



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH
natural resources district

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Agenda Item #7

Memorandum

Date: May 18, 2021
To: Each Director
From: Paul D. Zillig, General Manager
RE: Water Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

The Water Resources Subcommittee met via video/teleconference at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 17, 2021. Subcommittee members participating included Larry Ruth, Chelsea Johnson, John Yoakum, Vern Barrett, Ken Vogel, and Gary Hellerich. Other Directors participating included Deborah Eagan. And others participating included Amy Ostermeyer of Monolith, Don Blankenau representing Monolith, Brian Dunnigan of Olsson, Steve Seglin & Corey Wasserburger, David Potter, Tracy Zayac, Chris Witthuhn, Nathan Kuhlman, Mike Murren, Maclane Scott, Dick Ehrman, Dan Schulz, and myself.

Chair Ruth opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance. Chris Witthuhn reviewed with the Subcommittee the groundwater level information for this spring in comparison to the Spring of 2020. Attached is Witthuhn's summary and graphs showing the groundwater level changes. Generally groundwater levels are slightly down from last spring.

The next item on the agenda was to consider the Monolith variance request issue (was tabled at the April Board Meeting), additional information, and the schedule to consider the Monolith well permit applications. The background information for this item was included in the May 14, 2021 WRS Memo to the Board. I reviewed the proposed approach that would require the static water levels and water quality samples for OC2 Wells #2 & #3 be provided as a condition to the permit, this information would be submitted in the next year as the wells are completed. Amy Ostermeyer reported that Monolith has agreed to withdraw their variance request and submitted a letter to that effect (see May 14 memo) and also agreeing to a timeline to submit so the Board can consider all 3 well permit applications in June.

The Subcommittee asked staff to review the proposed impacts of the Monolith wells in 50 years, Ehrman reviewed the model results showing the 150 foot thick aquifer experiencing approx. 8 foot declines near the well, 4 foot declines within ½ mile and less than 1 foot one mile from the wells. Schulz stressed the importance of the proposed monitoring networks (both the network in the vicinity of the Monolith site and then the District's network of wells across the CPA Groundwater Reservoir). The subcommittee also discussed the neighbor well agreements, the anticipated annual water pumping of

400 Mgal/year, and that LRE Water's statement that Monolith has addressed their concerns. The Subcommittee also discussed water law, correlative water rights (sharing gw in times of shortage), state statutes, and the NRD's Groundwater Rules & Regulations.

It was moved by Vogel, seconded by Hellerich, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend for Monolith well permit applications for OC2 Wells #1, 2 & 3, the Board of Directors determine that no additional information is required, request that Monolith submit their application on June 4, 2021, and the District proceed with the process for public input and consideration at a Special Board Meeting in late June.**

The next item on the agenda was to consider a request from Lori and Jerome Dworak to amend their irrigation agreement for Weeping Water 15-B to change the location of the irrigated acres to accommodate a small center pivot and include some adjoining land owned by a family trust. Zayac reported there would be a small reduction in the number of acres irrigated and she reviewed her memo (in the May 14 memo) and the steps required to approve the changes. It was moved by Vogel, seconded by Youkum, and unanimously approved by the Subcommittee to **recommend the Board of Directors approve the amendment to the existing irrigation agreement with Lori and Jerome Dworak for irrigation with water from Weeping Water 15-B reservoir, and direct staff to work with the Department of Natural Resources to make the necessary changes to permit A-17206.**

There being no additional business the meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

PDZ/pz

cc: Steve Seglin & Corey Wasserburger