

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
VICTOR VALLEY WASTEWATER RECLAMATION AUTHORITY (VWVRA)**

**June 21, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Larry Bird called the meeting to order at 8:01 am; in Conference Room D at Victorville City Hall, located at 14343 Civic Drive, Victorville California, with the following members present:

**CITY OF HESPERIA  
ORO GRANDE (CSA 42) AND  
SPRING VALLEY LAKE (CSA 64)  
TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY  
CITY OF VICTORVILLE**

**Larry Bird, Chair  
Jeff Rigney, Vice-Chair  
  
Scott Nassif, Secretary  
Jim Cox, Alternate-Treasurer**

**VWVRA Staff and Legal Counsel:**

**Logan Olds, General Manager  
Kristi Casteel, Secretary to GM/Board  
Piero Dallarda, Legal Counsel (BB&K)  
Chieko Keagy, Controller  
David Wylie, Safety & Communications Officer  
Xiwei Wang, Senior Accountant  
Marcos Avila, Lead Mechanic  
Alton Anderson, Construction Manager**

**Robert Coromina, Director of Administration  
Craig Taylor, E&I Tech II  
Bruce Correia, IT Coordinator  
Latif Laari, Business Application Manager  
Mauricio Marin, IT Technician  
Toni Henning, HR/Payroll Coordinator  
Andrew Henriquez, Operator**

**Others Present:**

**Nils Bentsen, City of Hesperia  
Greg Snyder, Town of Apple Valley  
Brian Gengler, City of Victorville**

**George Harris, City of Victorville  
Al Rice, Resident**

**CLOSED SESSION**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS- CLOSED SESSION AGENDA**

Chair Bird asked if there were any comments from the public regarding any item on the Closed Session Agenda. Hearing none, he called for a motion to enter into Closed Session.

Commissioner Nassif made a motion to enter into Closed Session. Seconded by Commissioner Rigney.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Bird called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

**REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS- REGULAR SESSION AGENDA**

None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**

5. **Possible conflict of interest issues**
6. **Article: Toilet to Tap**
7. **Article: Southern California Summer/Winter Natgas Supply Could Fall Short**
8. **Anaerobic Digestion Facilities Processing Food Waste in the United States in 2015 Report**
9. **Mauricio Marin recipient of the CWEA Electrical and Instrumentation Person of the Year award for the State of California**

Manager Olds and the Board of Commissioners congratulated Mauricio Marin on receiving the California Water Environment Association's Electrical Instrumentation Person of the Year award for the entire state of California for the wastewater industry.

**10. Staff Introductions- New Hire**

Manager Olds introduced Andrew Henriquez, Operator and Craig Taylor, E&I Tech II to the Board of Commissioners.

**11. VVWRA 40 Years**

June of 2018 marks the 40 year anniversary of VVWRA as being independent from Mojave Water Agency.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**12. Approve May 2018 Disbursement Registers**

Commissioner Nassif is abstaining from any disbursements to Napa Auto Parts.

**13. Approve Minutes from the May 17, 2018 Regular Meeting**

**14. Recommendation for Professional Service Agreement with Biogas Engineering**

Commissioner Rigney was under the impression that Edison was coming in to do some improvements and from Edison's point of view that they would take care of the issue. He was a surprised to see a request to have Biogas do a study as well.

Manager Olds said that there were two separate issues. What SCE will be installing this calendar year is called a voltage regulator. VVWRA has issues with the amount of voltage coming into the facility. This is one problem. The other problem is that currently this equipment and the way it's configured, when there are little blips, it shuts down the entire facility. Staff believes that this is a problem related to the interconnection agreement and Edison has informed VVWRA that they are willing to entertain adjusting this but they want the study to justify the numbers. They want to make certain that it is consistent with the interconnection agreement that is in place and that the engineering had been done to ensure the legitimacy of it. They have also requested that a third party perform the testing and report back to them.

**15. Recommendation to Ratify Low Voltage Power Emergency Purchases**

**16. Recommendation to Approve Change Order #1 to Biogas Engineering for Micro-grid CM Services**

**17. Recommendation for Board Chair to Receive Clean Water Advocate Award**

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the consent calendar, seconded by Commissioner Rigney and approved by roll call vote with Commissioner Nassif abstaining from any disbursements to Napa Auto Parts.

