

FRAZIER PARK PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
4020 Park Drive - Frazier Park, CA 93225
FPPUD/LOW Pre-Planning Meeting
MINUTES FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2016
Gipson/Garcia 4/0/1 - Director Schoenberg abstain
Minutes Approved on September 8, 2016

1. Call to Order: 6:12pm.

Roll Call of Directors: Durso, Garcia, Gipson, and Schoenberg.
Director Neyman present as the chairperson.
Also present: Jonnie Allison, Linda Sheldon and Tiffany Matte.

2. Discussion/Vote/Adjust Agenda if Necessary.

Motion: Move that we remove Item #12 - Closed Session, from the Agenda.
Gipson/Durso 5/0/0, Motion Passed.

3. Public Comments - None. Present: Larry Swan (Kern County), Dee Jaspar, Dave Warner, Carlos Bravo, Patric Hedlund, Gunnar Kuepper, Pam Jarecki, Bill Hopper, Tommy Hastings and about 15 members of the public.

4. Manager's Report.

General Manager (GM) Jonnie Allison reported the Edison pump test has been completed. He will present the results later in the meeting.

a. Admin Assistant's Report.

Tiffany Matte explained, she emailed and posted the Notice of Intent to Adopt an Amended Conflict of Interest Code. She contacted Ernest Conant and asked, per the Board's request, if wording can be added to the Code spelling out the consequences of not filling out 700 forms accurately. The attorney responded that it is not recommended, because it could cause the Code to be outdated sooner.

As Directed, Tiffany contacted California Bank & Trust to find out why credit card rewards have not been received. Sherri Dumin clarified that reward dollars need to be claimed for credit via online banking.

5. Accounts Payable and Financial Information.

A list of checks cut was given to the Board. They were all of the standard bills, with the exception of a reimbursement check for mileage, and a meal for the member who went to RVS training. The credit accumulated with USA Bluebook has finally been used, and a check was cut for the remaining balance due.

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Motion: Move that we pay our bills.
Garcia/Durso 5/0/0, Motion Passed.

6. Discussion/Vote on the Condition of Frazier Park Community Park's Pond.

a. Water Level of the Pond and Depletion.

Discussion began with an explanation from Dee Jaspar, Civil Engineer. He explained that, although he doesn't know the exact rate at which the pond levels are dropping, he does know that natural springs have dried up. This is typical during periods of drought due to the fact they are recharged from rainfall, and runoff from the mountains. What people are seeing, is the results of the current five to six year drought. There are two sources of depletion for a reservoir or pond. The first is evaporation, the second is leakage. With both of these affecting the pond, and no recharge from springs, water levels in the pond will drop.

GM Allison provided the public the results of the third party well testing, conducted by Southern California Edison. Their primary reason for coming out is to test the booster efficiency in the wells, but they also conduct sounding of the wells. Because they have done this testing for many years, there are records of previous water levels in the wells. The standing level of Well 4 in 2013 was 38.6, and is now at 38.4. Well 5 had only a 3.9 ft. drop from 2013. This data shows the aquifer holding strong on both sides of the pond. In order to test and see if the water levels in the pond are being affected by the newly built Well 6, as many in the town believe, GM Allison took Well 6 offline and brought Well 4 back online. Unfortunately, because of Well 4's age and condition, this has caused an increase of air in the water supply. The District has been selling water to Lake of the Woods out of Well 5. This well feeds the smallest portion of town, and pumps at a rate of 499 gallons per minute. GM Allison explained, the process of joining with Lake of the Woods will take years to be finalized. By selling water to them now, the science and data can be put to the test, while there is still the opportunity to back out of the annexation, if need be. If the data is correct, the FPPUD can proceed forward with confidence. According to a gentleman who works with the parks department, in order to fill the pond back up, it would take about 800,000 gallons of water. The estimated water loss for the pond is about 36,000 gallons per day. So, even if the District was able to get unchlorinated water into the pond, it would take 36,000 gallons of day in wasted water and more on top to even begin to raise the level.

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GM Allison would like to, in the meantime, run the tests, and examine the results, possibly putting people's fears at ease. If it's discovered the dropping level is due to drought, then it can be dealt with as such.

After these reports, discussion was opened up to the public. They asked questions of the Board regarding well levels, sources of water, and the status of other ponds in the area. Larry Swan from Kern County Parks, was in attendance at this meeting. He assured everyone that they will help support the water company in any way they can. Director Schoenberg presented a newspaper article from The Mountain Enterprise dated July 1994, when almost the exact same situation had occurred with the water level in the pond. At that time, they attributed water loss to a drought they had been experiencing for the past six to seven years.

b. The Effect of Water Sales to Lake of the Woods.

