

Bolinas Community Public Utility District
A Regular Meeting Of The Board Of Directors
March 20, 2019 270 Elm Road, Bolinas

1. Call to Order.

7:33 p.m.

2. Roll.

Directors Amoroso, Comstock, Godino, Siedman and Smith present; director Siedman presiding.

3. Manager's Report.

-- Update on the East Tank Rehabilitation Project.

Staff reported that the notice to proceed was issued on March 14, 2019 and the project officially is underway. Avar mobilized that day and began the seismic safety work on March 18th. Site conditions are a bit challenging given all of the rain, but the workers are coping well. An unexpected issue arose when staff was draining the East Tank in preparation for the work; the tank not draining fully because a particular valve was not fully "seating", thereby allowing water to backflow into the tank. Staff devised a workaround and the tank has been fully emptied; however, this indicates the district likely should replace the valve cluster outside the tanks (which was installed in 1962), perhaps in connection with the rehabilitation of the West Tank a few years from now. A visual inspection of the inside of the tank, looking in via the open manway, indicates the tank interior generally appears to be in good condition.

-- Update on the Wastewater Pump Station Upgrade and Pond Recirculation Project: See Item 5, below.

-- Update on the BCPUD's Water Main Replacement Project: See Item 6, below.

-- New: Woodrat Reservoir Rehabilitation Project

Staff said that this new project is a follow-up to the district's chlorine disinfection byproduct project. Based on the district's ongoing monitoring and test results of its treated drinking water, it is clear that the quality of the Woodrat 1 Reservoir water is problematic. The reservoir is eutrophic and it will benefit the district considerably to rehabilitate it. The field of "lake management" is a growing one in California (although well-established in states like Maine and Minnesota). The district and its consultant Jonathan Van Bourg have solicited proposals from two limnologists (McCord Environmental and ELimnology, copies of which are in the Board binders) and have meetings scheduled with each of them during the week of April 8th. A third proposal was submitted by Dr. Ellen Preece (as a technical advisor to Elimnology) to develop a monitoring plan to evaluate the efficacy of the rehabilitation work on the quality of the reservoir water. After the early April meetings, staff will have a recommendation for the Board as to which proposal to select. Staff also is in discussions with a nearby dredger (based in Inverness) to evaluate whether dredging the reservoir is a viable and/or economic option. In response to a question from Director Godino, staff said that the district would consult with its regulators and ascertain any permitting requirements before implementing any specific recommendation(s). Director Comstock said he is pleased staff is evaluating the dredging option as he recalls Jonathan Van Bourg saying that dredging may be the most effective (although not necessarily the most cost-effective) means by which to improve water quality in the reservoir.

-- Update on BCPUD/BFPD Survey of Obstructions and Encroachments in the Public Rights-of-Way

Staff drafted a letter to customers with fenced-in meters to let them know that staff will resume reading those meters (with two staff members) pending a final decision from the Board and thanking those customers who have moved their fences; the letter will be sent out shortly. Also, representatives from the BCPUD and from the Bolinas Fire Protection District ("BFPD") met on March 4, 2019 to continue the inter-district discussion and evaluation of the obstructions and encroachments in the public rights-of-way. Director Smith said that for purposes of emergency evacuation, the Fire Chief is most worried about vegetation encroachments in the rights-of-way. County and State fire officials are trying to figure out what they can do to enforce the removal of this vegetation and defensible space requirements generally. Also, the Fire Chief reported that fire insurance companies are moving out of California due to the high fire risk posed by excessive vegetation.

Director Comstock agreed that encroaching vegetation in the rights-of-way is a big problem for the fire department. He noted the Fire Chief said there are areas on the Mesa where firefighters will not go during a fire because of safety concerns (overly narrow roads restricting emergency egress). The

two districts differ in terms of priority, but both districts face obstacles from the encroachments in the rights-of-way: BCPUD needs access to its infrastructure to provide reliable water service and the Fire Department needs wider roads in order to be able to access properties and/or coordinate mass evacuations.

Director Comstock requested that staff complete its work of documenting on a map all of the places on the Mesa where BCPUD's access to infrastructure is blocked by encroachments. He said he is particularly interested in how many of the encroachments are on the blocks where the steel water mains are slated for replacement. He noted it may take quite a while to get the issue resolved and he does not want the water main project to be delayed because some people have not moved their fences. Discussion ensued and staff noted that ultimately, if fences are not relocated, the customer will lose their water service if a new main is installed and the district is unable to connect the customer to that main because it cannot access the water meter.

Director Godino reported that a redwood tree was planted recently in the Birch right-of-way; staff agreed to evaluate the situation and require that it be removed (or staff will remove it).

Staff referred the Board to a letter in the binders from the State Water Resources Control Board ("SWRCB") concluding that the BCPUD successfully completed 12 months of monitoring under the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (known as the "LT2" Rule) and no monitoring for cryptosporidium monitoring will be required. Cryptosporidium is a specific microbial pathogen that can cause illness and is highly resistant to traditional disinfection methods. Staff is pleased to receive this letter from the SWRCB.

