

Gualala Community Services District -- Regular Meeting Minutes 11/30/2023
Location: RCMS Conference Room [formerly Elaine Jacobs Center]

I. CALL TO ORDER – De Denten called the meeting to order at 5:03

II. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Members of the public were Robert Juengling and Susan Acre

III. ROLL CALL:

Present J. Denten, R. Burke, B. Jones, D. Denten

Absent: G. Abel

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

John Denten Moved adoption of the agenda, Randy Burke 2nd, all present voted Aye

V. CONSENT AGENDA

a) Minutes of Regular Board Meeting – 10/23/2023

Bruce Jones Moved adoption of the minutes, Randy Burke 2nd, all present voted Aye

VI. STAFF REPORTS

a) General Manager [Chris Troyan]

Chris met with Charles Reid and Lynette Shipsey from the SWRCB and determined that our construction grant will probably come through no earlier than July 2024. They were unshakeable on that, and they answered that if any of the major systems fail before then (which require money from the grant to fix), we will just have to deal with it the best we can.

Anchor Bay had been going along well until today, when the system plugged up. We worked on it and its flowing now, but more attention will be required.

Tri-Party is doing much better as the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors approved the supplemental cost agreement on November 28. There was a nice write-up in the ICO about it. GCSD will get the first \$60,000 within 45 days – Chris said Kevin Booker put a priority on quick payment. The SRGL is all paid up now and their staff has met with Chris a couple of times about a new cost agreement, covering both payment of \$3.19 per 1000 gallons and a way to build in future changes. One proposed change in the agreement they liked was paying for the recycled water only as they used it – so lower payments in the winter.

Operations have continued to be busy and most of the ground maintenance is now done. The RCAC loan has provided \$74,944 so far, and some of it can be used to pay our engineering consultants, but most is tied to the first disbursement check we will receive from SWRCB, so it will work like a bridge loan.

b) District Counsel [Andy Turner]

Andy was pleased with the way Tri-Party funding has turned around, and suggested that we continue to base joint operations on the Tri-Party Agreement, with GCSD having separate economic agreements with Sonoma County Water and SRGL. This will enable adjusting the cost and payment structures to current economic conditions as necessary in the future.

c) Administrator's Report [Geraldine LiaBraaten]

Geraldine reported that we are finally approaching financial stability although it still requires some patience, waiting for some significant payments to come through. It's good that 70 commercial accounts are now paying regularly, but there are still 5 that she is having problems with. They will just have to accept that the property owners are responsible for paying the sewer fees and charge the businesses accordingly that are using their properties.

Geraldine reported that she has been getting valuable help from her new assistant, but we will eventually need to replace Geraldine herself, like within two years, and there aren't a lot of reliable bookkeepers around here, so this will require attention.

VII. ACTION ITEMS – no reports

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) We had a spirited discussion about problems with “wipes” fouling up wastewater systems, especially septic systems. Both the general public and local businesses need to know this. One way to bring it home to them is to charge them fees for correcting the problems that result, but first we have to educate them. Randy, Chris, John and Mike will act as a committee to get the word out to both residents and commercial customers.

b) LAFCO Municipal Review of the GCSD.

Chris told about LAFCO's Spheres of Influence project and we talked about how Zones 1-4, the proposed Zone 5, Anchor Bay, Sea Ranch CSA6, and the Sea Ranch Golf Course might be touched by this. LAFCO will be sending GCSD questionnaires soon. This will be a continuing source of discussion during our next few meetings.

c) The Supplemental Agreement with Sonoma County Water Agency for wastewater treatment of the North Sea Ranch Sanitation Zone (CSA6) was signed by Bruce as GCSD Secretary during the meeting.

X REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chris said that we will need to discuss problems with Lift Station 3 in the January meeting.

XI ADJOURNMENT

De adjourned the meeting at 6:10pm.