

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
SIERRA LAKES COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**

Date: Friday March 8, 2019 / **Time:** 6:00 p.m. / **Place:** 7305 Short Road, Serene Lakes, CA

I. Open Meeting:

Roll Call: Directors in attendance at the Sierra Lakes Boardroom were:

Director Michael Lindquist
Director Dan Stockton
Director McCormick
Director Richard Simpson
Director Karen Heald

Staff members present: Bill Quesnel, General Manager
Anna Nickerson, Financial Consultant

Staff present by phone: Andreas Booher, for Jeffrey Mitchell District Counsel

Guests present: Dennis Fisco, Resident of Serene Lakes and representative for
the Serene Lakes Property Owners Association (SLPOA)
Jeff Krebill, Utility Operator and Resident of Serene Lakes

Minute Recorder: Anna Nickerson, Financial Consultant

II. Public Forum: An opportunity for members of the public to address the Board on items that were not on the agenda. There were no comments.

III. Approve Agenda: The agenda was presented to the Board for approval. Director Heald suggested that Item VII. New Business be moved up the agenda and discussed prior to the Operations Report to accommodate Mr. Fisco, who was in attendance representing SLPOA's request for an increase in boat storage at Bales and Serene/Swiss access points.

A motion was made by Director Heald and seconded by Director Stockton to approve the agenda as amended, moving item VII up the agenda to be discussed prior to the Operations Report. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

IV. Public Comments: An opportunity for the Board to consider comments received from the public after the agenda was posted, regarding items on the agenda. Mrs. Nickerson said a set of documents, pertaining to the proposed increase in boat storage, was received Thursday and a copy was provided to each board member and placed in the board packet as part of the record.

Item VII. New Business

A. A memorandum titled "SLPOA Proposal for Increased Boat Storage", dated February 27, 2019, was presented to the Board by Mr. Quesnel, General Manager, for consideration and possible action. Prior to the discussion, Director McCormick recused himself and left the boardroom.

Mr. Quesnel said staff recommended a modest increase in the number of boats stored at the Bales and Serene/Swiss access points in response to demand. Mr. Quesnel's memorandum included historical information from Board discussion during the development of the Lake Management Plan, specifically those pertaining to boat storage limits. He said staff's recommendation was less than the increase requested but more than what was already approved. He suggested that before any further increases were approved, the Board should revisit the Lake Management Plan giving consideration to the protection against E.coli and other potential contaminants resulting from bodily contact. He also said, if the Board accepted staff's proposed modest increase then the next step would be for SLPOA to agree to an amendment of the license agreement.

Mr. Fisco said, in order to make the process easier, SLPOA would agree to the modest increase but asked that the matter be revisited in the fall. He said a lot of the boats stored at the access points weren't being used; people were paying for storage just to get the boats out of their cabins. He also said one of the issues at Bales was that mostly bigger canoes were being stored there and they were harder to lift onto the upper racks. Therefore, most of the top racks remained empty. Having another rack, as proposed by staff, would help with storing the bigger boats.

Director Heald asked if Lot 1 was still restricted to two boats per cabin. Mr. Fisco said, as far as he knew, it was still two boats per cabin. Director Heald then asked if there was a general restriction of two boats per cabin. Mr. Fisco said he believed it was two boats per cabin at any location. He also said this year, SLPOA would be holding back about 25 stickers to accommodate late requests.

Director Lindquist asked why SLPOA didn't just dramatically increase boat storage at Lot 1 to meet the needs, instead of proposing the increase. Mr. Fisco said, Lot 1 was out of capacity and it could be a long hike for people who lived on Hillside or Serene. Director Lindquist asked if SLPOA discussed what they would do if the Board didn't approve an increase in boat storage. Mr. Fisco said it was not discussed and that if the increase was not approved then the program would stay the same and more people would be dissatisfied. He added that even though there were a lot of boats stored at Bales, a lot of them never move all season.

Director Heald asked if Mr. Bubnis was still monitoring the short term storage to make sure boats were being properly removed. Mr. Fisco said there were six or seven boats confiscated last year for violating the short term time limit and that Mr. Bubnis would continue monitoring.

Director Simpson asked if Mr. Fisco knew the breakdown between SLPOA members and non-SLPOA members who use the boat racks. He said he thought there was a provision that you don't have to be a member to participate in the boat storage program. Mr. Fisco said he thought George Lamson would have that information.

