

**TULARE COUNTY WATER COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 9, 2012**

Members Present:

Allen Ishida, Board Representative and Chairman  
Mike Ennis, Board Alternate Representative  
Chris Kapheim, District 4 Appointee  
Mark Larsen, District 3 Appointee  
Richard L. Schafer, District 5 Appointee  
Keith Watkins, At-Large Appointee  
Laurel Firestone, At-Large Appointee  
Dale Brogan, District 2 Appointee  
Paul Boyer, District 1 Appointee  
Dennis Keller, At-Large Appointee

Members Absent:

Rudy Mendoza, TCAG Representative

Staff Present:

Denise Akins, Tulare County Administrative Office  
Julieta Martinez, Tulare County Board of Supervisors  
Nina Dong, County Counsel  
Michael Hickey, Tulare County RMA, GIS

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

Pat Pinkham  
Carole Clum  
Michael Tharp  
Shane Smith  
Miguel Herrera

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Carole Clum of Three Rivers provided handouts to the Commissioners in regards to farmers' restoration efforts and recharge zones. Ms. Clum's comments are summarized in Attachment A.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 14, 2012 MEETING

Commissioner Larsen moved to approve the minutes, Commissioner **NAME** seconded the motion. Carole Clum of Three Rivers objected to the condensation of comments made to agenda item five at the meeting held on May 14, 2012. Ms. Clum's objections are summarized in Attachment B.

Chairman Ishida announced there will be a personnel change for staffing the Tulare County Water Commission. He indicated that Julieta Martinez will be serving the Commission and suggested Ms. Clum provide copies of her handouts to Ms. Martinez.

Commissioner Firestone suggested amending the minutes of the May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting to reflect what Ms. Clum actually stated.

Commissioner Larsen amended his motion with comment asking staff to attach Ms. Clums' handouts as record of what was stated and add any future worksheets to the meeting minutes.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### 4. PRESENTATION FROM ROTARY

Patrick Isherwood, President of Tulare Sunrise Rotary, gave a presentation regarding a project that Rotary would like to facilitate throughout the Tulare Lake Basin region. He stated that Rotary had a reputation of being involved in facilitation of services in the community. He went on to say that throughout the central valley water quality is a pivotal issue and that Rotary has contemplated what they could do to help. He explained that the Rotary has set goals to concentrate on clean, safe drinking water and a project that can be implemented and sustained.

Mr. Isherwood stated that Rotary would like to help residents on private wells obtain a water purification system, more specifically in the Monson-Sultana area. He gave an example of going to stores, such as Home Depot, and purchasing water purification systems that are affordable, fit under the sink, are approved by the National Science Foundation, meet CDPH requirements, and accommodate individual households. He stated that families can get a system that will handle nitrates, arsenic, and other contaminants that can be installed under their sinks, and have access to clean drinking water.

Mr. Isherwood listed the following partnerships:

East Fresno Rotary	Visalia Sunrise
Woodlake Rotary	Porterville Rotary
Tulare Rotary	Tulare Noon
Visalia Downtown	Visalia County Center
Visalia Sunset	Visalia Latino of Tulare County

(other groups throughout state of California)

Mr. Isherwood asked that the Water Commission endorse what the Rotary is doing and encouraged the Board of Supervisors to do so as well.

Commissioner Kapheim asked if the point of use filters take nitrates out.

Commissioner Keller stated that there is a disposal procedure for the filters that requires changing a cartridge.

Commissioner Larsen stated that the systems do work but maintenance is critical and the cartridges must be changed out regularly.

Commissioner Brogan asked how long the cartridge lasted. Mr. Isherwood responded that they can last from 6-12 months. He also stated that the Rotary has taken steps to provide households with one extra cartridge.

Commissioner Boyer commented on his appreciation of Rotary and the work it has done. He also stated how great it is to have interim solutions, and he is ready to see this project happen.

Sam Logan, President of Visalia County Center Rotary, thanked Mr. Isherwood for his help and stated that the water issue appears on a larger scope to have interest outside the U.S.

Chairman Ishida thanked Mr. Isherwood and the Rotary for taking on this project.

Commissioner Firestone stated that this is the beginning of more partnerships and hopes that we can start looking at long term solutions in terms of clean drinking water.

## 5. DISCUSSION ON COMBINING THE TULARE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER COMMISSIONS

Chairman Ishida initiated the conversation of combining the two Commissions because the work of the Water Commission and the Flood Control Commission was becoming more and more related.

Commissioner Larsen stated that the Flood Control Commission has been working hard to get focused. He has been excited to get traction and narrow down on projects with potential. He also stated there could be a point in the future where both Commissions could come together but it might be troublesome at this point given the amount of work the Flood Control Commission has yet to do.

