

TULARE COUNTY WATER COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 14, 2013

Members Present:

Allen Ishida, Board Representative and Chairman
Mike Ennis, Board Alternate Representative
Rudy Mendoza, TCAG Representative
Mark Larsen, District 3 Appointee
Richard L. Schafer, District 5 Appointee
Keith Watkins, At-Large Appointee
Paul Boyer, District 1 Appointee
Dale Brogan, District 2 Appointee
Dennis Keller, At-Large Appointee
Susana De Anda, At-Large Appointee

Members Absent:

Chris Kapheim, District 4 Appointee

Staff Present:

Julieta Martinez, Tulare County Board of Supervisors
Arlene Silva, County Counsel

Members of the Public who voluntarily provided their names on the attendance sheet:

Carole Clum
Nilsa Gonzalez
Shane Smith
Michael Bond
Michael Tharp
Patricia Blattler

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm.

2. Public Comment Period

Carol Clum of Three Rivers provided handouts in regards to water purified with oil from Scientific American Magazine as well as a newspaper clipping from the Financial Times.
See Attachment A for comments.

3. Approval of Minutes From October 8, 2012 Meeting

Motion for approval by Commissioner Larsen. Seconded by Commissioner Watkins. Motion approved.

4. Presentation from Michael Bond, Engineer IV, of RMA on Flood Control Commission Projects.

Michael Bond gave a PowerPoint presentation in regards to proposed flood control projects. The top three projects are as follows: 1. Juvenile Detention Facility – Cottonwood Creek, 2. Seville – Sontag Ditch, 3. Yettem – Button Ditch. Mr. Bond assured that the Resource Management Agency will see through the projects starting with concept design all the way through construction. He also gave a

general timeline for the projects stating that the initial project would be the Juvenile Detention Facility. Mr. Bond mentioned that the costs of all three projects total under \$1,800,000. He stated that the funding for the projects would be paid for by current funds in the Flood Control budget.

Commissioner Boyer posed a question in regards to the Seville Project. He stated that the Sontag Ditch and the Stone Corral Irrigation Ditch are very close to one another.

Chairman Ishida expressed his gratitude for the projects going forward and stated that there are now three emergency pumps recently purchased.

Commissioner Schafer inquired as to where the three million dollar funds came from for the Flood Control Commission projects.

Chairman Ishida took the opportunity to introduce the newest member of the Water Commission Miss. Susana De Anda from Community Water Center.

5. Update on Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantage Community Water Study

Commissioner Keller provided the rest of the Commission with an update. He shared that the Stakeholders Oversight Advisory Committee will hold a meeting next month.

6. Subcommittee Reports

Commissioner Schafer stated he enjoyed the letter received on November 24th from the Board of Supervisors in regards to the UC Davis Water Study. He commented that investigation of the data indicated there were numerous inconsistencies. He stated that in order to evaluate the data, one needs to evaluate each of the twenty nine systems to see when the readings were taken and where the data came from. The letter sent out was on target where it indicated that it is not ok to use a bulk set of data and consider it the level of nitrates in the County.

Mathew Bolis, Deputy Assistant Director stated he would relay the information to Mr. Fussel.

7. Staff Reports

None at this time.

8. Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Schafer gave an update on Success Dam. The CORPS of Engineers have scheduled meetings for the 23rd and 24th of January for their risk assessment committee. The focus is on three issues which are seismic, seepage, and what they refer to as over-topping.

9. Next meeting – Monday, February 11, 2013, 3:00 p.m. – Board of Supervisors Chambers

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:39pm.

Carole Clum's Public Comments at the Tulare County
Water Commission, January 14, 2013

I have good news and bad news. First, the good news, Your first handout from Scientific American magazine describes a scientist's discovery that soybean oil and decanoic acid, which occurs naturally in milk, dissolve water without dissolving other molecules that are in the water, such as salts and chemicals in fracking water. In other words, this Indian immigrant discovered a way to purify water, using a solvent that can be reused indefinitely.

The bad news also comes from the December issue of the Scientific American magazine. The startling decline of summer ice in the Arctic since 2000 has disrupted the normal rhythms of the Arctic Oscillation and North American Oscillation. The Jet Stream has been weakened. It exhibits larger waves in its trajectory, which can get stalled in place, locking an affected region such as the northeastern U.S. in a prolonged deep freeze while California gets warmer than usual winters. Our winter precipitation in the Sierra Nevadas will trend more and more to rain rather than snow as more ice melts in the Arctic. Look at the last page of this handout for an explanation of what happened last winter.

The third handout from the Financial Times is a warning. A fertilizer factory in northern China released 40 tons of aniline, a carcinogenic chemical that can damage human organs if consumed.

The spill was disclosed only after the chemical had contaminated a reservoir that serves two cities with a combined population of 3 million people. The provincial government took 6 days to issue a public warning. I don't know what Chinese industrial safety regulations are but clearly monitoring and enforcement are deficient.

The north of China is arid. Almost all crops are irrigated. We import food from China. Almost all American apple juice is made from concentrate. 80-90% of apple juice concentrate comes from China.