



*Doña Ana Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association*  
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The following are the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Doña Ana Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association Board of Directors, July 06, 2017 convened at 9:00 A.M. in the Doña Ana Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association Board Room located at 5535 Ledesma Dr., Las Cruces, NM 88007:

### **Call to Order & Roll Call**

President Melton called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and called roll:

Vice President – Jamie Stull, Present

Board Member – Raymond Ponteri, Present

Board Member – Dr. Kurt Anderson

A Quorum was declared

### **Others in Attendance:**

Executive Director – Jennifer Horton

Legal Counsel – Josh Smith

Community Members – Jim Hayhoe, Theresa Chavez, John Colquitt, Gene Cassidy, Ryan Fancher, Commissioner John Vasquez

### **Approval of Agenda**

Dr. Anderson moved to approve the agenda for the July 06, 2017 Regular Board Meeting as presented; the motion was seconded by Mr. Stull. The Chair called for discussion of the motion. Executive Director requested we remove Item 2 as Ms. Limon was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Stull amended the motion to remove Item 2 for the

July 06, 2017 agenda; Dr. Anderson seconded the motion. The Chair called for a vote on the amended motion which carried by roll call vote 4-0.

### Minutes

Dr. Anderson moved to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2017 as presented; the motion was seconded by Mr. Stull. The Chair called for discussion of the motion to which none was brought forward. The Chair called for a vote; the motion carried by roll call vote 4-0.

### New Members & New Meters

Dr. Anderson moved to approve the New Members and New Meters list as presented; the motion was seconded by Mr. Stull. The Chair called for discussion of the motion. Executive Director Jennifer Horton advised we have twenty-eight (28) names on the list; nineteen (19) are new members, and nine (9) are new meters. The Chair called for a vote on the motion; the motion carried by roll call vote 4-0.

### Customer Issues and Public Input

Mr. Melton addressed the Board to request we allow the gentlemen from District One to voice their concerns and to notate any questions for after their presentation. The Board agreed.

Mr. Juan Colquitt, Mr. Ryan Fancher, and Mr. Gene Cassidy presented to the Board of Directors concerns they have regarding recent low water pressure and outages in the Radium Springs/Fort Selden area.

Mr. Colquitt advised his home is located at the bottom of the system in District One and has not experienced these issues, personally; however Mr. Colquitt owns a duplex adjacent to one of the tanks and has received complaints from his tenants. He has a difficult time running his sprinkler system for landscaping at the duplex, and is at a loss



on how to approach this situation. He has recently spoken with his tenants and they do have water now. Mr. Colquitt acknowledged he has spoken with members of staff who have explained the ongoing problems to him and the issues that have developed with regard to our wells and boosters in District One. Mr. Colquitt stated in his opinion these issues do not sneak up on an Association; these are circumstances that happen over time and feels we should complete maintenance problems during the off season. Mr. Colquitt opined the tanks would work better if they are at full capacity to work with his system. Mr. Colquitt stated he came to the office to speak with Executive Director Jennifer Horton; however she was unavailable at the time. He has heard we are receiving grant funding and wants to know where the money has gone. He is frustrated he has to make an appointment to address the Board to file his complaint.

Mr. Ryan Fancher advised his home is located at the highest elevation of the system. He acknowledged he has always had low pressure, and installed his own booster at his home to assist; however he believes sediment from flushing the lines has damaged several appliances at his home, including the booster. Mr. Fancher expressed how stressful it is to plan his workday, which includes watering livestock, around the possibility of low water pressure or water outages.

Mr. Gene Cassidy explained he has lived at his home for fifteen years, but the past 2.5 years have been extremely difficult. Mr. Cassidy stated water is the last thing he thought he would have to think about; wants consistent and reliable water. He advised when Juan Colquitt owned Fort Seiden he received a personal call when there were water outages. Mr. Cassidy alleged he scheduled a meeting with Jennifer and that she was not available when they arrived at the office. He also wrote an email to all Board Members detailing his concerns and only heard back from President Melton. He assumes we did not get the email or did not care what the email said. He expressed disappointment with having to discuss their concerns with the Project Manager, Abenicio Fernandez, when Ms. Horton was unable to meet with them after they came to the office. Mr. Fernandez

explained we are beginning to implement a new maintenance program which Mr. Cassidy feels is ridiculous; that a maintenance program should already be well established. He alleged Mr. Colquitt has given parts to the Association's staff in order assist with repairing lines in the past. Ms. Horton advised we have an entire shop full of parts that all Operators have full access to. Mr. Cassidy feels the Association is a mess and expressed wanting a rebate. Legal Counsel Mr. Smith advised rebates are not something the Association is allowed to offer. Mr. Cassidy stated the Association should bring out a tanker of water when outages occur if rebates are not permissible.

