



District Attendees

Misha Sarkovich	Board Vice President
Randy Marx	Board Member
Tom R. Gray	General Manager
Michael Nisenboym	Operations Manager
Chi Ha-Ly	Finance Manager

Other Attendees

Rob Swartz	Regional Water Authority/Sacramento Groundwater Authority
Anthony Chacon	Visitor

Absent

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:29 p.m.

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Discussion

1. Presentation by RWA on the new subscription program (related to future grant funding/reliability study)

- Mr. Swartz provided an overview of the region's water supply over the past years. He stated that for the past years, the region has not maximized conjunctive use and it would be nice to expand conjunctive use and have an established water bank. He discussed the water banking opportunities that FOWD may have with the Water Supply Reliability Study (i.e. the projects can be used for future grant applications). He stated the Water Reliability Study will be completed in several phases. He informed that the Water Reliability Study will cost over \$800⁺k and that the allocation is based on the size of the agency. He stated that FOWD's portion for phase I would be a not to exceed amount of \$13,000. He stated he is

seeking funding of approximately \$200,000 and if he succeeds, FOWD would only need to pay \$7,800 of the \$13,000. He stated that FOWD would need to pay \$7,800 in 2017 and the remaining \$5,200 in 2018 (if needed).

- General Manager Gray reported that he will bring the full amount of \$13,000 for Board approval in August 2016 even though the District may only need to pay \$7,800.
- General Manager Gray stated that once the District is committed to this project, the cost to FOWD could be up to \$100,000.
- The Committee acknowledged that the District could incur additional cost on top of the \$13,000.

2. Discussion on the Meter Policy and Procurement

- Operations Manager Nisenboym provided an overview of the District's current meter replacement program. He stated the FOWD started the Meter Implementation Program in the late 1990's and by early 2004 installed approximately 5,000 meters. Most of the meters were manufactured by Census and ABB companies and were not equipped with meter-reading radio transmitting technology. In the early 2000's, District staff tested meters from several manufacturers capable of radio-transmitting technology. The radio-transmitting technology allows staff to collect meter reads utilizing radio frequency, saving on labor expenses and providing a high level of accuracy.
- Operations Manager Nisenboym stated after several tests, the Neptune meters with radio transmitting technology were selected as a District standard for the remaining meter installations. Neptune offered reliable radio equipment, long battery life, and very competitive pricing for meters, equipment and software. Also, Neptune offered a long-term contract that secured a very competitive price for the extended period of time. Over the last 10 years, Neptune Company updated both the meter interface unit and meter reading devices and currently both are smaller, last longer and allow staff to retrieve more usable information for the District and customers.
- Operations Manager Nisenboym stated FOWD and Neptune were extending the purchasing contract since the original contract had expired. Neptune remains the exclusive and sole provider of meters and meter-reading technology for the Fair Oaks Water District. If the District decides to switch to another meter vendor, that will require not only buying new meter reading technology (transmitter and readers), but also new software, licensing and integration and customization into the District billing system. Also, the District staff will be required to go through learning and extensive training to become familiar with the new technology.

- The Committee agreed to recommend sole-sourcing Neptune for FOWD’s meter purchase and extending the District’s contract with Neptune.
- Operations Manager Nisenboym provided an overview of the District’s current Meter Maintenance policy. He stated the current policy states that “No meter shall remain in service without testing for more than twenty years.” He stated District staff conducted an extensive research on the meter replacement program established by the regulatory authority and by adjacent water districts.
- Operations Manager Nisenboym stated staff also reviewed available “white papers” related to the meter replacement program. All of the research indicated that after 20 years, the accuracy of the meters drops below AWWA established standards and under the low flow conditions drops below 90%.
- General Manager Gray recommended updating the current “Meter Maintenance” policy with the following amendment:

“Establish a specific meter testing procedure with a minimum 50 meters, of different ages, tested annually through the certified testing facility.”

- The Committee agreed and recommended approval of the amendment and asked staff to bring the updated Policy 6300 to the August Board meeting for adoption.

IV. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Vice President Sarkovich adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

The Board approved the preceding minutes on August 8, 2016

Tom R. Gray
General Manager/Board Secretary

Date