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Directors:  
Paul Seger  
President

Scott R. Pastor  
Vice President

Kenneth L. Crockett  
Marilyn Tieman  
Joe Kovalick

General Manager  
& Secretary:  
Daniel Muelrath

General Counsel:  
Wes Miliband

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
DIABLO WATER DISTRICT  
HELD ON AUGUST 5, 2021

Due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic, Local Health Orders, and the Governor's Health Orders, the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Diablo Water District was held on August 5, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at the District's office located at 87 Carol Lane in Oakley, California, and as noticed in the posted agenda.

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Diablo Water District (District) was called to order by President Seger at 2:22 p.m. on August 5, 2021.

Directors Present: Seger, Pastor, Crockett, Tieman, Kovalick  
Staff Present: Dan Muelrath, Kait Knight, Nacho Mendoza,  
General Counsel: Wes Miliband (AARLL)  
District Engineer: Bill Brick (CDM Smith)  
Others Present: None.

**2. Public Input.** (Anyone present may address the Board of Directors on any subject within the jurisdiction of Diablo Water District. If the subject item is on this Agenda, please hold public comment until the appropriate item).

None.

**3. District Planning Document Cycle.**

President Seger requested to see links to each current working document, including the previous version of that document. General Manager Muelrath confirmed we will hyperlink these in the Director's Orientation Packet.

**4. 2021 Strategic Initiatives Review.**

The Board confirmed that the current communications from Staff are hitting the mark and helpful.

Staff and Board discussed future involvement with ECWMA and project discussions should be brought to this group, such as recycled water, desalinization, and more wells. President Seger expressed that now is the time to rebuild water infrastructure and wanted to explore how we can make that happen. He also requested a list of who serves on IRWM to see who is interested in this initiative. Director Tiernan thought maybe a Project Manager would be helpful. Vice President Pastor asked General Manager Muelrath to confirm how many elected can be involved, which would be one elected. Staff advised the Board we would pull a list of elected from the County website and distribute, as well as pull a list of those who serve on IRWM to President Seger.

Vice President Pastor also revisited the previous discussions of JPA seats for RBWTP – he would like us to aim for two seats. General Manager Muelrath confirmed there are currently five JPA members and CCWD has all five. Director Kovalick requested a copy of the current JPA to review.

Director Tiernan requested that we look into participating in events hosted by the Historical Society. She also brought up looking into putting together a land trust or something that would allow the District to make land purchases and inquired what we may be able to utilize purchased land for. General Manager Muelrath explained that the land purchase would need to benefit our GSA by preserving or improving the land/groundwater quality. General Counsel Miliband confirmed that the District could purchase land under SGMA for that purpose. The District would need to research what amount of acreage would make a difference.

**5. Future District Needs.**

Director Tiernan inquired about the District's need for additional staffing and if any of the areas covered risked liability if not staffed immediately. General Manager Muelrath shared that staff burnout was of utmost concern. Bill Brick, CDM Smith, reiterated that the field crew is currently working their shutdowns at night, making leak repairs, and performing plan reviews in the evenings.

President Seger wanted to explore what the breakdown of cost would be to bring an engineer in-house. He also wanted to know what that would look like in terms of reporting needed and human hours worked for these projects. It was also of concern that we have staff retiring in the near future, and that their knowledge is

not lost, and that we continue to train. He requested a bullet-point list of needs and share this with the Directors.

Director Kovalick would like the District to continue to explore automating and streamlining clerical tasks and reporting to reduce the need for additional staff at this time.

**6. Director Training Opportunities.**

General Manager Muelrath asked the Directors how they would like to handle future trainings and opportunities. He also inquired how many on the Board should we send through to the Special District Leadership Foundation training we want to send through, and what level of Distinction Certification did the District want to aim to achieve. The Board determined they would handle future opportunities on an ad hoc basis.

President Seger shared that he has completed the training and that it was very insightful and helpful into serving on the Board and what it may entail. He also expressed that he is more interested in the ACWA committees and legislation and would like a breakdown of the committees, cost, and time commitments sent out to the Board. He also brought up future partnerships with WELL (Water Elected Latino Leaders) and that a potential scholarship may be available. General Manager Muelrath said he would send out more information on this group.

Director Kovalick wanted a breakdown of cost and to make sure this was truly beneficial to our rate payers. General Manager Muelrath shared that the cost for this training only was \$600 per Director.

Director Tiernan expressed she is interested in as many training and learning opportunities that are available.

**7. Next Meetings of the Board of Directors.**

- August 25, 2021
- September 22, 2021
- October 27, 2021

**8. Adjournment.**

Director Crockett adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.



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**Dan Muelrath, General Manager/Secretary**