Chair Bird: Yes

Commissioner Rigney: Yes

Commissioner Nassif: Yes

Commissioner Cox: Yes

**REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS:**

**18. Presentation: FY 2018-2019 Budget**

Manager Olds stated that this budget is contingent upon receiving funding from CalOES and FEMA. They are currently holding a little over \$3.7 million of VVWRA funds in retention. In order for VVWRA to meet debt service and other obligations this year, those funds are required. If that does not occur, VVWRA will be dipping into restricted SRF loan reserve funds that will make that payment. VVWRA would then have to notify the State that VVWRA is no longer in compliance with our debt covenants and will need to renegotiate our debt. The second item that needs to be noted is that VVWRA will build the Desert Knolls Wash Interceptor Replacement Project and intend to begin construction in the fall of this year. The reason this project must be completed is that this line is currently compromised. It will cost VVWRA approximately \$1.5 million to build this project. That pipeline carries 1.15 Million gallons per day from the Town of Apple Valley, if that line were to fully break that is a \$10 a gallon fine that equals \$11.5 million a day in fines. VVWRA wants to ensure that does not happen and so this project must move forward.

Chieko Keagy presented the FY 2018-2019 budget

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**19. Adoption of Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget**

Chair Bird opened the Public Hearing at 10:00 AM.

The Secretary of the Board confirmed the posting and publication of the Hearing Notice as required by law.

Chair Bird asked if there were any comments from the public. Hearing none, he closed the Public Hearing at 10:02 AM.

**ACTION & DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**20. Resolution 2018-03: Adopt FY 2018-2019 Budget**

Commissioner Rigney made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Nassif and approved by roll call.

Chair Bird: Yes

Commissioner Rigney: Yes

Commissioner Nassif: Yes

Commissioner Cox: Yes

**21. Resolution 2018-04: FY 2018-2019 Holiday Schedule**

Commissioner Nassif made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Cox and approved by roll call.

Chair Bird: Yes

Commissioner Rigney: Yes

Commissioner Nassif: Yes

Commissioner Cox: Yes

**22. Resolution 2018-05: Honoring Russ Blewett**

Manager Olds had the opportunity to work with Russ Blewett for many years. He always had a unique character and belief in the position of the City of Hesperia. On behalf of its citizens and the high desert, we lost a true leader of the community. VVWRA would like to recommend the passage of Resolution 2018-05 honoring Russ Blewett.

Chair Bird asked if Manager Olds would read the resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Hesperia, Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority, and the entire High Desert Community lost a valued member and leader on May 30, 2018 with the death of Mayor Russ Blewett; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Blewett was a tireless and outspoken advocate of the people of the High Desert Community; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Blewett served on the Board of Commissioners for the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority since 2011 and most recently held the position of Chair. Mayor Blewett's humor, kindness, passion, and energy enriched those fortunate enough to know and work with him.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Commission does hereby recognize and extends sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mayor Russ Blewett for his dedicated service and commitment to the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority and for his significant contributions to the High Desert Community over the course of his distinguished career and mourns his death. The Commission extends its sincerest condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.

Chair Bird thanked the Commission and VVWRA on behalf of the City of Hesperia and the family for this resolution. Chair Bird said that Russ loved his interaction and involvement in VVWRA and that it was a real important part of his heart and he really valued this connection.

Commissioner Bird made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Rigney, Commissioner Cox, and Commissioner Nassif and approved by roll call.

Chair Bird: Yes

Commissioner Rigney: Yes

Commissioner Nassif: Yes

Commissioner Cox: Yes

**23. Resolution 2018-06: Appreciation Bruce Correia**

Manager Olds stated that Bruce is VVWRA's longest serving employee. With recognizing the 40 year anniversary of VVWRA we thought it appropriate to also recognize the dedication from Bruce. Bruce has been with VVWRA for 25 years and we are very proud of his service.

Manager Olds asked Robert Coromina to read the resolution:

WHEREAS, Bruce Correia has served VVWRA for a period of 25 years; and

WHEREAS, Bruce Correia's background, knowledge, and experience while serving at VVWRA have been invaluable to the Authority; and

WHEREAS, Bruce Correia has served the needs of the Authority and addressed those needs by being the designer and leading the original implementation of the plant's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), which today is heavily relied upon by the operations department; and

WHEREAS, the Authority, supports and encourages the use of technology to provide increased efficiency and more finite process control capabilities, for the purpose of protecting public health and seeks to promote the use of innovative technologies, by:

