

**MINUTES OF THE
MOAPA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
HELD
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021**

PRESENT:	Randy Tobler Jon Blackwell (Phone) Derek Campbell	Lindsey Dalley Ryan Wheeler
Joe Davis Lon Dalley		Jeannie Poynor Susan Rose Mason Stratton
Byron Mills		Kim NDEP Kelly NvRWA
Karen Hackler Stirling Aker Pledger Solomon		

ORDER OF BUSINESS: At 4:02 p.m., Chairman Randy Tobler called to order the regular meeting of the Moapa Valley Water District Board of Directors. The agenda items were addressed in the following order:

1) Public Comment

Karen Hackler was asking about the subdivision on the Blvd that has 91 lots for sell and the one by her place that's on Lyman and the Blvd.

Joe said that the subdivision with the 91 lots has paid for all of their meters. They have already brought water to the table. That water has been accounted for thru the State Engineers Office. That's part of the allocation that the district currently has, they just haven't started building yet. They are in the design stage right now. On the other development, Joe's not 100% sure what their prospects are.

In 2005, the district passed a Water Dedication Ordinance so if you wanted to create a subdivision you would have to bring potable water resources to the district in order to serve you.

Chairman Tobler explained that this ordinance was passed to save water to make sure that we had enough water to meet the demand of the valley as it stood back in 2005. When they bought those lots, that water was already allocated. A lot of them have been paying into the system. It's not new water. That water has been in the valley for a long time.

Joe explained that the water we use comes from the carbonate aquifer in Warm Springs. It flows consistently and it's what feeds the Muddy River. It's been consistent through out all the droughts we've had. We monitor it daily to make sure that the resources are there.

Karen asked if our water is going down. Joe said that it's not going down like everywhere else.

Lindsey Dalley explained that he is over water resources for the district. We are acutely aware of that issue. We've had a lot of discussion and the board is constantly making sure that we're not going to compromise the existing water meters because of development and things like that. We have all of our water accounted for and mapped and we are not going to issue a meter if we don't have the water.

Randy said that we've sold a few more meters then normal the last three years but normally we don't sell a lot of meters. The State Engineer is concerned about what's been going on. We are really careful with our water resources. We don't have developments that we haven't had for a long time.

Joe said that it is one of those things with our small community, we don't have a lot of growth. The only subdivision we have right now is the one with the 91 lots. We monitor groundwater levels daily because you never know with groundwater when it starts to drop.

In Joe's 37 years here at the district, our groundwater is still consistent. They are still at the same level as when he started. We keep an eye on it all the time.

Lon Dalley explained that we had to turn a developer away because they had to bring water to the table.

2) Approve the Minutes of the August 12, 2021 Board Meeting (For Possible Action)

On motion of Lindsey Dalley and seconded by Jon Blackwell, the Board voted 5-0 in favor to approve the Minutes of the August 12, 2021 Board Meeting

3) Warren Hardy (For Discussion Only)

Warren was not able to attend the meeting. **(For Discussion Only)**

4) Wellhead Protection Plan Update (For Possible Action)

Joe explained that Kim and Kelly are here to talk about the progress they've made. Mason is also here. He's printed some maps that will give reference to what's going on.

Back in 2005, the Wellhead Protection Program had a very narrow scope and was designed to protect areas around our pumping area. Through all the years with all the pump tests that have gone on, it isn't just an opportunity for contaminants to get into our system but we've seen it go regional. Kelly is the one who handles the Source Water Protection Program so she updated our plan for us.

Mason went out and started doing some mapping of the wells that are out there in our system. There are over 100 and there's over a 150 wells in just basin 219. Out of those, the majority of them are abandoned so when you look at the abandoned wells, the NVDWR requires those to be sealed off with concrete so they can't contaminate the drinking water. There's a lot of wells that were never abandoned and they still have water rights that are associated with them. As the State Engineer is working thru the process of curtailing back to the 8000 AF, the wells in our system that aren't being used, need to be targeted by the district to make sure there abandoned properly so it protects our water system as a whole.

As we started the process, we thought it would be simple but it snowballed into a pretty big project. With all of the entities that are out there, some have wells that are utilized, some have wells that have water rights to them that are still valid, but they don't use them. How do you get them addressed and getting those taken care of at a bare minimum to where they are sealed up so contaminants can't get into them? The ultimate goal would be to get them abandoned. We've worked thru the process and Kelly was able to bring Kim into this project. NDEP has funding opportunities out there where, if we can identify these wells they could be abandoned and properly sealed up.

Kim reached out to the NDWR because they are the ones that handle all the water resources in Nevada. She had a conversation with them.