Commissioner Brogan suggested quarterly meetings with the Flood Control Commission, but argued that joining the Commissions could be detrimental to the Flood Control Commission process. He explained that it was important to maintain the diversity of the Flood Control Commission.

Commissioner Schafer commented on Success Dam and safety issues that appear to be no longer relevant. He stated that there was still hope to see the enlargement project move forward.

Chairman Ishida shared that from conversations he has had with the Army Corp the enlargement project is not high on the priority list.

Commissioner Kapheim expressed his concern with the Flood Control Commission and not seeing visible results from the work being done. He believes there needs to be some rethinking of the Commission. He also mentioned his concern with Cutler-Orosi being the largest unincorporated area in Tulare County and not having a flood control plan.

Commissioner Brogan invited the Commissioners to attend the next Flood Control Commission meeting. He also stated that a lot of progress has been made in the past 6 months.

Commissioner Firestone indicated that more coordination with both Commissions would be beneficial and it would be great to involve broader stakeholders. She also asked what the costs for the County would be if the Commissions were joined.

Chairman Ishida stated that the costs of operating a combined Water and Flood Control Commission would be greater. He expressed his frustration with not being able to establish a joint meeting. He encouraged the Commissioners to make time for these meetings.

Commissioner Larsen stated that the first step is to hold a joint meeting where the Flood Control Commission could discuss their future projects and explain the process to move forward.

Chairman Ishida expressed his concern with the Flood Control Commission budget and how the funds are being spent.

Commissioner Larsen stated that the Flood Control Commission is not aware of what the budget is.

Ms. Akins clarified that the budget is controlled by the Resource Management Agency, not the Flood Control Commission.

Commissioner Firestone asked that the Flood Control Commission provide an update at the next Water Commission Meeting.

Chairman Ishida asked for Flood Control Commission input and expertise on what projects should move forward.

## 6. UPDATE ON TULARE LAKE BASIN DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY WATER STUDY

Commissioner Firestone stated the next Stakeholder Oversight Advisory Committee (SOAC) meeting will be July 30<sup>th</sup>. She indicated that the list of topics for pilot projects was finalized. She explained that the pilot projects will be discussed at the next SOAC

meeting to discuss budget, timeline, etc. She went on to say that there was interest from the SOAC to continue meeting and stated that the Board of Supervisors would be considering future SOAC meetings at the July 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Chairman Ishida asked about the filters for nitrates in water and questioned if those could be a possible solution.

Commissioner Keller did not think it would change the pilots. He described it as more of an interim solution. He stated that under the counter solutions do not get to all problems out there. He does not see filters supplanting an ultimate source solution to problems, or distribution problems. He stated some communities have worked over 10 years to get to a solution and thought that the time frame is too long of a wait to get a potable solution to water problems.

Commissioner Kapheim asked if filter cartridges were considered hazardous waste?

Commissioner Keller indicated that cartridges involved with nitrate removal, or arsenic removal, were considered to be hazardous waste. He said this is a pilot issue and major operation and maintenance costs issue that is pertinent to treatment. He stated it is the same with under the sink filters, you cannot send them to a landfill, there has to be disposal procedure.

## 7. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

None at this time.

## 8. STAFF REPORTS

None at this time.

## 9. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Chris Kapheim stated that the Bill 1146 didn't make it out of the committee due to misinformation.

Commissioner Firestone announced her resignation from the Tulare County Water Commission. She stated that she will be opening an office for Community Water Center in Sacramento where she will co-chair a stakeholder group for the governor's office. She indicated that this meeting or the next meeting will be her last and she will be sending a letter of resignation.

Chairman Ishida thanked Commissioner Firestone for serving on the Water Commission and stated she was a very valuable member.

Commissioner Larsen announced that the Tulare City Planners will be hosting the Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers and will give them a tour.

Commissioner Boyer announced that the California Department of Public Health sent out requests for applications for those interested in Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loans. He stated that they have invited close to 100 applications, but can only give approximately 40 contracts per year. He also said that with the USDA and Senate Farm Bill, there is some language that will change eligibility for communities for water/waste water project funding. He explained that they are increasing the population threshold to 50,000 for those in un-urbanized areas. He stated that there are places that are eligible under the current definition, but will no longer be eligible and vice-versa. He provided Matheny Tract, Goshen, and Patterson Tract as examples of communities that will not be eligible in future because they are within the Visalia Urban Area.

10. NEXT MEETING – MONDAY AUGUST 13, 2012, 3:00 P.M – BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS

11. ADJOURN

Chairman Ishida adjourned at 4:26pm.