



The voice of our community

Board Meeting
August 13, 2024 – 4:00 PM
MINUTES

I. Call to Order 4:07 PM by Vice Chair Lundgren- Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Present: Babbitt, Bollay, Denson, Kemp, Lundgren, A. Miller, Newquist, Pennino, Serrani, Trosky, Wittman
Absent: Black, Duran, Gerlach, Macfadyen, M. Miller

II. Approval of June 11, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes

Pennino/Denson
Motion Approved

III. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda-None

IV. Community Reports

- 1.) MFD Chief Neils reported that fire season has started, and they are fully staffed. Sundowners are more prevalent, keeping defensible space is important. Reminded all to be aware when going on trails, to know where you are going on the trail, bring water and be sure to be able to call for help if needed.
- 2.) MSD-John Weigold-Reported that four sites were toured that were damaged in the storm of 2023. FEMA is going to cover 90% of damage. They are working through a requirement for the funding that calls for studies showing what the streams will do 50-100 years out from now. Sewage spills could be seen in the future. He also reported that one director from the board has resigned, and the board will consider an interim replacement, also, another board member before that also resigned. Will soon be posting to information. They have four candidates for three seats for the election. MSD is assessing a concrete structure for the waste plant and was offered \$18M from Representative Carbajal's office which needs to go through approvals.
- 3.) Amy Alzina-Cold Spring School-Reported that their summer programs went well. Dr. Alzina serves on two state boards, led a summer summit for superintendents of the state, focused on mental health of administrators. They held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new STEAM building that cost \$2.9M. She reported that 87% of students are exceeding standards.
- 4.) Anthony Ranii-MUS-Reported that their test scores are up, the highest in twenty years. They do local benchmark assessments, and they are also up. The construction is almost complete. The sports complex is refreshed, and they are doing asphalt and water mitigation to older buildings. A training plan was sent to all providers and will do a staff training session soon. They completed an update of transitional kindergarten with higher adult ratio, helping kids succeed.
- 5.) Supervisor Williams' Office-Darcel Elliott- Reported about Miramar beach erosion, that the county does not address beach erosion. Cold Springs bridge was temporary, and a permanent structure will be put in place. The county filed a civil lawsuit to get restitution and to send a message to others to maintain historical structures.
- 6.) MWD-Nick Turner reported that the water supply is good, and they project a good supply for the next two years without having to import water and bringing back about forty percent of groundwater supply. Water efficiency is top priority. Meters are installed and there are many rebates available for efficiencies. There is a water rate tool in development to see scientifically what a property should need for water use. The water quality meets or exceeds where it should be, information is on the website. There are no disruptive traffic projects for the next few months. GSWA completed and adopted a plan in 2023, and they are reviewing now and are two years into a five-year review.

The well registry program went into effect on May 13, and it is mandatory to register. Currently have received 20% back. They plan to submit a second letter to well owners in September. August 21st is the next GSA meeting.

7. **Sherriff's office**-Lt. Rich Brittingham-The new Chief of Police Services, was welcomed and he updated on transient, parking and fireworks issues.

V. President's Report-None

VI. Executive Director's Report: ED Houghton Hyatt reported that the website kinks are being worked through and will meet with each committee member to discuss what should be on their pages. She is proud of the board members that came out to participate in the July 4th celebration and that it was well supported. Announced the 75th Jubilee of the MA and plans are underway for many events to mark the occasion, including traveling history show, dinners, lectures and more. Additional information is forthcoming.

VII. Treasurer's Report-Financials are getting caught up and transitioning memberships through the website.

VIII. Committee Reports

a. Land Use / Transportation- The Biltmore Hotel was scheduled with MBAR which did not have a quorum and was rescheduled. They agreed to present to the MA Land Use Committee and canceled two hours before the meeting was to start. The LUC was canceled due to the Biltmore being the only item on the agenda.

b. Events-Chair Mindy Denson shared that there was great participation and a great time at the 4th of July celebration. Positives include a great band, food, parade and pie eating contest. The parking design will be reworked for next year. They are researching food vendors for next year. November 2nd is Beautification Day and the first meeting for planning is September 18 at the firehouse.

c. History-Chair Trish Davis reported receipt of a grant from the Montecito Community Foundation for a new filing cabinet. Discussed importance of historic landmarks including the Moody Cottages.

d. Outreach-None

e. Groundwater Sustainability-There is a five-year approval term, and they are in year two.

f. Hands Across Montecito-In the process of working on the 75th Jubilee Gala to benefit Hands. CityNet and Andrew are cleaning beach. The next outreach walk is August 28th at 8:30 am.

IX. Conference Agenda

i. Montecito Water District -Rate Increase Explanation

Nick Turner, General Manager-Montecito Water District

Presentation given, explaining background and process for water rates. The district does financial budget planning and water rates are reviewed and updated every 3- 5 years. They are designed to cover costs only as stipulated in Prop 218. Prior rates were adopted in 2020. They review the rate study model yearly to justify rates and in 2023, it showed the need to increase rates sooner than planned. They also need to replace infrastructure, improve and create resiliency. The 2.8% increase is not as high as inflation of 6%. Every time water demand changes, it impacts the rate. Study showed the need to increase 22-26%. There are different rate structures-agriculture, commercial, residential, multi-housing. Different classes use water differently. The impact on the monthly water bill for two thirds of customers is no more than \$20. They compared the surrounding area and MWD provides the same amount of water at less cost. The district is very good at replacing pipelines. Desalination is making the total water supply more reliable; they are putting water in reserve. Rates took effect on July first.

X. Old Business-None

XI. New Business-None

Adjourned 5:40 p.m.