Mr. Melton opened the floor for Board input and the opportunity to address the concerns presented. Mr. Ponteri asked Mr. Melton if he has experienced the same issues presented today. Mr. Melton explained he has had water and stated he was only aware of these gentleman's concerns when Mr. Cassidy sent the email. Mr. Melton is concerned as there have been allegations of speaking with staff however when names, dates, or details of the conversations are asked for none can be provided. He has no way of approaching the staff for coaching without any information provided. Mr. Melton stated any time Mr. Colquitt has reached out to Mr. Melton they have been able to resolve the concerns. Mr. Colquitt confirmed this is true.

Dr. Anderson referred to the email Mr. Cassidy wrote and advised this is the first time we have heard of the extent of these issues; additionally with regard to Mr. Cassidy not receiving a response from all Board Members on the email he sent, we are prohibited by law from discussing this until we are convened in an Open Meeting. When the email was received responses were sent to the President with the understanding it would be discussed in the next meeting. Mr. Cassidy threatened if he cannot get results from going higher to the Board then he will continue to go higher. Dr. Anderson advised he has not missed a meeting in over a year and has never seen these gentlemen at a public meeting. Mr. Fancher accused the Board of not being aware of what is going on with their organization and "that he might as well not be at the meeting".



Mr. Melton stated Mr. Colquitt has the President's personal mobile, but if people do not communicate we cannot fix things. Mr. Colquitt alleges the Association tried to make too many changes too fast without knowing the Fort Selden system. Mr. Melton reminded the public that within one year of the Fort Selden purchase we lost a well entirely, leaving District One with only two wells that barely pump 400 gallons per minute together. We have drilled a new high production well that will process 600 gallons per minute which should assist with the water pressure concerns, however there are state required finite testing and approval procedures that must be completed before we can bring the well online. At this time we are awaiting final results from NMED. We have strived to maintain these wells, however any time we experience a glitch we end up having to augment during peak usage periods.

Mr. Melton inquired as to how Mr. Colquitt was able to obtain water pressure of more than 20 psi when he ran the system for sprinklers as most sprinkler systems do not produce at low pressure. The system is gravity fed and the elevation difference between the top of the tank at overflow level and the duplex Mr. Colquitt owns is approximately 50 feet; Mr. Colquitt agreed. There is no way physically possible, unless using an external source, to get more than 20lbs of pressure. Mr. Colquitt confirmed the tank would have to be at capacity in order to run 3 to 4 sprinkler heads with assistance from a booster.

Mr. Colquitt asked if the new tank is ready to be online once the approval from NMED comes through. Ms. Horton advised we are fully connected so that once approval is received we can proceed to provide water from this new source. Mr. Colquitt asked if it is possible to call NMED to request being brought online sooner. Ms. Horton advised there have been a number of issues with this system. As noted in the last Board meeting we had well 9 go down and could barely operate with well 10. Mr. Melton assisted Ms. Horton with explaining as her voice was gone due to illness. We were only able to get roughly 180 gallons a minute with only well 10 being active; that is what we have been

trying to live on to keep as much water going through the system as we could. We were trying to fill the tanks during off peak hours, however due to high demand we could not run both boosters as there was only enough water for one pump. Unfortunately when we lose a well or a pump it is not something that you can remedy overnight; it is not like a main break. We run into different regulations and standards that must be met, and trying to obtain approval from government agencies is not any easy task. When well 9 went down we looked into the possibility of emergency assistance and relief. We were ultimately told until we run out of water entirely we have to live with what we have. Ms. Horton explained over Father's Day weekend we lost a booster pump, but had it back and running that same weekend. During peak season we cannot get enough water into the tank fast enough with wells being down. Ms. Horton advised prior to these gentlemen arriving unannounced in the office for a meeting they never scheduled we did not know they had extensive issues. The weekend the booster went down Mr. Melton contacted Ms. Horton for details and they worked together to get the issue resolved. Mr. Colquitt admitted a meeting was never scheduled. Ms. Horton advised she was on a conference call at the time they arrived; which is why the Project Manager was sent out to meet with them. Dr. Anderson referred back to the email where it states "a meeting was scheduled". Mr. Cassidy and Mr. Colquitt acknowledged a meeting was never scheduled.

Ms. Horton asked the public how long it has been since the last water outage. Ms. Chavez, a tenant in Mr. Colquitt's duplex, advised it has been ten (10) days of steady water. Mr. Melton advised the funding for system improvements in District One has been appropriated. The well we have pending will be brought online as soon as we receive approval. Ms. Horton explained in the last ten days well 9 has come back online, which can feed two booster pumps at one time. We have secured funding to rehab the entire system in Radium Springs however getting the federal money released is not an easy task; especially with an administration change.



