

PORT COSTA SANITARY COMMISSION

of the Crockett Community Services District

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING, OCTOBER 9, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Chairperson Surges. Present were Commissioners Scheer, Mann and Beauchemin, along with Dept. Manager Barnhill, and General Manager McDonald. Commissioner Cusack was absent excused. Mr. Barassi was in attendance as a member of the public.
2. AGENDA ORDER: There were no requests to hear agenda items out of order.
3. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.
4. PUBLIC HEARING: None.
5. REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNSEL: None.
- 6.a. DISTRICT BOARD ACTIONS: Mr. McDonald reported that the District Board passed six Ordinances to Codify the District Code.
- 6.b. SELF-MONITORING REPORT: The Commission received the cover letters for July and August 2019 electronic Self-Monitoring Reports (eSMR). The reports were certified and submitted through the California Integrated Water Quality System (CIWQS). During the Month of August an exceedence occurred with the pH being below 6.0 in the final effluent. Valley commenced accelerated monitoring and reported pH levels within limits on September 4th and 5th. Mr. Barnhill said the Water Board wants Valley to investigate in order to find the cause of the low pH.
- 7.a. FINANCIAL REPORT: The Commission received the monthly Summary Worksheet. No questions were raised.
- 7.b. CONSIDER DELAYING PAYMENT OF PORT COSTA LOAN: Mr. Barnhill said that a loan payment of \$47,487 due October 15, 2019 can be delayed without consequence to Port Costa. He said that the funds would be better directed toward maintenance of the septic tank. Mr. Barassi asked how Port Costa would be paying for the septic tank maintenance. Mr. McDonald said that a Sewer Use Charge (SUC) increase would be needed. Mr. Mann asked if we can delay cleaning. Ms. Scheer said that delaying maintenance is part of the problem. Ms. Scheer asked if the funds will remain in the budget if we don't clean the tank. Mr. McDonald said the funds would remain if the cleaning is not performed. Mr. Mann said he is not convinced the tank needs to be cleaned now. Mr. Barnhill said the tank needs to be cleaned and should have been fully cleaned years ago when he initially requested authorization. He said the Commission directed Staff to partially clean the tank at that time. Mr. Barnhill said it is difficult to establish the effectiveness of partial cleaning. He said the tank needs to be cleaned in order to protect the wet well, the effluent pumps, and the sand filter beds from buildup which will reduce the effectiveness and lifespan of the sand. He said the

septic tank is charged with sludge and the water may be carrying particulates over to the treatment plant which will adversely affect its performance.

7.c. AUTHORIZE SEPTIC TANK REHABILITATION FUNDS FOR BAFFLE WORK: A motion to table items 7.b and 7.c. was unanimous (as/rb).

7.d. AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF CONTRACT WITH HYDROSCIENCE ENGINEERS INC.: A motion to execute the contract with HydroScience in the amount of \$34,800 (engineering services to be performed following septic tank cleaning) was approved unanimously (as/jm).

8. WASTEWATER: Mr. Barnhill said Ponder added bypass and dewatering to their initial proposal which increased their proposal to clean the septic tank from \$172,723 to \$185,838. Mr. Barassi said that hauling water is their business which is why the proposal is geared to hauling volume offsite. The commission made a recommendation to staff to go after more bids (as/rb).

9a. STAFF REPORT ON OPERATIONS: Mr. Barnhill reported that October 9, he attended the meeting of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) in Olema, CA. He said the meeting included a tour of Marshall, CA wastewater treatment facilities. He explained that Marshall is similar in population to Port Costa and their NPDES Discharge Permit was the model which helped guide research into alternative discharge study performed by Larry Walker Associates. Marshall installed septic tanks at each individual property. Homeowners are responsible for the sewer lateral from their structure to the septic tank, their responsibility includes the inlet half of the septic tank. Foreign objects flushed, such as wipes, would be captured in the inlet half of the tank, the homeowner would be responsible for maintenance, removal or repairs. The outlet end of the septic tank, is publicly owned, the tanks discharge into a force main pipeline which carries the wastewater to a filtering system for treatment, followed by disbursement to land which is the final discharge point.

9.b. STAFF REPORT ON GOVERNMENTAL MATTERS: None

9.c. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

9.d. BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: None

9.e. INTER-AGENCY MEETINGS: None

10. CONSENT CALENDAR: The consent items were approved unanimously (as/jm):

- a. Approve Minutes of September 11, 2019
- b. Receive Status Report on outstanding issues

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM:

Settling tank cleaning proposals

12. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: None

13. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM until November 6, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

James Barnhill
October 31, 2019