The public expressed their concerns that water sales out of Well 5, to Lake of the Woods, could be responsible for the drop in the water level of the pond. Residents recall a similar drop in water levels the last time Frazier Park was selling water. GM Allison explained that, the pond started draining three weeks before water sales began. Well 5 is located well below the pond. If these two occurrences were related, there would not only be a drop in the water level of the pond, but also a drop in the water levels of the wells, located in the FPPUD yard. That is not the case as evidenced by the tests run by Edison.

Community Resident Tommy Hastings gave a report on his research through the Historical Society. He presented a map showing the locations of the wells in relation to the pond. He noted Frazier Park is located right on the San Andreas fault, which makes our pond a Sag pond, although it has been heavily modified. It is Mr. Hastings belief that the pond and three wells are all part of the same aquifer. There is more water drawn for sale to Lake of the Woods, then is being lost through seepage and evaporation in the pond. He believes that to be the cause of the declining water levels. He stated he was fishing at the pond on June 10th and June 17th, and there was water flowing out of the pond through the spillway. On June 23rd the District began selling water to Lake of the Woods. By July 1st, he saw the level begin to drop by inches. On July 25th, he noted levels down 16 inches, August 16th down 33 inches, and today it's down about 39.5 inches.

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Director Schoenberg responded with her concerns over District finances. According to the Prop 218 water rate study, unless the FPPUD can do something like the annexation with Lake of the Woods, which will help financially, water bills will have to be increased significantly. She understands Mr. Hasting's concerns, but she has doubts about being able to sustain daily operations with a limited source of revenue. She believes there needs to be a balance of some kind.

As the public continued to express dismay over water sales to Lake of the Woods, GM Allison pointed out that Dee Jaspar ran some calculations, and figured out the water being sold requires about 18 gallons a minute from a well that operates at 400 gallons per minute. That amount of pull is not taxing the system, the well, or the aquifer. There were those in attendance that expressed water for humans is far more important than any other matter. As a community, we need to continue to provide for those in need of such an important resource.

c. Historical Work of the FPPUD to Fill the Pond.

According to the two articles from The Mountain Enterprise, there was work done back in 1994 to help refill water levels. The bottom of the pond was dredged, and a pipe was put in that helped direct spring water. The public discussed ideas about what can be done now. Suggestions ranged from building piping to divert springs, to building a pipeline to wells that are not in service due to contaminant levels, to sealing the bottom of the pond with cement, or a tarp, to prevent leakage. Larry Swan explained, in order to alter a natural pond, there would have to be environmental work done, the design would have to be engineered, and the area surveyed. The expense would be more than the County could handle.

Motion: Move to take a break at 7:25pm.

Garcia/Durso 5/0/0, Motion Passed.

Return from break: 7:40pm.

When the meeting resumed, the Board brought up concerns over continuing to run Well 4. The well is old and declining. Continuing to run this well could cause damage to the booster pump, which is very expensive to replace. This well is needed as a backup in case anything should happen to Well 6. Evidence shows Well 6 is not the cause of water loss in the pond, but even if it was, it is the main supplier of water to Frazier Park.

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There is no alternative. The public was in agreement that air being pulled by Well 4, and sent through the system into homes, would cause damage to pipes, joints, and water heaters.

As the public continued to discuss ideas for saving the pond and possible funding sources, Dee Jasper asked to address the public on his background. He explained that he has been working in the water business since 1972, primarily on finding water sources. His firm works with small water systems whose connections range from 30 connections up to 10,000.

