

**AMADOR WATER AGENCY**

Board of Directors  
Regular Meeting  
August 23, 2007

**MINUTES**

**Directors Present:** Terence W. Moore, President  
John P. Swift, Vice President  
Dan Brown  
Heinz Hamann  
David S. Thomas

**Directors Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Jim Abercrombie, General Manager  
Gene Mancebo, Manager of Engineering & Planning  
Chris McKeage, Operations Manager  
Karen L Gish, Acting Clerk of the Board

**CALL TO ORDER** – President Moore called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA** – There were no additions to the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Mr. Ron Hess, residing at 18851 Clay Pitt, stated that he had applied for water service and was wondering why he had not received a response. He further stated that wells are drying up in the Clay Pitt area and they are desperate need of water. Manager Abercrombie stated that a meeting is being held on September 10, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. at the County offices addressing water supply in the Carbondale area. Gene Mancebo, Manager of E&P added that the existing line is too small to add anymore capacity. He stated that the 6-inch line has to carry the fire flow as well as serve the original residents that paid to install the pipeline. He stated that as part of the September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, the County will be discussing water service to the Carbondale Industrial Park and we will be trying to add a storage tank that could provide the fire protection capacity and then we would be able to add connections to the Eagles Nest/Eagles Ranch area. Mr. Hess further stated that they paid \$10,000 for a study in 2003 and there are people in the Eagles Nest area that are not using their connections and why couldn't the individuals in need have those connections. Manager of E&P Mancebo responded that the individuals who built Eagles Nest and Eagles Ranch paid for the system and have the right to their connection whether they are using it yet or not. He further stated that the Agency originally thought we could add a few connections, but

after the system was completed and flow testing was done, the results where that between the flow and elevations, there was no further capacity for additional services. He stated that we keep testing and looking for innovative ways to add additional capacity, but to date have not found any alternatives. Mrs. Hess further stated that the county allows for their storage tanks to be their fire protection. President Moore requested that further discussion on this topic be deferred until after the September 10, 2007 meeting to see what resolutions come out of that meeting.

Mr. Peter Jones stated that he also lives on Clay Pitt and that he was not asking for an extension on the line. He stated that he simply wants a 5/8" connection, nothing more. Manager of E&P Mancebo stated that the issue is still capacity for a reliable system. Mr. Jones asked about the two connections on Mustang and Clay Pitt already. Manager Abercrombie stated that he would like to set up a meeting between the Agency, Director Swift and the individuals in attendance prior to the September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting to see what can be done.

Director Brown inquired into the size and cost of the additional storage. Manager of E&P Mancebo stated that driving force of the September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting is what the Industrial park needs and if we can add a 500 gallon tank for the needs of the Carbondale area.

Mr. Jerry Sherman inquired on the status of the lone water tank. Manager of E&P Mancebo stated that the tank is essentially completed and will tie in at the corner by the school grounds. He further stated that the pump station is the item that still needs to be completed and the contractor is trying to expedite completion. He also stated that it will most likely be three months before the station is completed, tested and operational. Mr. Sherman inquired as to why the tank was not looked at three years ago. Manager Abercrombie stated that the Agency has been looking at the tank option for 10 years, but you need to have a property owner who will allow you to put a tank on their property.

Susan Clark, Manager of the Amador County Fair stated that she was here today to express the Fair Board's appreciation for the Agency's assistance with the two sewer problems during this year's fair. She stated that the first incident was a sewer back up in the beer booth and the second incident was in the restrooms. She stated that the Agency's response to their request for assistance and the four employees who responded demonstrated one of the reasons for being a part of this County, in particular their attitude of caring for the community. She stated that Manager Abercrombie determined that the Agency could legally assist the County Fair and sent three employees to the fairgrounds, who came out at midnight to help with the first incident. They then returned the next night and assisted us with the restroom when they didn't have to. She further stated that one employee even had his son in the rodeo and still assisted with the sewer issue. She stated that they put their Community first without expecting recognition in return. She presented, on behalf of the Fair Board, herself, the community and attendees, their appreciation to Jerry Goshorn, Lonny Brewster and Dave Loftis. She presented them with Certificates of Appreciation, shirts to replace the ones that were ruined on Saturday night and two other gifts. She also presented

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Manager Abercrombie with a pen as appreciation for his assistance. She further stated that the Agency should be proud to have employees such as Mr. Goshorn, Mr. Brewster and Mr. Loftis. Both Manager Abercrombie and the Board agreed that they were proud and thanked Mrs. Clark for the recognition and for attending today's Board meeting.