Staff is working on the district's various reports which are due in the next couple of months: its water license reports (due April 1), its SWRCB Annual Report (due May 1), and its Consumer Confidence Report (due prior to June 30). With regard to the water license reports, staff is working with outside counsel on those reports as it has for many years. The district's counsel formerly was a water resource engineer and he is recommending that the district transition its license reporting work to a water resource engineering firm in Sacramento as it will be more economical. Staff therefore likely will recommend the district do so for the 2019 reports.

Staff reported on "post winter storm" conditions in the bluff neighborhoods. One house at the end of Oak Road appears to be lost and another is threatened. The district moved its water main back to the top of Oak many years ago out of concern about possible bluff erosion, so the district's infrastructure is not directly threatened there. Staff is evaluating its infrastructure on Juniper Road and plans to move the water main off that road and relocate the hydrant at Juniper and Ocean Parkway, as well, after the rainy season because there has been considerable bluff erosion there. Staff also is keeping a close eye on the Rosewood "point" as it may be necessary for the district to install more valves in that neighborhood in order to be able to isolate additional sections of the water main which appear to be vulnerable to bluff erosion.

The district experienced a leak on Tulip Road near Larch Road; the repair has been hindered by dead cars and other "stuff" permanently located in the right-of-way here but will be completed soon.

The district also experienced storm-related issues at the sewer Lift Station following the February 26th storm due to power outages. District personnel worked long hours to resolve multiple problems which were exacerbated by significant infiltration and inflow into the sewer main. Smoke testing subsequent to the storm reveals on-going issues with two sewer laterals on Wharf Road.

The district received a request from a Little Mesa resident who owns property adjacent to the district's old water tank site; he is engaged in an extensive cliff stabilization project/replanting effort below his property and would like to know if the district would move back its fence that currently surrounds the water tanks (and which is on the property line) and allow him to plant approximately 20 feet back into the district's property. The resident would pay for the fence relocation, planting and subsequent maintenance of the planting. The district's Chief Operator recommends against granting this request, not to be unneighborly, but rather because it is important for the district to maintain control over its property and this one houses a critical emergency water supply for firefighting. Director Comstock commented that there is interest from Inyo Networks in locating a shed to store certain internet infrastructure on this property. After further discussion, the Board directed staff to inform the resident that the district is not willing to grant his request.

Staff participated in a conference call with Supervisor Rodoni and Coastal Commission staff member about the County's efforts to implement parking restrictions downtown. The County is working on revisions to the existing enabling ordinance (applicable to unincorporated Marin) to better define "automobile" as a vehicle or combination of vehicles and/or auxiliary equipment not exceeding 22 feet in length. After the enabling ordinance is amended, the County will seek a coastal permit to implement Measure X (which will restrict overnight parking downtown for vehicles other than automobiles, pickups and motorcycles between 11 pm and 5 am). Staff said that Coastal Commission staff is willing to

consider granting a coastal permit to implement Measure X as long as there is clear evidence that it is not targeted at persons living in their vehicles.

Staff reported on the Town Hall held on February 21, 2019 at the Dance Palace and hosted by Senator Mike McGuire and Supervisor Rodoni. Staff and other agencies representatives were on a panel of speakers discussing progress made on various efforts to cope with the impact of increased visitation in West Marin. Other speakers included representatives from Caltrans, the Sheriff's Office, California Highway Patrol, California Coastal Commission and the National Park Service. Comments from the audience were focused on concerns about fire danger in West Marin, bicyclists on narrow coastal road, the replacement of the Green Bridge (which is very controversial), flooding on Highway 1 in Marshall/Tomales, and affordable housing. The Alliance of Coastal Marin Villages ("ACMV") would like to continue as an informal entity for the villages to act with a united voice on issues of common concern. Supervisor Rodoni endorses this and would like to meet with the ACMV on a quarterly basis. The ACMV has several new members: Melinda Bell of Dillon Beach; Ken Eichstaedt of Olema, Ann Grymes from the East Shore Planning Group, and a new representative from Stinson Beach (to be determined). The ACMV met last night and identified the following issues to emphasize in upcoming months: the Local Coastal Plan update and the Environmental Hazards Amendments, affordable housing, and the integrity of community plans.

Staff directed the Board's attention to an invoice from Pacific Slope for \$3,250. Earlier this month during a storm, a tree fell on a portion of a building at 451 Yucca Road and the tenants called the BCPUD. Staff authorized Pacific Slope to eliminate the safety danger to the tenants; staff directed the on-call shift operator to clearly apprise the tenants that the BCPUD is acting on an emergency basis to eliminate the safety hazard but is not in any way acknowledging responsibility. Director Comstock said the district should not be liable for an "act of God" tree falling such as this; instead, the customer's homeowner's insurance should cover this cost.

The Board reviewed correspondence sent and received since the last regular Board meeting including a letter from Smiley's indicating that the remodel of the building will begin in May, and an unclear letter from DeCarli's propane company about a purported credit (staff will investigate).

