

this approach and agreed to get a rough estimate from Sloan and return to Board with more details. Uridel noted that this approach would remove the “ad hoc” nature of support and management of project.

Krenz is willing to help as a Board and some limited financial support. Swan suggested that despite Smernoff and Uridel’s conflict of interest, they could act as private citizens and make recommendations to the Board but probably not participate in financial votes.

Gage recalled a broad legal guideline that if a vote affects a substantial percentage of (25-35%?) of District residents then there may not be a legal conflict. He also suggested the group approach big underground projects firms and the CWS maintenance crew.

Resolution (197) regarding Tuolumne River:

Smernoff presented a draft resolution regarding water conservation, efficiency and recycling rather than increased diversions from the Tuolumne river. The SFPUC plan for seismic upgrades may be legally challenged due to inclusion of a request to divert an additional 25 million gallons of water per day from the Wild and Scenic Tuolumne river. The resolution express support for more efficient water use instead of the diversions, in keeping with District water use efficiency programs.

Gage questioned some elements of the resolution regarding water demand studies and water quantity estimates and infrastructure upgrade aspects in the PEIR. He suggested that Art Jensen of BAWSCA would have additional information on the project. Smernoff agreed to meet with Mr. Jensen and return at the next meeting. Ward offered to also attend the meeting.

Financial Report:

Excel report reviewed and it’s inadequacies noted. Moving to Quickbooks reporting next month and will run in parallel with old accounting. A few CD’s are maturing and will be rolled into LAIF fund as they mature.

Director Krenz to manage accounting over next few months, develop procedural manual and manage final conversion to Quickbooks. Online accounts set up for LAIF and Union Bank of California. Ward and Krenz to talk with Jeff Ira, District auditor, about Quickbooks integration with audit and best practices for on-line banking and other financial system upgrades.

(see report)

Correspondence: None

Next Meeting: May 1st, 2008, 7:30, Corte Madera School

Meeting was adjourned at ????

Submitted by
David Smernoff

Gordon to make requests from them? A question was raised that the specific requests of Supervisor Gordon and WBSD need further articulation.

Drey-Nightingale pointed out that there are serious watershed impacts from septic runoff. She expects that in 20 years or less the County will likely require all Woods and parts of VV to join WBSD. Water disposal a District capacity, can there be some financial support for sewer participants? Krenz spoke in favor of providing some access to legal advice, but not for supporting any litigation. Drey-Nightingale noted that the group is not seeking any lawsuits but rather improved cooperation and understanding among all parties, and that the County is invested in a successful outcome. Gage noted that Martha Poyatos was strongly supportive and suggested she could be of assistance. Also that County Board President Rose Jacobs Gibson could be contacted.

Uridel and Smernoff noted that they are both in the sewer group and thus have a conflict of interest in any District role in supporting the groups interaction with other agencies. They noted that the project was initially managed by an ad hoc committee which (understandably) no longer provides a leadership role. They felt the District could provide support in clarifying each parties rights and responsibilities. They believe the project will make a large positive environmental improvement in the entire VV/Woods portion of the District and make a substantial contribution to health and welfare of the entire community.

Furda noted that they 100 day timeline (post final approval of mains) to hookup requirement was not made clear at the outset. Total costs (\$5500/yr for bond duration, 80K upfront entry cost, hookup cost, annual WBSD fee) have exceeded most homeowners expectations.

Drey-Nightingale will do a contract review to verify the requirement to hook up once project completed. Gage noted he was aware of requirement to hookup, but wondered if other sanitary districts maintain septic systems? A discussion ensued concerning if the District should provide legal advice using District council or perhaps someone else in her office or get a recommendation for her office. There was a general consensus that WBSD and LTCWD should not be in direct conflict over this issue

Ward suggested that the contract review be done first, prior to seeking legal advice. He agreed that it's only a matter of time before most or all of the Woods will be required to join WBSD. Furda wondered if de-annexation from WBSD might be a possibility. Gage suggested that a group could approach Ms. Poyatos about de-annexation, rather than individually. Blackmon suggested review of all charges for hookup and all costs prior to seeking counsel. Ward suggested addressing opt-out & mandatory hookup issues, high prices for laterals, suggested that the CWS contractor might be worth contacting. Even though only 60 out 271 homes participating, the project does benefit all broadly.

Uridel also noted that there are some serious septic leachate issues in Vista Verde as well. Krenz suggested that to proceed he would call Sandy Sloan for advice on if and how the District might support this group in the area of a few thousand or less for legal/regulatory advice.

Blackmon then suggested that Smernoff and Uridel get together on a list of questions/issues – working with group – then follow up with an initial contact with Sloan. Smernoff agreed with

trainings, events). Uridel will work with Emergency Prep team to bring back more details to the next meeting.

Lands Management:

Smernoff presented a supplemental funding request for \$10,000 for fuel load reduction on District lands between El Rey and lower Lake Road. The area has significant amounts of downed woody debris that presents a fire hazard. The request was moved by Ward, second by Uridel and approved unanimously. Work will begin in early April and is expected to take 1-2 weeks. The same contractor will also remove 4 large Eucalyptus trees. County tree removal permit in process, as well as nesting surveys required will be done prior to removal.

In September, after the nesting season, additional work to trim bays near Oaks as a Sudden Oak Death management tool, as well as follow up woody debris removal will be conducted.

Gage suggested contacting neighbors to the property and exercise caution with Bay removal in case we lose all our Oaks. Smernoff and Krenz will contact all neighbors.