Mr. Mike Single of Clay Pitt stated that he has less than 1 gallon per minute out of his well and is desperate for water. He inquired as to if it would be possible to get a water truck or something in order to get water. Operations Manager Mckeage stated that he realized this situation has been developing for some time, and needed to know how bad the situation has become. Mr. Hess stated that their Ph levels are less than 4. Operations Manager McKeage further stated that the situation is critical for the Agency and existing residents as well. The Agency is facing a lawsuit from one of the original owners and that the Sheriff is also investigating water theft in the area. He stated that unlawful water theft by trucks has been causing problems, to the extent that pressure drops so great that the upper customers start sucking air. He stated that a meeting needs to occur where the Agency could authorize acceptable locations to draw water for the residents in need.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** It was moved by Director Swift, seconded by Director Hamann, and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of item 3A.

Director Moore requested item 3A to be pulled and added to a future agenda. Director Thomas abstained from item 1.A.

### **AMADOR WATER SYSTEM**

#### **lone Water Treatment Plant Backwash**

**Discussion and direction to staff regarding City of lone's proposal to increase rates to Amador Water System for backwash disposal at the lone Sewer Treatment Plant** – Manager Abercrombie took a moment to introduce City Manager Kim Kerr to the Board. He stated that the attached staff report was a summary of the past correspondence with the City, which he has provided to Mr. Kerr, to eliminate the misperception that the Agency has not done anything with regards to our backwash disposal issue. He further stated that the Agency has been looking at different options since the 1990s, including the City's interest in using the backwash water at Howard Park. He stated that due to significant turn over at the City's management level, action has never been taken on this item. He stated that the City is interested in raising the backwash water to a hydraulic level a significant 2000% rate increase. Manager Abercrombie stated that if we are required to pay the rate increase, then we would require the City to upgrade their collections lines to handle the backwash flow, instead of hamper the Agency's operations by our previous modifications. He requested direction from the Board to continue to meet with the council to discuss options and

educate the council on our previous modifications to the backwash disposal at their request, performing backwash at midnight to minimize the impact on the system. The modification limits the Agency's ability to meet the water demands of the City due to being able to treat the water at a slower rate. He stated that staff would like to sit down with the city staff to come up with and acceptable solution and to develop a financing plan to accomplish the solution.

Director Swift stated that the letter from Lone's consultant was not attached to the Staff Report and requested a copy. He further stated that a mutually acceptable solution is in the best interest for both parties. Director Hamann raised the issue of not only capacity, but that the Agency would not have backwash concerns in lone once the new Tanner Treatment Plant is built in 3-5 years. He encouraged working together for a short-term solution, but was concerned with the cost due to our length of involvement in the issue. Staff and the Board discussed some of the alternatives, such as water recycling/reuse plans to have customers such as Unimin, Howard Park and Preston obtain recycled wastewater and, possibly, Castle Oaks Golf Course as well.

Mr. Jerry Sherman stated that Mule Creek Prison should be included in any analysis of water use. He stated that the Prison uses more water than the city. He also felt that Eagles Nest and the lone valley should be included. He stated that he spoke with Directors Swift and Hamann and felt that a couple of the Board members should be involved in the discussions.

Jim Ulm stated that part of reason why the City is asking for a rate increase is to get the Agency's attention. He stated that the Council wants to resolve the issue. He stated that sewer is a big problem for the City and the problem needs to be solved.

Director Moore stated that the Agency will not have backwash flow once the new facilities at Tanner are done and that lone will only have treated water delivered to them through a pipeline from Tanner. He further stated that this issue can be solved and we needed to work together.

Director Swift agreed with Mr. Sherman that future discussions should include an analysis of how Mule Creek Prison pays for their water and requested that everybody here should stay for item #8 – Buckhorn Backwash Issue and Cost of Permitting – as it might shed more light on the backwash concerns.

**MOTION** – It was moved by Director Brown, seconded by Director Swift, to direct staff to continue to meet with the City of lone on this issue .

President Moore moved to Item 8.A.1. with a return to Item 7.A.1. after recess.