Joe thought it would be best if he can get them to come down here and discuss the project that is out there. We will start to move the project from a WHPP to a Source Water Protection Plan. It covers the Muddy River and our watershed. It's turn into a fairly large project as we're looking at it as a whole.

We need to come up with a training plan. Kelly & Kim are working on that. We will use Mason's GIS skills and come up with a training plan.

Kim is really excited about the name change but it can be confusing. Source Water Protection Plan is the umbrella. Wellhead Protection falls under Source Water Protection. Source Water Protection covers streams, tributaries, ground water, all of it. One of the things that Joe and Kim were talking about is as we really define that this is a Source Water Protection Plan, it doesn't take away from the WHPP, it enhances our plan, and enhances our ability to get funding from a multitude of sources because Source Water Protection is not about water. Kim encouraged Joe to put Source Water Protection in the beginning of the Plan. Kim said that Kelly did a great job

updating the plan. Kim said that we had a great technical piece in the plan and it didn't get modified. It was great. Nothing had to be done on that. What they really wanted to do was take a look at what do we really want to get funding for. Every community she worked with identifies septic tanks and wells as a problem. They are also the most expensive things to fix.

However, having those things in our plan doesn't tie us to do those projects. What it does is at some point, if we decide that this is something we want to do, it opens us up for funding because we have it as a challenge. SWPP is voluntary. It's not a mandated thing.

Kim talked about the different funding that is out there. There's 318 Debt Management Funding, there's Nonpoint Source Education, Well Abandonment Funding, State Revolving Loan Fund and there is a Principal Forgiveness Fund. It's very easy for Kelly to help us fill out the forms for reimbursement.

Joe had a picture of the well that the contractor cut holes in. Joe said they didn't want to access it correctly so they cut the holes at ground level. Any contaminant can get it that. That's a 600' hole that goes directly to the water resources that we use. Those are the kind of things that we targeted. That's one of the worst we saw. We contacted the person who has that well and they're going to get it sealed up. We'll branch out from that. It's a daunting task. We have 150 holes out there and that's just in basin 219. That's not counting the other five basins. There will be a lot of leg work on that. We'll try to get some support because wells are owned by someone else. We have to contact the owners, educate the owners and garner support from them. That's where Kelly comes in. The well that Joe's been talking about was the 2nd well that we saw. We assumed the worst. There's lots of pictures out there and that one was the worst. Everything else was better but once again we didn't branch out too far into the system. The majority are on BLM land. The mindset that we had when engaging with BLM because the permit holders have an easement associated with it so trying to build a relationship with BLM how do we identify the owner and what are the permit requirements. Once you get the permit requirements, there's a lot of effort that goes into getting the information that's needed. That's why Kim asked how much do we want to accomplish in the beginning. Right now we're still in infancy.

Mason has been working on this and we also had Jesse Robison helping Mason. They were able to get a lot of information on the wells.

Derek asked about funding for a private well.

Kim said that has to be worked out. The 1st step is to identifying the wells, identifying the ownership, and building a relationship with BLM and taking a look at the funding. Some funding can't be used for private ownership and some can. It's really about how do we categorize all of them to look what funding sources can be used in specific areas. One of the things that Joe and Kim talked about was doing a small pilot project. That small pilot program could be us doing a couple of the district's wells. NDEP can help fund that. Then we would have an example project to show to our shareholders. This would show the shareholder what we have, what it will cost and this is what we want to accomplish, and then we can work on getting funding. Kelly and Kim both helped us updated our plan. It didn't cost us anything. Clark County has our plan so they know what's going on out here.

Joe said that the other thing of high importance is that operators have to have training certificates every year. Kelly & Kim are working on a training program that will teach operators about the Wellhead Protection Plan. There's a loophole out there because other water utilities get their water from rivers. We don't get water from a river.

On motion of Lindsey Dalley and seconded by Jon Blackwell, the Board voted 5-0 in favor to Approve the August 2021 Updated Moapa Valley Water District Wellhead Protection Plan as presented.

5) Evaluation and Possible Approval of a Compensation Pay Increase for the General Manager (For Possible Action)

Joe explained that he has worked here at the district for 37 years. He started in 1984. As Joe was planning his exit strategy for retirement, he learned quite a few things. He was hired pre-1986. One of those things was that he was exempt from paying Medicare and Social Security, so

he never paid into either. One of the issues is that promises were made when a person got close to retirement there was a stipend that covered for Medicare. Currently as we sit today, that NRS has gone up. In 2005 when the past general manager left, he was given \$500 a month for insurance to subsidize for his health insurance. He was the only other person that was subsidize for insurance. He's the only other person who this affects. As he was doing the research on it, he found out that he qualifies for Medicare but has to pay the full amount out of his pocket and the health insurance aspect of it that comes along with it.