Smernoff discussed progress on the land improvements. Two contractor bids have been received, reviewed and are being revised. Work is anticipated to start in early May on the viewing area, trailhead and red shed area, using one contractor. Biological surveys will be done for sensitive species.

The timing for the fence replacement is dependent on obtaining our County encroachment permit. Goal is to begin this element in late April or May. Following another meeting with the residents at the end of Lake Rd, little progress was made on resolving the issues around the encroachment permit. Krenz and Smernoff will meet with the County to seek resolution.

A discussion ensued in which the resident's gate and shed are generally seen by the Board and community members as an encroachment on the public right of way, that these are issues for the County to manage. The District should pursue a permit that only deals with the fencing replacement and new vehicle access gate and defer the encroachments to the County.

Smernoff mentioned next phase work for long-term land protection. The committee recommends obtaining surveys of all three District parcels as an important step as we begin to explore options for future management/ownership of the lands. The committee will also beginning to explore options for improved legal protections for District lands. To that end we plan to schedule a meeting with POST to discuss their process for granting conservation easements and if that might be useful for District parcels.

Sewer Project:

Bob Neuer sent the District an email that requested, among other items, for time with District legal counsel to discuss sewer project and options to resolve various issues especially with West Bay Sanitary District (WBSD). A discussion ensued among the Board and audience. The "sewer group" would like assistance with setting up a meeting with WBSD, and perhaps to involve Rich

First was the Department of Water Resources (DWR) promulgation of an ordinance (AB1881) that could be adopted by relevant agencies to improve landscape water use. The proposal would affect new or remodeled landscaping (over 2500 sq. ft). Large number of topics to address landscape water use. Irrigation plans would need to be based on MAWA (max. allowable water allowance). Gage felt that the program may be difficult to enforce especially at the homeowner level but may be workable at the commercial level (he authored a letter to DWR expressing his concerns.) Although the public comment period closed 3/27 he will monitor progress of the proposal and other comment periods will ensue. Timing of the proposal includes completion early in 2009, with implementation mandated to begin in 2010.

Second was a Federal program, EPA WaterSense. The goal is to reduce water use in domestic and commercial applications. Broad topics include; Climate change, and the linkage between water and power use, water availability, and water use efficiency (e.g. 50% of landscape water is wasted through leaks and inefficient design. Gage noted that much of the District effort is targeted, be design, in precisely the areas being targeted by WaterSense. Planned expansion of the program in the next few years will be important for the District to track and perhaps implement elements appropriate to our constituents.

(Minute Taker Note: Recommend that the handouts be placed on District website)

Ward had exempted himself from ET controller rebate despite significant personal cost and time to research, install and troubleshoot his system. The Board enthusiastically encouraged him to apply for the rebate.

Emergency Preparedness:

Container distribution – Uridel: Very successful and appreciated by community. Residents have requested an additional 30 containers. He proposed **purchase of an additional 60**. Budget can accommodate and Board concurred. Discussion to extend communication beyond yahoo groups. Noted that has been done for next LTW newsletter and that one direct mailing had been done. Lee; suggested using the white board at Ramona/LTR. Ward; suggest we purchase through PV hardware and others agreed.

Blackmon – Continuing research to access to emergency water via Lake. Easy access and practical approach being sought. Gage recommends talking with CDF to understand their requirements and refine options.

Radio system grant: Ward; Resolution 196 to purchase, install radios and antennas, equipment accounting aspects improved, coordination between two committees encouraged. Moved by Smernoff, second by Ward, approved unanimously.

Revolving fund: Uridel proposed setting aside modest amount of money for unanticipated emergency preparedness needs. Establish amount, guidelines for dispersal, reporting to Board. Tagg noted that an ongoing need was to encourage broader community participation and suggested funds could use funds for incentives (suggestions included fire extinguishers,

Draft
Minutes of the April 3, 2008 Meeting
Board of Directors
Los Trancos County Water District

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 at Corte Madera School.

Roll Call:

Present—Director's, Smernoff, Krenz, Blackmon, Ward, Uridel

Others— Karen Tate, Stan Gage, MaryAnn Furda, Bill Tagg, Arthur Nielsen, Richard Swan, Bob Neuer, Amanda Lee, Linda Drey-Nightingale

Public Comment: None

Minutes of March 6th:

Minor changes were discussed and approved 5-0 (moved by Smernoff, 2nd by Ward).

Subcommittee Reports:

Water Use Efficiency:

Ward reported he and Stan Gage attended a water use efficiency tradeshow in San Francisco and that Gage would report on that later in the meeting.

Appliance rebate program activity is tapering off but the Evapotranspiration controller (ET) program is starting to pick up with 3 systems installed. Tom Bressen of Urban Farmer supply will put on a community seminar sometime in the next few months. Water wise consulting will do a follow up survey after ET controller installations to verify performance.

The subcommittee will revisit the affidavit program at a future meeting.

The program is expected to spend 21K, well under the 31K budget. Between 12-16K will be spent on appliance rebates (washing machines, toilets, shower heads, and ET controllers). The group is looking forward to other opportunities for appliance rebates over the next few years. Ideas being explored include; Landscape conversions (3 options??), Dishwashers and on-demand hot water circulation pumps (which saves both energy and some water). The group is also monitoring improvements in grey water systems for laundry and showers, but that this requires substantial improvements in infrastructure and has regulatory constraints.

Tentative three year budget targets: FY'08 34K, FY'09 34K, FY'10 54K

Tate asked a question about largest water users participation in rebate programs. Ward has called top 25 and will follow up on those not yet participating.

Gage then discussed presentations from the tradeshow and handed out materials from the talks.