- Maximizing the use of existing resources
- Utilizing existing resources with the goal of enabling the Shay Road wastewater treatment plant to operate with a high level of sustainability
- Promoting technology efficiencies locally and nationally
- Aids in the evaluation and development of technologies by the Authority and its employees
- Promotes employee longevity at the Authority by setting an example of a dedicated and ethical staff member
- Supporting partnerships with local organizations that are beneficial to the future of the technology arena in our industry

WHEREAS, Bruce Correia has worked tirelessly for the past 25 years to insure that the Authority is up to date with the latest technologies and to provide exceptional staff support to all departments at VVWRA. His tireless efforts have had a large impact on the success the Authority has realized to this point.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Commission does hereby recognize and extend sincere gratitude and appreciation to Bruce Correia for his dedicated service and commitment to the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority and for his concern for the residents and environment of the Victor Valley.

Commissioner Nassif made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Rigney and approved by roll call.

Chair Bird: Yes

Commissioner Rigney: Yes

Commissioner Nassif: Yes

Commissioner Cox: Yes

**24. Recommendation to Purchase Spare Pump for South Percolation Pond Pump Station**

Manager Olds said that there is not a spare one and it is desperately needed. It can take four to five months to get this pump back in service. The time delay is too great for reliability and environmental issues.

Commissioner Rigney made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Cox and approved by roll call.

Chair Bird: Yes

Commissioner Rigney: Yes

Commissioner Nassif: Yes

Commissioner Cox: Yes

**25. Recommendation to Purchase Transfer Pump for Digesters 1, 2 and 3**

Manager Olds said staff took a pump that was not in use to aid in the drying bed process. The pump made it to where instead of two drying beds, staff was able to utilize four drying beds and this greatly reduced detention time in the beds. Now that digesters 1-3 are being recommissioned, this pump is needed again. We would like to replace the pump we are using in the drying beds.

Commissioner Nassif made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Rigney and approved by roll call.

Chair Bird: Yes

Commissioner Rigney: Yes

Commissioner Nassif: Yes

Commissioner Cox: Yes

**26. Recommendation to Approve WaterTrax Operational Software**

Manager Olds stated that currently staff is using Operator 10 software that was implemented in 2006 and it no longer works. The software company has not kept the product up to date. In 2006 – 2008 Manager Olds said it use to take him 30 minutes to complete a monthly monitoring report. Now, with the software being outdated and not syncing with other systems, staff has informed him that the reporting required by the State takes days and multiple staff to accomplish. Staff has spoken to the laboratory and this is the software that the lab uses and staff feels that it will help simplify the transition. Manager Olds said that he would like to get back those 20 plus staff hours that currently go in to preparing a monthly report and given to other issues.

Commissioner Nassif made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Rigney and approved by roll call.

Chair Bird: Yes

Commissioner Rigney: Yes

Commissioner Nassif: Yes

Commissioner Cox: Yes

**27. Recommendation to Approve Electric Cart Purchase**

Manager Olds stated that he knew they were old but was not aware that they were 16 years old. Staff spends time taking them apart, welding them together and fixing them the best that they can. Given the size of the facility this is how staff gets around.

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Rigney and approved by roll call.

Chair Bird: Yes

Commissioner Rigney: Yes

Commissioner Nassif: Yes



Commissioner Cox: Yes

**28. Recommendation to Cancel June 28<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting**

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Nassif and approved by roll call.

Chair Bird: Yes

Commissioner Rigney: Yes

Commissioner Nassif: Yes

Commissioner Cox: Yes

**STAFF/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES REPORTS:**

**29. Financial and Investment Report – May 2018**

**30. Operations & Maintenance Report – May 2018**

**31. Environmental Compliance Department Reports – May 2018**

**32. Septage Receiving Facility Reports – May 2018**

**33. Safety & Communications Report – May 2018**

**NEXT VVWRA BOARD MEETING:**

**Thursday, July 19, 2018 – Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners**

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**Leave Policy**

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**


Commissioner Rigney asked Manager Olds to expand on item 17. Manager Olds stated that traditionally most awards require you to apply for them and they review your application and determine whether you meet the conditions. This award that VVWRA has been selected for is called the Clean Water Advocate Award and is presented at the National Clean Water Agencies Utility Leadership Conference. This is an exceptional conference specific to wastewater issues and to have an award presented to VVWRA at this event is a big deal.

**ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting was adjourned in the memory of Russ Blewett

**APPROVAL:**

DATE: July 19, 2018 BY:

  
Approved by VVWRA Board Scott Nassif,  
Secretary VVWRA Board of Commissioners