4. Community Expression.

Director Smith said that he signed up to be the BCPUD representative at a March 23rd community meeting hosted by the Bolinas Community Land Trust in the event questions were raised about the water moratorium, but he is now unable to attend. He inquired if any other directors are available. Unfortunately, no other directors are available that day and staff will be on vacation.

5. BCPUD Resolution 664: Waiving the Competitive Bid Process and Authorizing a Sole Source Purchase of an Integrated Pump Station as part of the BCPUD's Wastewater Pump Station Upgrade and Pond Recirculation Project.

L. Comstock/D. Smith all in favor to approve Resolution 664.

Director Godino noted a typo in paragraph 3 of the resolution ("numer" should be "number").

Director Smith said that the district should request its engineers to revise their letter accompanying the resolution to eliminate the word "best" from the second to last paragraph on page 4 to eliminate any ambiguity and make clear that Gorman-Rupp is the "single manufacturer . . . that met all evaluation criteria." Discussion ensued, with other directors concurring. Director Comstock then offered a revised motion to replace his earlier motion: he moved to approve Resolution 664 with the typo corrected in paragraph 3 and on the condition that the district's engineers revise their supporting letter to eliminate the word "best" on page 4.

L. Comstock/V. Amoroso all in favor to approve Resolution 664, as amended to correct a typographical error in paragraph 3, on the condition that the accompanying letter from the district's engineers is revised to eliminate the word "best" from the second to last paragraph on page 4.

Staff reported that the engineers have requested an additional \$16,600 in the engineering and design budget for this project and, after extensive back and forth about the request, staff recommends approval of the increase. That said, the request was not agendaized for this meeting due to a staff oversight, so any discussion of this request should take place next month. If there is no objection from the Board, staff will agendaize this for action at the April meeting.

6. BCPUD Request for Proposals for Engineering Services (Water Main Replacement Project on the Bolinas Mesa).

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

7. Association of California Water Agencies (“ACWA”) Urges Member Agencies to Support SB 669 – Safe Drinking Water Trust: *Request for BCPUD to Submit Support Letter.*

ACWA has requested that the BCPUD (and all member agencies) send in letters of support for SB 669, which is an alternative to a statewide water tax, and which would create a Safe Drinking Water Trust to provide a durable funding source to help community water systems in disadvantaged communities. Director Smith said that the proposed statewide water tax would be a regressive tax, whereas funding the trust from general fund surplus funds would come primarily from income tax, and he recommended the Board send in a supportive letter. Director Comstock concurred with this reasoning.

D. Smith/G. Godino all in favor to submit a letter for support for SB 669 based on the sample letter provided by ACWA.

8. Marin Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCO”) Election for LAFCO Special District Member.

Staff explained that the district’s ballot is due by April 22, 2019. There are three people running for the regular special district seat: Jack Baker, Lew Kious and Tod Moody. Jack Baker called to solicit the district’s support (he has served on the Marin LAFCO for many years) and Lew Kious sent in an email which is in the Board binders. Director Smith recommended the district rank its vote for (1) Kious, (2) Baker and (3) Moody as he was most impressed by Kious’ candidate materials.

D. Smith/G. Godino all in favor casting the district’s vote for the Marin LAFCO Special District Member as follows: (1) Kious, (2) Baker and (3) Moody.

9. Water Supply Update.

Nothing to report.

10. Volunteer Committee Reports:

-- *Bolinas Lagoon Advisory Committee*: Director Smith said that there will be an update for the community at the Stinson Beach Community Center on May 2, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

-- *Downtown Parking & Traffic Committee*: Nothing further to report.

-- *Resource Recovery*: Nothing to report

-- *West Marin Mosquito Control Coordinating Council*: Nothing to report.

-- *Land Stewardship Committee*: Nothing to report.

-- *Internet Access Committee*: Director Comstock said that he received word that Peter Pratt is now working for the California Public Utilities Commission. He cannot work on anything relating to the Bolinas broadband project until January 2020. Director Comstock proposed that the district send an email of appreciation to Peter for his past efforts on the district’s behalf; staff will draft an email for the Board’s consideration.

--*Vehicle Habitation Committee*: Nothing to report.

11. Other Business.

a. Board Committee Reports.

-- *Finance: Update on FY 2019-20 Draft Budget; Minutes of the March 5, 2019 Committee Meeting*;

Director Comstock offered a clarifying revision to the minutes of the March 5, 2019 Committee meeting.

L. Comstock/D. Smith four in favor, director Amoroso abstaining to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2019 Committee meeting.

-- *Legal*: Nothing to report.

-- *Mesa Septic, Flood Control and Roads*:

-- *Operations*: Nothing to report.

-- *Park and Recreation*: Nothing to report.

-- *Personnel*: Nothing to report.

-- *Sewer*: Nothing to report.

b. Minutes of the February 20, 2019 regular Board meeting.

Director Smith offered two clarifying revisions to the draft minutes of the February 20, 2019 regular Board meeting.

D. Smith/L. Comstock all in favor to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2019 regular Board meeting, as clarified.

c. Warrants.

V. Amoroso/L. Comstock all in favor to approve the warrant list.

d. Scheduling of Next Meeting(s):

April 17, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

12. Adjournment.

9:23 p.m.