND LONG TERM GOALS FOR GENERAL MANAGER:

The Board of Directors for Idyllwild Water District and the community will discuss setting up short and long-term goals for the new General Manager.

DIRECTORS COMMENTS: Director Hunt's number one priority is the completion of Village Center Drive Pipeline, to stay in budget, timeline and also to incorporate employee training. Hunt would like to see improved employee relations. Hunt suggested a monthly newsletter and two other directors encouraged Creighton to schedule open meetings with customers. Hunt also would like to see monthly lunch meetings with the other districts General Managers to help the community relations. Hunt would also like to see a continuing improvement plan distributed to staff and board to implement voluntary employee participation.

Director Kunkle's goals for the General Manager are getting the field operations to be self-sufficient and to be able to do IWD jobs in house. Kunkle also wants to continue to look for a Field Supervisor. Besides rehabilitating existing wells, including the horizontal wells above Foster Lake, drilling new wells should be a priority, Kunkle stressed.

Vice President Szabadi offered several ideas that addressed procedural issues. Szabadi would like to see improved communication between the office and field staff and added Creighton should get a full assessment of each staff member's abilities for appropriate training purposes. Szabadi added the board would like regular progress reports, list of reports to be prepared for state and federal governmental organizations and progress towards meeting goals.

President Schelly addressed finishing two short-term projects, which were started this fall before former General Manger Jack Hoagland left. First is the weir on Lily Creek as it flows into Foster Lake and, especially, the granulated activated carbon filter plant needed to remove organic carbon material from the water and reduce the production of disinfection byproducts. President Schelly said, "I'm not a proponent of which pipe, just pipe replacement. We haven't done a lot since I've been here. We need to put more pipes in the ground. Schelly would also like to see the horizontal wells running.

Director Les Gin was interested in responses to customer concerns and a fire hydrant program.

In general, all of the suggestions fell into several different categories. All of the directors advocated repair and replacement of pipeline and expressed concern about ensuring the adequacy of the district's distribution system. Some mentioned specific segments. For example, Hunt and Kunkle identified the Village Center Drive project, which was on the capital improvement plan, and Kunkle also mentioned the pipeline in the Elk Lane neighborhood.


Another common goal was staff training. In particular, the board wants to be sure the water staff has the capability to install and replace pipeline, especially if more projects can be initiated. Also, cross training between the water and sewer programs was an important issue. More community contact was another subject several directors thought should receive more attention.

The question of whether a field supervisor was still needed was discussed, too. Both Szabadi and Hunt felt Creighton should assess whether this position still needed to be filled. Besides staff and community, directors also turned their focus to the water supply, besides the pipelines. For example, resources should be invested in finding more water sources. System security was another issue Szabadi wished would also be addressed. And Gin also referred to the need to be sure the fire hydrants are functioning and adequate.

GENERAL MANAGERS COMMENTS: Creighton said he would organize the suggestions and present a plan at the next meeting. As he has been reviewing and studying the district's operations since he began last month, he might offer some more issues to the list.

ADJOURNMENT: President Schelly adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Idyllwild Water District

By: 

Dr. Charles Schelly, Board President

Idyllwild Water District

By: 

Jeannine Olsen, Board Secretary