MEETING MINUTES
July 24, 2019

Watermaster Alto Subarea Advisory Committee

A regular meeting of the Alto Subarea Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, July 24, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Mojave Water Agency, 13846 Conference Center Drive, Apple Valley, California.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Steve Ashton.

2. Roll Call

Board Members Present
Steve Ashton, Chairman/Secretary
Tina Souza, Vice Chairman
Becky Jones, Board Member
Bobby Boytor, Board Member
Steve Samaras, Board Member

Board Members Absent
Craig Carlson, Board Member

Other Attendants
Perry Dahlstrom
Arnold Villarreal
Tony Winkel

Doug Mathews
Valerie Wiegenstein
Tyson Bell

3. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Vice Chairman Tina Souza, seconded by board member Bobby Boytor. (Motion passed 5-0)

4. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the February 27, 2019 meeting minutes. It was moved by Steve Samaras, seconded by Tina Souza. (Motion passed 5-0)

5. R³ Update/Upper Mojave Regional Update

Tony Winkel takes the stand and gives a quick review on what was discussed during the last meeting. For State Water Project deliveries for the year 2018, there was not a lot of water delivered. For 2019, so far, there has been 202 acre feet as of the end of June of water delivered in the Deep Creek area. This is ongoing because the hydroplant that was built down there is now in service. There will probably continue to be water delivered in that area. R3 deliveries for 2018, there was about 4,400 acre feet pumped through R3 and delivered. For 2019, so far, it is around 2,229 acre feet through June. Well 6 is still offline. Delivery extraction since inception in 2013, there has been just under 46,300 acre feet of water recharged and 27,000 acre feet pumped through R3. Total banked water in Alto is around 117,000 acre feet. Tony asks if there are any questions before he moves on to the next subject. Board member

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Bobby Boytor asks if Well 6 is down for Liberty Utilities? Tony says that they took it down to do some work on the chlorinator and it’s taking a while to get it back online. He moves on to talk about the Deep Creek Aquifer area. He explains the half full glass of water and whatever is filled to get to the top is considered the recorded dynamic range. There was a bit of rain this winter and spring. There was some runoff in the river which increased the water levels. The three wells are the Jess Ranch, Rocksprings and Deep Creek monitoring wells. The furthest upstream (South) is Deep Creek and it has increased a bit and it is still rising. It is about 25% of the recorded dynamic range. Jess Ranch is 30% and Rocksprings is 30% of the recorded dynamic range.

6. Update on June 26, 2019 Rampdown hearing

Valerie Wiegenstein takes the podium and gives the board a review on the June 26, 2019 hearing. She starts by saying that the court listened to testimonies by some parties that had filed papers and others that they allowed to speak. The court ruled on the recommendation of the Watermaster. The judge changed three recommendations of the Watermaster. The recommendation for Alto would be 55% which was Watermaster’s recommendation. However, the recommendation for agriculture was changed from 80% to 75%. For the other subareas, the judge accepted Watermaster’s recommendation for Baja, which is 30%, Centro and Este were changed from 80% to 75% and Oeste is 75%. That is how the judge ruled and they have just now received the order of the court. This will be served to all the parties with explanations. Watermaster will have to make a few changes to their annual report.

7. Discuss CSA 70 W-4 Pioneertown Pipeline Project

Board member Steve Samaras starts by saying that the Pioneertown Pipeline project is complete. They are hoping to start operating it sometime this week, which means water will be moving from Yucca Valley into Pioneertown; They will start blending down what is in the reservoirs to start to come into compliance with the arsenic and fluoride for that community. When looking at running averages, they could be below the MCL very quickly, they will have to go quarterly for a year to actually be in compliance. Next month there will be a ribbon cutting in town and all are welcome, there will be an invitation sent. Steve Ashton asks what the arsenic and fluoride levels are, Steve Samaras replies that it depends on the wells, one of their wells was well over 100. Steve Ashton asks what the chromium levels are and there are no chromium issues.

8. Public Comments

Becky Jones will be retiring next month. This has been her last meeting.

9. Items for Next Agenda

None.

10. Adjournment

Steve Ashton called for adjournment of the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

Reviewed by _____________________, Chairman

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