## **CAWP**

### **Buckhorn Water Treatment Plant Backwash**

**Discussion and direction to staff to proceed with low threat discharge permit and to work in cooperation with Mace Meadows Golf Course –**

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Directors Thomas and Swift stepped down due to a conflict of interest. Manager Abercrombie stated the backwash disposal is treated through a membrane plant, which uses less chemicals. He stated that staff has been working with the RWQCB on the WDRs when we had a spill into a stream. This required testing of the quality of the backwash water, which tested at better quality than storm water. Consequently, the Agency has requested that the RWQCB for a low threat status. The RWQCB staff rejected our request, but higher level staff seems more amenable to the idea. He stated that EBMUD recently went through a similar situation with the RWQCB giving them a low threat status. Staff is pursuing the option, utilizing EBMUD's letter, with a meeting in September, requesting that the RWQCB be consistent in their administration of rules.

**MOTION** – It was moved by Director Hamann, seconded by Director Brown to direct staff to continue with the direction they are currently taking with the RWQCB.

**RECESS** was called at 10:07 a.m.; **SESSION RESUMED** with item 7.A.1. at 10:20 a.m.

## **AGENCY GENERAL**

### **ACWA Committee**

**Discussion and direction to staff regarding ACWA Committee Appointment Nominee for 2008/2009 Term** – Director Moore stated that he received a request form from ACWA for nominee appointments for various committees for the upcoming year. Manager Abercrombie stated that our involvement in the legislative committee is important, even though we do get reports from Counsel Kronick. Director Moore stated that the Committee provides different information than Counsel Kronick and the Committee is a good way on finding out what is going on with good information and positive feedback. Directors Moore and Hamann will volunteer for the Committee, with Director Hamann being the alternate. Director Brown will continue to serve on the Ground Water Committee and Director Swift on the Local Government Committee.

## **COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS**

**CAMRA Meeting** -Director Brown had nothing to report at this time.

**Joint Water Committee Meeting** -Director Moore reported that Director Swift and Manager Abercrombie and he were in attendance. He stated that Leticia Sexton with the Planning Commission was in attendance and referred to a project named Gold Vale. Manager E&P stated that Gold Vale was originally the Amador Meadows project, located Hwy 88 and Lower Ridge Road. He stated that they had their application in with the county and that he believed the project is in 500-unit range. Director Moore stated the Committee also discussed the Plymouth pipeline status; the Mokelumne River Forum and 58 agreement; guidelines for water development fund administration (old ones) and the new proposed ones coming out soon. He stated that the County is

reluctant to give us the development fund to administer. Other topics included, the national wild and scenic rivers bill; the planning of a Mokelumne River only bill; land stewardship council; and that public works water/wastewater for the airport is back on agenda.

**Amador Dry Creek Watershed Meeting Report** -Director Hamann reported that the Committee is currently getting committees set up. He further reported a landowner wants to give away a 30-acre parcel and that the County Recreation Department is not interested. He stated that he would get further information and provide it to Staff on whether the Agency would be interested.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S MONTHLY REPORT** – Manager Abercrombie reported on various issues on which he has been working on. He focused on areas concerning safety manual; dress code policy; FEMA training; participation fees, with a meeting being scheduled in September; in the area of community awareness, he has entered into a contract with Karly Hernandez to work on press releases; scheduling IRWMP's update to include public awareness, global warming issues and greenhouse effects for grant eligibility; Plymouth pipeline slowly moving forward, bid in October or November, with construction next year; schedule a small diameter pipeline workshop; fish and wildlife for Plymouth and Camanche wastewater; Lower Bear with URS; City of Jackson letter regarding wastewater issue; and Sutter Creek replied to request for 50,000/day capacity indicating acceptance of request, sending letter back confirming.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS DISTRICT REPORTS-** The Board members reported on various activities they have been involved in within their respective areas of responsibility.

**FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS-** The Board requested the following items: Manager Abercrombie's contract; HGL for CSA#3; Wastewater Workshop; Project Prioritization and Mule Creek Prison (How they pay for water).

**CLOSED SESSION** was called at 11:15 a.m. for the following matters.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 – Conference with Real Property Negotiators-Agency Negotiator, Jim Abercrombie-concerning APN 040-030-077 and 040-030-078-Negotiating Party, Ed Oneto-Price and Terms.

**OPEN SESSION RESUMED** at 11:20 a.m. with direction given to staff

**ADJOURNMENT** - President Moore adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

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Karen L Gish  
Acting Clerk of the Board of Directors

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_