

**Sutter Mutual Water Company
(SMWC)**

Meeting Held on November 20, 2023

OPEN FORUM:

FISH FOOD- We are working with Cal Trout, and getting our fields all lined out. We are approved to flood 3000 acres for the Fish Food program. We are still gathering information on grower's fields such as other bird programs they are participating in. The river is running low this year due to the fall and winter salmon run.

WATER OPERATIONS- GM Cornwell shared an update on Ops and Hydrology. He shared the Eight Station Index; we are tracking on average. The current reservoir conditions, Lake Shasta is at 68% full. All the reservoirs are doing well. We will be in decent shape even if we don't receive much rainfall this winter. The last graph shared is of current reservoirs compared to where we were in the past.

GM Cornwell was asked how the testifying went last Friday. GM Cornwell said he was on a panel testifying to the State Water Resource Control Board along with others. GM Cornwell's presentation was on the Sacramento River and Feather River and how the Health Rivers and Landscapes process is a positive and unimpaired flow that would be devastating for the Sacramento Valley. GM Cornwell feels it went well, and thinks we have 3 strong votes in our favor of Healthy Rivers and Landscapes, who get it and understand. He let the board members know there is a chance for others to speak if anyone would like to participate let him know.

BOARD MEETING:

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors for November 2023 was called to order in the Company office at Kirkville, Robbins, California at 9:14 a.m. by Director Bill Henle.

Directors Present: Bill Henle, Steve Butler, Jon Munger, Mark Hoffart, Dave Richter, Neil Dougherty, John Penning

Directors Absent: None

Others Present: Roger Cornwell, General Manager, Jon Scott, Operations Manager, Heather Munoz, Operations Assistant, Melissa Patterson, Finance Operations Manager, Dominique Vaughn, Accounting Office Manager, Venus Tenell, Executive Assistant

A copy of the written notice of the meeting was provided to each Director on November 17th, 2023, and is incorporated in these minutes by reference hereto and so filed.

On MOTION of Director Butler and seconded by Director Dougherty, and unanimously carried the agenda of the November 20, 2023, meeting, with the removal of the closed session, was approved.

October 16, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes were previously mailed to the directors and were presented for review and approved.

On MOTION of Director Munger and seconded by Director Butler and unanimously carried the minutes of the October 16th meeting were approved.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT- ROGER CORNWELL

PROJECT UPDATE- The Water Quality permit has been signed for Bohannon Dam. Tisdale's Categorical Exempt permit was signed, which means we can get to work on the flow meters.

LONG TERM OPERATIONS PLAN- We are making progress, working with the Bureau of Reclamation. BOR is looking to get more water from us during critical years, instead of being at 75% we would be at 50%. Everything is on a term sheet, but it's not completely finalized at all, it is a decent situation for us. MBK is looking at different scenarios, such as how often in a 10-year period we would have cut years. This is a 10-year deal with the Bureau, and it looks like we would need board approval and signed in the middle of next year. Some funds would compensate the district for getting less water, these funds would be used for recycling water projects. The reason for asking to hold back more water is to prevent another year like 2022. GM Cornwell answered board member's questions.

HEALTHY RIVERS AND LANDSCAPES UPDATE- Healthy Rivers and Landscapes is also known as the Voluntary Agreement. NCWA has worked on presentations to the state board. It looks like the VA will come to fruition in the next 6 to 8 months. GM Cornwell will put together a refresher course because so much has changed and will continue to change. The VA was a 15-year deal, now it has turned into an 8-year deal. They are also changing the funding; it's all going through the state board process. GM Cornwell answered board member's questions.

SET ASSESSMENT RATE- We need to set the assessment rate for 2024. Directory Dougherty asked GM Cornwell to get the rates for the last 5 years, 2023-\$50.00, 2022- \$48.00, 2021-\$42.00, 2020-\$40.00, 2019-\$40.00. GM Cornwell let the board know that the budget is set at \$50.00. The board asked questions regarding the amount in the accounts, and what must be paid out for projects.

On MOTION of Director Butler and seconded by Director Penning increasing the assessment rate to \$52.00, was not approved.

The board discussed the reasons not to increase the assessment rate.

On MOTION of Director Dougherty and seconded by Director Richter was carried with 4 yes and 3 nays to set the assessment rate at \$48.00 was approved.

OPERATIONS MANAGER- JON SCOTT

WINTER WATER FLOOD ISSUES- We have 14,700 acres flooded. We are recycling 130 to 140 CFS a day. We are watching the forecast for any storms; we will adjust if needed. We haven't had too many complaints, as people turned in their applications, we kept dates and started fields based on that and who was ready. We had a little over 19,000 acres signed up for winter water but will be staying at 16,500 acres. The lower river is not helping with the pumping and the fields are very dry. The new ditch tenders are doing well. We have 397 new intakes. We have been cleaning ditches and replacing crossings. We hope to have 512 in by next fall, but we are working with growers to get intakes in the right spots that work with them. Director Penning asked what was happening with the county crossing that collapsed. GM Cornwell said Sutter County is going through FEMA for the major crossings that need to be fixed. This will be a long process to get them fixed. Sutter County will not let us dig out the crossings to prevent water from backing up.

FINANCE MANAGER'S REPORT- MELISSA PATTERSON

FINANCIAL REVIEW- Manager Patterson presented the financial review to the board. She answered board questions and listened to some suggestions about reports she could present going forward. The October 2023 check register was ratified by the board.

REPORT ON SRSC AND NCWA ACTIVITIES-

SRSC PROGRAM DIRECTOR- SRSC is still looking for a program director. They interviewed someone and could present an offer in the next 30 days to them. SRSC has its annual meeting the board members stay the same.

NCWA UPDATE- The State Board presentation that NCWA presented turned out great. NCWA dues are not increasing this year. That will make two years in a row they don't increase. The Water Leader program is open now. 2024 will be a bit harder to get into, due to them bringing back people from 2022 so there is less room for new people. If anyone is interested let GM Cornwell know.

MISCELLANEOUS OTHER MATTERS- We will be having our company Christmas party on December 14th at Rocco's in Colusa.

Director Henle let the board know that the BIDA board has not met yet for employee compensation reviews, they are meeting tomorrow. The SMWC board will hold a Zoom meeting to go over the reviews.

ADJOURN-

There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 AM.



Roger Cornwell