

Notes

Sacramento Suburban Water District/Del Paso Manor Water District 2x2 Ad Hoc Committee

Monday, March 2, 2020 at 5:00 P.M.

Location:

Sacramento Suburban Water District
3701 Marconi Avenue, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95821

Call to Order

Chair Locke called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Locke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Committee Members: Craig Locke, Robert Wichert, Marissa Burt, and John Lenahan.

SSWD Staff: General Manager Dan York, Assistant General Manager Mike Huot, Jeff Ott, Heather Hernandez-Fort, Dana Dean, Jim Arenz, Todd Artrip, Shawn Shedenhelm, and Matt Underwood.

Public Present: Shelly Artrip, Paul Olmstead, Roger Nelson, Natalie Clohossey, Diane Graves, Kathy Laur, Penny Soderlund, Mary Harris, and Greg Schneider.

Items for Discussion and/or Action

1. Introduction

Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) General Manager Dan York (GM York) noted that a Director from the Del Paso Manor Water District (DPMWD) was present in the audience, and reminded him to not provide any comments in order to comply with the Brown Act.

Each Committee member introduced themselves.

2. History of the two agencies

GM York presented a PowerPoint presentation of the history of both districts.

3. Goal of the 2x2 Committee

Chair Locke inquired what the goal of each Committee Member was for the Committee.

John Lenahan (Director Lenahan) expressed that he was interested in having formal discussions with SSWD regarding future plans of DPMWD. He stated that he was interested in discussing opportunities to combine forces with electronic meter reading,

and noted that DPMWD didn't have the staffing that SSWD has, and was interested in exploring all options of integrating systems, up to, potential consolidation discussions.

Marissa Burt (Director Burt) expressed that her main goal was the health and safety of DPMWD, and that she was interested in DPMWD becoming more proactive rather than reactive. She stated she was looking at things from all sides, and was interested in gathering all of the information she could to allow the DPMWD ratepayers to decide what would be best for the future of DPMWD.

Robert Wichert (Director Wichert) echoed Director Burt, noting that the community as a whole deserve the best. He expressed that he was interested in assisting DPMWD as long as it was not financially compromising SSWD ratepayers. He expressed that he supported keeping both districts independent, while exploring ways to join forces.

Chair Locke echoed Director Wichert with supporting DPMWD when possible, but also expressed concern for the liability of SSWD ratepayers.

The Committee agreed on the following goals:

1. Explore options for collaborative meter reading of DPMWD commercial meters.
2. Consider continuing support services beyond the end date of the current Operational Services Agreement (OSA) and explore ways to share knowledge, experience, hardware and instillation, including options for using the advantages of the economies of scale.
3. Explore cost saving options by jointly purchasing materials.

For clarification, Director Wichert defined the purpose of a 2x2 Committee.

GM York encouraged the Committee members to inquire if there were any other goal suggestions for the Committee with each of the Boards.

4. Operational Service Agreement Update

GM York provided an overview of the OSA between SSWD and DPMWD.

Director Wichert noted that if the OSA was extended, SSWD could possibly increase staffing to reduce the workload impact to SSWD staff.

Chair Locke pointed out that SSWD staff was providing services to operate DPMWD water system, but not doing any preventive maintenance tasks. He expressed that the OSA would need to be amended if the Boards agreed to do those types of additional services.

Director Wichert pointed out that the additional services could also include having access to all of SSWD's different staff expertise, at all levels and areas, which DPMWD didn't currently have.

5. Water System Condition Assessment

Director Burt voiced concern for the condition of DPMWD wells.

GM York expressed safety concerns and agreed that DPMWD wells needed several improvements. He noted that a safety condition assessment should be administered.

Director Burt requested SSWD to administer a safety condition assessment.

Director Lenahan requested if SSWD staff could generate a list of critical items to be addressed to improve the well sites.

GM York expressed that SSWD staff could provide an informal list of critical items to be addressed immediately.

Director Wichert inquired what DPMWD rate history was.

Director Burt explained that in 2010, DPMWD had a 100% rate increase, in 2016 there was a proposed 83% rate increase which was protested against, and in 2017 there was a 38% rate increase. She additionally commended SSWD for instituting small incremental rate increases over several years to prevent large increases all at once.

Further discussion ensued regarding the condition of DPMWD facilities.

Chair Locke requested GM York review the current OSA to ensure SSWD staff could provide an informal safety condition assessment under the agreement.

Chair Locke suggested combining the first two goals; Explore options for collaborative meter reading of DPMWD commercial meters, and; Consider continuing support services beyond the end date of the current agreement and explore ways to share knowledge, experience, hardware and installation including options for using the advantages of the economies of scale into one goal. That goal would be reanalyzing the possibilities of the OSA, focusing efforts on duration, order of magnitude, cost, and what kind of additional services to include. He suggested those items be the talking points for the next meeting of the Committee. He further suggested for each District to discuss their priorities and goals with their Boards.

Director Wichert requested SSWD to try to put together the informal list of critical items before DPMWD's next Board meeting.

Director Burt requested information on how to prioritize infrastructure replacement.

Director Wichert suggested SSWD staff provide DPMWD with their Distribution Main Asset Plan and Condition Assessment presentation at a future DPMWD Board meeting.

Director Burt additionally requested SSWD assist her with identifying the different water agency affiliations, and what benefit they provide to water purveyors, such as RWA and SGA.

Chair Locke requested Director Burt provide SSWD staff with a list to include for discussion at the next Committee meeting.

6. Next Meeting Date and Time

The Committee agreed to hold the next DPMWD/SSWD 2x2 Committee meeting on April 6, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

7. Public Comment

Paul Olmstead encouraged the Committee to have further discussions about consolidation.

The Committee expressed that it was still new and they were interested in vetting out all options before considering consolidation.

Natalie Clohossey, a DPMWD customer, expressed that she was not interested in a merger however, she supported whatever was necessary to provide clean and safe water. She additionally expressed concern for DPMWD hiring a new General Manager, if there was a potential for consolidation discussions.

Adjournment

Chair Locke adjourned the meeting at 6:30p.m.