Mr. Cassidy inquired if these system updates will assist with the black sediment that comes with flushing? Ms. Horton advised this is a possibility, and currently we do have the ability to remove the meter to try to bypass the sediment.

Mr. Ponteri advised he has been on the Board for a little over a year and half. We have two meetings per month and we are in communication with Executive Director Jennifer Horton. The Board has been made aware of the well issues, but he was not aware the water pressure was affected this way. He advised we receive a report ever single month that graphs the pumping data from each system. When we look at the graphing there is no slack in the amount of water pumped out of the system. The water pressure issues are not reflected in the data itself. Mr. Ponteri has also requested we utilize his personal email which will be updated on the website. Ms. Horton advised their issue is with regard to pressure issues and elevations would not be reflected in the pumping data. Mr. Melton stressed the importance of proper communication.

Commissioner John Vasquez is concerned as he understands the big picture of upcoming water improvements, but his takeaway is that if there is a water shortage does DAMDWCA have the capacity to send out a water truck? No, we do not. There are specific requirements when utilizing a water truck, which we do not own. Is there a way to develop a contingency plan for emergency situations? Mr. Ponteri advised we are actively working on connecting our entire system to try to prevent outages. Mr. Melton reassured we are doing all we can to consistently improve and move forward; including a continuous maintenance program. We are limited by funding and statute, but we will continue to pledge our services to the community. Mr. Hayhoe introduced himself from Picacho Hills and is sorry to hear about the issues District One has experience. He would like to see a take away from the Board as to the potential for emergency situations as this is not the first time this topic has come up for the Association overall. Mr. Melton confirmed with the gentlemen who presented that we all have a better understanding of the situation.

Mr. Hayhoe inquired as to where we are with the review of the bylaws? Mr. Melton advised this is a work in progress and is with legal. Mr. Smith explained we are finalizing our 40-year water plan first.

### **Board President Report**

Mr. Melton advised he has quite a few notes from today's input and the email Mr. Cassidy sent. When Mr. Melton initially responded he noted there were at least two addressees that were not valid. Unless we receive communication we do not know the concerns of the public. Mr. Melton advised with the tank full there can only be at most 20 psi, not including line losses. There is no way to correct this until the system upgrades move forward. We have to have turnover in the tanks in order to promote proper regulations.

### **Staff Reports**

Ms. Horton advised the new water tanks in Picacho Hills are online.

### **Unfinished Business**

Dr. Anderson moved to approve Resolution 2017-06 South Central Council Government as presented; the motion was seconded by Mr. Stull. The Chair called for discussion of the motion. Ms. Horton advised this participation is beneficial as the council has a lot of influence with regard to Colonias funding. The Chair called for a vote on the motion; the motion carried by roll call vote 4-0.

Dr. Anderson moved to approve USDA RD Form 442-21 Right of Way Certification as presented; the motion was seconded by Mr. Stull. The Chair called for discussion of the motion. Ms. Horton advised both legal and the Board have to provide



certification. This is to move forward with the Radium Springs improvement project. The Chair called for a vote on the motion; the motion carried by roll call vote 4-0.

### **Open Discussion**

Ms. Horton would like to address a few statements that Mr. Colquitt made. The only changes we have made to the Radium Springs system are to install a new chlorination mechanism as the old one was not functioning, the SCADA system throughout the Association, and a few bowls. We have not made any other changes as we have been waiting for the USDA funding to go through as it made no sense to make improvements only to have to tear them out with the designed upgrades. The Fort Selden/Radium Springs system functions exactly as it did the day we purchased the system from Juan Colquitt.

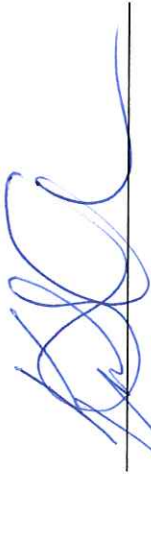
Dr. Anderson asked if there are any requirements for fire flow. Ms. Horton advised since this is the county there are no requirements. Dr. Anderson would also like to see more communication for line breaks.

Mr. Melton read a commendation from a member of the public with regard to our Project Manager, Abenicio Fernandez, and his staff for their hard work on fixing a line break over night the weekend of July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Ponteri asked Mr. Melton if he has experienced any of these issues. Mr. Melton advised he has experienced the water pressure issues, but the on call individual came right out. Mr. Melton explained the Fort Selden system is currently a disaster, and unfortunately we have taken hit after hit with the ongoing issues while waiting for our funding to commence.

### **Adjournment**

Dr. Anderson moved to adjourn at 10:58 a.m.; the motion was seconded by Mr. Stull. The Chair called for a vote on the motion: the motion carried by roll call vote 4-0.



Kurt Anderson  
Secretary/ Treasurer

8/05/2017  
Date