When he was doing the research on it, he found out that this is something the State of NV isn't honoring anymore. There was a shift at sometime between 2009 and 2013. The district went outside of the State and the coffers that were there for when he retired, were gone. At some time, the Legislature changed the rule. Because Joe's checks were coming from MVWD and not the State, he no longer qualified for the stipend. Putting things in perspective, at that time, Joe never thought about it. As he started looking into it, he wondered how can they make a promise when he was hired and then take it away? Joe had the Legislature Council with the help of Warren Hardy, looked into it. The legal opinion came back, and they said they can do what they want.

The reason it's such a concern is that his first 15 years of working here, the employees used gas chlorine and asbestos pipes. Joe's whole career he worked with those two things. It never leaves your system. He's had lung problems for years. He's been under the care of a doctor so as he's moving into his retirement, he realized that this is a big issue and the issues he is having are related to his job.

Joe started looking into things that can be done in the future. He had an individual look into it, and he found out that if he does not sign up the day he qualifies for the stipend, then he gets penalized. There's a guy that worked at one of the utilities and he's paying almost a \$1,000 a month for Medicaid.

Joe did get an opportunity to talk to the Chairman and discuss his concerns. If it was a different situation, he might think about it. To put it in perspective, a couple of weeks ago he flew up to Carson City right before they evacuated everyone. He was there one day, and it took three days for him to get back to where he could breathe well. His lungs are very susceptible and it's a direct relation to chlorine. You can only imagine what asbestos will do in the future. Since Joe has been the General Manager and Lon has been the Assistant General Manager, we have a very robust respiratory program. We have professional fit testing done for all of our guys with the safety equipment that we have. We test every new employee. Every two years we send them back in and we have them tested again to see if anything has changed from the last test.

On motion of Ryan Wheeler and seconded by Jon Blackwell the board voted 5-0 to increase Joe Davis' wage by \$17,139.90 for the next 3 years.

6) Manager's Reports
Office Manager
Assistant General Manager
General Manager

Office Manager- 1) Jeannie had the financial dashboard, the budget report and the revenues put in their board packets. We're starting a new year. Jeannie took off 2016 and 2017 to clean it up so we can see where we're starting. Revenues are on the next page. Jeannie also removed 2016 and 2017 revenues to make things easier to see. Revenues are up. **2)** We also received \$200,000 from the SNWA.

Assistant General Manager- 1) Production – In August we pumped 99,813,000 gallons out of Arrow Canyon & 15,000 gallons out of Baldwin for a total of 99,828,000. **2) Well Levels- Arrow Canyon Well Levels** – No big change there. **3) Meter installs** – There were 3 meters installed in August (two 5/8" x 3/4" and one 1") Total meters for CY 2021 =Twenty (20) Residential:19 residential (17-5/8 x 3/4") and 2 1") There was 1 commercial 1". **4) Meter Replacement Program-** Staff has ordered another 150 meters w/ endpoints at a cost of \$39,000. Lead times for the meters is October and lead time for the endpoints is December. This purchase is part of the approved "Meter Replacement Program" from the FY2022 budget. **5) BOR Grant -**The 2020 BOR \$75,000 grant has been completed and we have received the money in reimbursement funds. What we have left to do is submit our reports for the grant and it should be closed out.

The 2021 BOR \$75,000 grant has been awarded to MVWD last week. It should take affect around November. **5) New Meters** – We pumped more water thanks to the new meters. We still have meters but the lead time has gotten way out there. We ordered them back in November last year. We did receive the 2 4” meters last week. The 3” meters should be here soon. Joe said that getting materials is getting more difficult to get. Lon is trying to get things ordered early. The problem is they pulled the 3” and 4” because they were having a hard time with some of the technology, so they didn’t get sent out. Joe gives them credit for not sending out bad product.

General Manager-1) New Employees – We have two new employees. We had advertised for a month and got some good applicants. We hired Milo Farnsworth and then when we choose another, we hired Josh Leavitt. They filled the two maintenance worker positions which were created by the resignations of two employees. Cody Wyatt went to work for LVVWD and Dalton Gordon went to work for North Las Vegas. There wasn’t a lot, but we did get some good applicants. Milo was interviewed for the Meter Reader position, but we hired someone else. He ended staying in our apprenticeship, so we got to see him work in action which really helped out a lot. When the next position came up, he was in the interview pool, so we ended up offering him a position and then Josh Leavitt was offered a position. Joe was hoping to have them here tonight but with everything going on we choose not to. They are both on Nick’s crew and are doing good. We train our guys really well and it’s very valuable. A meter reader doesn’t get taught anything else. **2) 24” Ductile Iron Pipe Investigation** -We have finally received the two special clamps in order to do the inspections, clean it up and do repairs. We ordered two of them because you never know what’s going to fly apart. These clamps will allow staff to continue our investigation and repair efforts on the 24” Ductile Iron line near Meadow Valley Wash. If the board remembers, we had all of that curling on the sleeves, so we’ll get the sleeves repaired and we’ll start marching towards where the worst section is and we’ll come up with a game plan on how much we have in there that we are going to have to fix. With the training aspect that Mica was able to coordinate with Ductile Iron Pipe we should be able to maintain doing it ourselves and hopefully the bad portion will be contained into a smaller section. The guys will get started back on that. We’re having problems with the copper. It’s starting to corrode and it gets pinholes where the meters are. Mica reached out to a copper company. You can see where the pinholes that are inside are a manufacturing problem so they aren’t cleaning the burrs off. It’s causing cavitation inside so it causing a hole to start from the inside out. The majority of our leaks are caused because when the cooper comes in we wrap it in tape in order to keep the cooper away from the corrosive soil and it’s actually causing a problem because our water is coming out at about 87 degrees. In the wintertime it’s condensation gets between the tape and the water. It’s causing leaks. We cut a whole bunch of pipe out and Mica contacted a bunch of individuals and he was finally able to track someone down that could inspect it for us and that was they’re mindset. You don’t really think about it but when you actually put three different components together, the temperature, the water temperature and the ground and that’s what’s causing a lot of these problems. We’re actually modifying how we’re doing things and we’re going to move away from resetters all together and going to the old system. We’ll use the yoke system, and everything will be inside of the box. That should eliminate those but it won’t help the 3300 that are already in the ground. If we have issues, we’ll work thru that. **3) InfoWest** – Staff is still working through questions concerning the proposal from InfoWest to install infrastructure on the district’s Overton Tank Site. This will be in closed - door. **4) American Rescue Infrastructure Funds** - Staff has submitted three separate requests for the American Rescue Plan funding. The first funding request was submitted through the Governor’s Every Nevadan Recovery Framework. This funding request is for system upgrades in the business district in downtown Overton. The second request was made through the Clark County American Rescue Act with the help of Commissioner Kirkpatrick. This funding request contained all capital improvement projects that were identified in the district’s 10 - year Capital Improvement Plan. The third request was made through the Office of Financial Assistance Nevada Department of Environmental Protection. This funding request included everything in the Clark County submission, plus two additional projects in the Warm Springs area. We have a bunch of shovel ready projects and that can move us up the list. Any projects involving BLM take a lot longer to get approved. If they give us funding in January, we could start spending the money in February. We’ve been working on main street in Overton. We have the engineering work for that. The East Logandale Tank Recoat is in there and we’re working on the 20” JM Pipe that is dealing with the NDOT ROW. We have an existing easement for it so we should be able to work with NDOT to be able to replace that would be something close to a slip line to go thru there to the existing line. That would be a shovel ready project. We have quite a few shovel ready projects that are in

there that could move us up the list. We're getting good vibes from the County to get some funding, and even through the State Revolving State Fund. It's a five - year program and they get funding for the next five years. We've had a longstanding relationship with them. We have a lot of bonds through them that we did projects with. We're high on their list and we've acted with them very well. Joe believes that through them this would be a great opportunity to get money to recoat the East Logandale Tank. To put it in perspective, we built the tank, painted it, put it online for \$280,000. Just to paint it now is in excess of \$700,000. We're optimistic. We have projects that have been on our list, and we've identified those and we've been working thru the CIP to figure how we're going to fund those projects. Since most of the legwork has been done, that has a priority aspect so when it comes through, they can pull the trigger for us pretty quickly.

7) Public Comment (May be limited to five minutes)

None

8) Director's Preference

- Review Monthly Expenditures
- Randy Tobler disclosed that he has an interest in a small business that is on the monthly expenditure list.
- Litigation

On motion of Ryan Wheeler and seconded by Jon Blackwell the Board voted 5-0 to call a closed- door session at 5:25 pm.

On motion of Jon Blackwell and seconded by Derek Campbell the Board voted 4-0 to reconvened the open-door session at 5:08 pm.

9) Personnel

None

10) Approval of the August 12, 2021 Board Meeting

The October meeting will actually be on October 21, 2021 at 4 pm.

11) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.