Director Simpson then asked if Mr. Quesnel was concerned that an increase in the number of boats would cause an increase in contamination. He asked if there was any data showing a correlation between E.coli concentrations and the number of boats that were allowed at the various sites. Mr. Quesnel said staff had been sampling but his previous attempt at graphing the information was not definitive. He also said there seemed to be a little increase but he wasn't sure if it was due to bodily contact, dogs or weather. He thought maybe a more aggressive program for monitoring raw water bacteria levels would provide better information. Director Simpson said, if a more obvious correlation could not be determined, he would be supportive of a full rack instead of the modest increase proposed. Mr. Quesnel said, should a threshold be reached, it would be easier to control the impact with incremental increases. He also said, especially at Bales, while The Strip did not technically extend across the District's property, the effort had been to keep the area clear and unencumbered. Mr. Quesnel said, extending the existing rack would provide more of the low level storage people desired and would allow time to monitor the effects on the environment.

Staff was directed to bring back an amended license agreement, possibly by the April meeting, for an increase in boat storage at Bales and Serene/Swiss as recommended by staff and after approval and signature by the SLPOA Board.

Director McCormick returned to the meeting.

V. Operations: Mr. Quesnel's operations report was presented to the Board for consideration and possible action. Mr. Quesnel reported that an acknowledgement letter, in regard to water activities at Lot 1, had been sent to SLPOA. He also said a new insurance certificate, that includes mention of the dive platform, has been received. He also reported that staff have been working on several annual reports, that the water temperature was down to 0.25 degrees and the operators have been working to keep the plant operating. Due to the cold water, the plant was currently running at 100/gallons per minute; normal was 150 gallons/minute. Director McCormick asked if Mr. Quesnel didn't want to operate the well because of the cost. Mr. Quesnel said there were a couple reasons. The well could not keep up with demand and it was licensed as a standby water source so it could not be operated more than 15 days a year or five days in a row. The well was classified as a standby source because of the arsenic level. In order to use the well all the time, an arsenic removal system would have to be installed. He also said it was hard to access the well in the winter because of the snow.

Director Heald said there were some high levels of water usages on odd days in the Sewer and Treated Water table; Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Mr. Quesnel said it was partly due to ski & skate week and possibly President's Day weekend.

Mr. Quesnel said he and the operators would probably go out the next week to drills holes in the ice and start looking at what the dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity and pH levels were at different depths of the lake. The information would then be graphed and analyzed. He said before the District was to spend a lot of money to extend the intake pipe he wanted to make sure there was nothing unexpected. Director Simpson said although the deeper water was warmer it had higher turbidity but his overall impression was that there were more advantages to drawing from deeper water. He said the only disadvantage he saw was that there was more pipe subject to possible damage. Mr. Quesnel said drawing from deeper water seemed very positive and staff could find that the intake pipe may only need to be extended by 50 feet instead of 100 feet. He also said he wasn't too concerned about damage to the pipe laying on the bottom of the lake but the new structure

would probably be something more in line with a manhole or concrete drainage type structure. He also said he needed to figure out the design of the valve so if something happened the operators could switch back and forth between the deep and shallow water.

Director Simpson asked if the dissolved oxygen was really just an odor issues. Mr. Quesnel said low dissolved oxygen could cause both a taste and odor problem. Nothing serious but taste and odor was important.

Director Simpson asked about the analysis of the corroded pipes and if there was any possibility that the pipes were switched. He said he was trying to figure out if there was a pattern but couldn't find anything. He also said he talked to people that lived on the lakefront, down from Donner and was told there was some seepage, water coming through the soil, that was keeping the lake from freezing in that area. He wonder if maybe there was some underground flow carrying the pipe material away faster than the pipe sitting in stagnant water down by the bottom of the lake. Mr. Quesnel said, no the pipes were not switched and that there could be some truth in Director Simpson's statement. He also said he was thinking that groundwater was leaching the cement and that pipe on Soda Springs Road might be more exposed to groundwater running off the hillside into the lake. Mr. Quesnel also mentioned that there were two types of asbestos cement pipe; rough barrel and smooth barrel. He believed the pipe on lower Lake was rough barrel and the pipe on Donner was smooth barrel which may contribute to the difference in corrosion between the two areas. He said the pipe replacement project would take into consideration the drainage coming off the hillside.

Director Simpson said the 22,000 gallon differential between sewer flow now and the five year average was impressive. Mr. Quesnel said they were collectively proud of the progress that has been made in controlling I&I. He also said, as of the other day, Sierra Lakes' flows into the DSPUD treatment plant for the month of February were down to 22% from 36% last year.

Director Heald said she noticed what looked like streams coming up through the pavement on the roads at the south end of the lakes. She said it was in the same place where the road disintegrated two or three years ago. Mr. Quesnel agreed that there were a couple places along Serene Road where there was standing water but no leak could be found. Leakage through the pavement may be natural drainage from higher elevations away from the road.