The main source of water supply that they develop comes from wells, and they have put in over 100 of them. Because of his firm's primary work, he has some working knowledge of hydrogeology, and has worked closely with well respected hydrogeologists. The model for the Cuddy Valley has been developed by several hydrogeologists, including Dr. Ken Schmidt, who is known by some as the Dean of Hydrogeology for the state of California. This model divides the canyon into three segments, or sub-basins. The first part starts in Lake of the Woods and ends just to the west of Frazier Park. The middle sub-basin, about 10,000 feet long, holds a significant amount of water. The lower sub-basin starts to the east of Frazier Park and runs down to Lebec and Castac Lake, and holds the most amount of water. When rainfall occurs, in significant volume, the water flows into the creek, through the side canyons, west of Lake of the Woods. Surface water inflow into the creek is taken by sand and gravels, and fills the basin. Because of the drought, the basin has been deprived of that source of recharge. The east part of the middle sub-basin contains a restriction where the Garlock and San Andreas faults meet. This restriction is evidenced by looking at well water levels on both sides of the restriction. The barrier that is formed, significantly slows down the groundwater flow coming down the creek. This forms a pool of underground water that encompasses the majority of the middle sub-basin, and holds about 8,500 acre feet of water. This restriction, even through the drought, has stabilized groundwater levels in the middle basin. That is the water the District pumps from, and explains why pumping levels in the wells have dropped so insignificantly. Another source of recharge comes through mountain front recharge. Rain falls on the steep slopes of the mountainsides and water is absorbed through the soil. In a period of drought, the first use of that water is taken by the trees and bushes that grow there. Unless it is a wet period, the aquifer won't see a benefit to rainfall. When water comes down the slopes, what isn't used by vegetation is able to run down into the valley. Some of it appears as springs, and some is absorbed into the aquifer. After a hot summer, especially during long periods of drought, the springs dry up.

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In the fall, when temperatures drop, the trees and bushes don't need to use as much water. Springs come back, and the ones that didn't completely dry up have an increase in flow. This valley needs more recharge in order to see an increase in the springs. The good thing is, there is a large amount of storage in the aquifer. Mr. Jaspar explained, in the study he presented at previous community meetings, he looked at the amount of water and the net use of groundwater over a five year period. Even in periods of severe drought, there is enough recharge to meet the demands in this valley right now. He then continued his study to look at what would happen if the drought continued on for another five years. Even after 10 years of drought, the aquifer would still have 68% of the volume of water left in the basin.

Finally, Dee Jaspar wanted to explain, Lake of the Woods has spent significant amounts of money to try and develop groundwater. They drilled a well there, through the sands, about 250 feet deep; the sands were dry. They drilled further in the bedrock hoping to find fractures in the rock that would have some kind of water supply. There was some, but it did not yield very much. The well was perforated up in the sands and down into the rock to intercept what little water was available. In his work with Lake of the Woods he improved an existing well, and added a nitrate blending station because the new well had nitrates. Lake of the Woods has spent over \$1 million trying to develop a groundwater supply. The supply isn't there because the basin in this area is sloped, and goes dry at the top first.

After Mr. Jaspar's discussion, the public pointed out the need for fire protection in the town and the important function of the pond as a supply of water. The County can look into grants and someone can contact the Governor for State support for filling the pond for that purpose. The Town needs to remain in contact with the County to give them direction as to what is needed and how they can help. GM Allison explained, although they are willing to give support as they are able, it may be that the water company should not be the lead agency in this matter. At this point in the discussion, the community understood that if the pond is not the water company's problem, perhaps, they are talking to the wrong people. They need to look to themselves to form a committee to communicate with the County, express ideas, and come up with solutions.

Motion: Move that we will suspend sales of water to Lake of the Woods for a one month period of time to assess the effects on our system and the pond.
Garcia/Schoenberg 5/0/0, Motion Passed.

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The Board directed GM Allison to turn off Well 4 and turn on Well 6.

Motion: Move that we at the Water District do our best to support the community, and their efforts to deal with the County Park, and their efforts to make sure the pond is being taken care of, as long as it doesn't hurt the community in some other way.

Schoenberg/Garcia 5/0/0, Motion Passed.

d. Report by Tommy Hastings on his Research in The Mtn. Enterprise Archives.

Tommy Hastings reported he went into the archives at The Mountain Enterprise but didn't find any articles relating to the pond, because he was looking in the wrong year. At the museum, he was able to find an article from the Bakersfield Californian from 1994 that talked about how the water was restored to the park in time for the Fiesta Days fishing derby. He read the article out loud and pointed out the picture of former FPPUD Manager Greg Keenberg with his two sons.

7. Discussion/Vote on Policy for Claim Submittals to the State/USDA.

a. Time Frame.

Dave Warner provided the Board a new proposal for claim submittals as discussed in the prior Pre-Planning Meeting.

Motion: Move that we adopt what Dave Warner is suggesting: That he sends the packet, which has to do with the payouts, by the third Thursday, and then we vote on that packet the fourth Thursday for approval, unless there is a big issue with it that needs to be resolved.

Schoenberg/Garcia 5/0/0, Motion Passed.

b. Net Payment.

The Board reiterated that claims will not be paid until the funds are received from State/USDA.

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c. Amend the Contract with Stanley Hoffman.

No amendment was needed as the contract has already been accepted.

8. Update/Discussion/Vote on USDA Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant (ECWAG).

The well has been painted. P & J electric will return to finalize the programming in the computer and tie in the flow meter.

a. Discussion/Vote on Partial Payment Requests.

No payment requests at this time. The retention is still being held pending completion of the well.

9. Discussion/Vote/Approval of Notice of Exemption - Planning.

The Board read through the Notice of Exemption prepared by Tom Dodson and did not find any changes that needed to be made. This notice is a prelude to the work that will be done under the Planning Grant. The CEQA documents will come later in the process.

Motion: Move to approve the Notice of Exemption.

Garcia/Durso 4/0/1, Motion Passed - Director Schoenberg abstain.

10. Update/Discussion on Regional Project FFAST Planning Application.

a. Engineering Services.

Dee Jaspar has met with staff and developed a preliminary project description with maps and a definition of the different components. Once that project is approved by the Board, an engineering budget will be developed to actually plan the project.

b. Scope of Work.

c. Planning Costs.

Items b and c are contingent upon on Dee Jaspar defining the project.

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d. Environmental Services.

The District indicated at the last Pre-Planning Meeting, that they will be going through Tom Dodson for the environmental work.

e. Cost Estimate.

Tom Dodson gave a cost estimate of \$33,000 for the CEQA plus compliance, for the actual project.

11. Discussion/Possible Vote on Lake of the Woods/Frazier Park Pre-Planning Project Task 3 Activities.

a. Annexation Map and Legal Description.

Dee Jaspar is working on the map and definitions. He anticipates having it ready in the beginning of September. The Board discussed the need for a Special Meeting to approve this portion of the project. The meeting was scheduled for September 15th.

Motion: Move to extend the meeting to finish business at 9:00pm.
Gipson/Durso 5/0/0, Motion Passed.

b. Discussion/Vote on Contracts for Annexation Task 3 Work (Dee Jaspar & Assoc.; Young Wooldridge, LLP; Tom Dodson & Assoc.).

There are contracts with Young Wooldridge, and Self-Help Enterprises that contain the required attachments from the State. For the contract with Dee Jaspar, the attachment will have to added. Tom Dodson is still working on his contract and will need to be added to the Meeting Agenda for September 8th.

c. Annexation Work Update.

No update at this time.

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d. Discussion/Vote on Partial Payment Requests - Claim #8.

Director Neyman went through Claim #8, and was satisfied that everything adds up. He noted a change to one of the Task numbers.

Claim #8 - \$15,455.44

Motion: Move that we approve Claim #8.
Durso/Gipson 5/0/0, Motion Passed.

Young Wooldridge Invoice #23914, dated July 6, 2016, in the amount of \$364.00.
Young Wooldridge Invoice #24903, dated August 2, 2016, in the amount of \$286.00.
Dee Jaspar & Assoc. Invoice #16-06028, dated June 30, 2016, in the amount of \$378.00.
Dee Jaspar & Assoc. Invoice #16-07027, dated July 31, 2016, in the amount of \$8,761.80.
FPPUD General Ledger for Directors Fees for the meeting dated June 23, 2016, in the amount of \$400.00.
FPPUD General Ledger for Directors Fees for the meeting dated July 28, 2016, in the amount of \$500.00.
Stanley Hoffman & Assoc. Invoice #1311-1, dated August 12, 2016, in the amount of \$1,475.00.
Self-Help Enterprises Invoice #FRZPRK-0716, dated June 2016, in the amount of \$1,213.14.
Self-Help Enterprises Invoice #FRZPRK-0816, dated July 2016, in the amount of \$2,077.50.

12. CLOSED SESSION pursuant to Gov't Code Section (54957) - Item removed per adjustment of the Agenda.

13. Discussion/Vote on Future Agenda Items.

Regular Meeting September 8, 2016:

- An Agenda item to continue the discussion on the Frazier Park pond.
- A Discussion/Vote on the Prop 218 Rate Study.
- A Discussion/Vote on the Contract for Tom Dodson.

Special Meeting September 15, 2016:

- A Discussion/Vote on the maps and project description from Dee Jaspar.

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Regular Pre-Planning Meeting September 22, 2016:

- An Agenda item to continue the discussion on the Frazier Park pond.

14. Adjournment.

Motion: Move to adjourn.

Gipson/Durso 5/0/0, Motion Passed.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:15pm.

At every regular meeting, the legislative body shall provide the public with an opportunity to directly address the body on any item of interest to the public before or during the legislative body's consideration of the item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. (Brown Act Code Sec 54954.3(a)).



Tiffany Matte, Clerk of the Board



Attest: Rebecca Gipson, Secretary

seal