VI. Consent Items Calendar:

The Consent Items Calendar was presented to the Board for action. The Consent Items Calendar included the minutes from the February 8, 2019 Regular Meetings; the February 2019 Check Register; Disbursements for Board Approval; and financial reports for the month ending February 28, 2019. Director Lindquist asked if anyone wanted to pull anything off the consent calendar.

A motion was made by Director Stockton and seconded by Director McCormick to approve the Consent Items Calendar. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

VII. New Business: "SLPOA Proposal for Increased Boat Storage". The item was discussed earlier in the meeting, prior to the Operations Report.

VIII. Old Business:

A. Director Lindquist began the discussion regarding the recruitment of a new General Manager by referencing a letter from Blake Tresan, General Manager of Truckee Sanitary District and longtime property owner in Serene Lakes, that stated it should be a part-time position. Director Heald confirmed with Mr. Quesnel that Mr. Quesnel felt it would be more of a 75% time position. Director Simpson said he understood that the operators would like to have someone onsite fulltime. He also said he didn't see an advantage in trying to hire someone that was already a contractor if it was going to be a full-time position. Director Lindquist said he felt having a General Manager on site fulltime would be overkill since the District already had a set of fully qualified operators to run the plant. He just didn't see a need for a fulltime General Manager, there wasn't enough work. However, he did agree it would need to be more than halftime.

Director Lindquist's proposal was to try and hire a contract employee first. If a qualified candidate could not be found, then post the position for a permanent employee. He proposed to get a request for qualifications out within a week with a deadline prior to the April board meeting. The committee could review the submissions and give the Board a "red light, yellow light" response; a yellow light would signify a good response and red light would signify a bad response and the need to try to recruit a permanent employee. Director Simpson was concerned about the time constraint. Director Heald said, based on her review of prior consent items calendars, she concluded that a halftime position would not work; she felt summer might require fulltime where winter could be at 75%. She also thought the Board needed to figure out what was needed before pursuing either a contract or permanent employee. Director Lindquist said another option would be to have a part-time project manager during the summer construction months. He said he saw the General Manager working more with the staff.

Director Heald said her preference was to offer the opportunity for either a contract or permanent employee. She wanted to let the applicant pool know that the District was open to both. Mr. Quesnel said there were also firms available that could provide Utility Manager Services on a contract basis. Director Lindquist said the problem was that a permanent fulltime employee was a very different position from a contract employee. He said one of the things that concerned him with soliciting for both at the same time was that it looked like the District didn't know what it wanted. Director Heald said it would seem that a solicitation for a contract employee would be made in a different place than a solicitation for a permanent employee. She suggested that the District give it a month for the contract employee, soliciting for a firm, with a variable percentage of 75% to 80%, about 1,500 hours. The Board agreed.

Director Lindquist then referred to Mr. Tresan's suggestion of a consolidation of Sierra Lakes County Water District (SLCWD) with Donner Summit Public Utility District. He said he didn't think it had a bearing on the decision the Board was currently making because a consolidation would take a couple years. Director Simpson said he felt SLCWD was the smaller of the two fish but that SLCWD's operation might be better. He didn't want to go into any discussion thinking SLCWD was the smaller partner. Director Heald said the other major hurdle was SLCWD's landowner vote. Director Lindquist said it would be incredibly complicated but that this was an appropriate time to have the discussion. He said it could be a future agenda item once more information was available.

IX. Administration:

A. A list of Follow-up Items from the February 2019, board meeting was presented to the Board for consideration and possible action. Director Simpson said there was some information in SLPOA's March newsletter that would suggest Central Sierra Snow Lab information was now available on a Facebook page. He said maybe the District doesn't need a weather station and that the information was just no longer available on a website.

B. The Status of Action Items remaining as of the March 2019 board meeting was presented to the Board for consideration and possible action. Mr. Quesnel reported:

- Stop&drain valve program – was in process and that he was working on a script.
- Best Management Practices – was in process and that he talked to John Cobourn and was able to get some information that was very helpful. He would review the information and prepare an article.
- AMR Data Collection – was in process he said he hadn't done anything with the meter reads yet but that there were 10 no reads that day in which six or seven were long term no reads. He also said there was one group of about five meters down on Kilborn that just don't read. He also said he heard about Micro Cells being used in Aspen and they might be something that could be put on each pump station. He said he would research the possibilities.
- Policies & Procedures review – was in process.
- Insurance Policies review – was in process and that he received a list of questions from Mr. Mitchell that he was working on.

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Director Heald and seconded by Director Stockton to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The minutes were approved at the Regular Meeting held on April 12, 2019, as part of the Consent Items Calendar. A motion was made by Director _____ and seconded by Director _____ to approve the Consent Items Calendar. The motion passed by a _____ vote: