

# LAKE ELSINORE & SAN JACINTO WATERSHEDS AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES October 17, 2019

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESENT

Brenda Dennstedt, Chair, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority  
Phil Williams, Vice Chair, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
Kevin Jeffries, County of Riverside  
Robert Magee, City of Lake Elsinore  
Randy Bonner, Alternate, City of Canyon Lake

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT

Kasey Castillo, Secretary/Treasurer, City of Canyon Lake

### OTHERS PRESENT

Nicole Dailey, City of Riverside  
Liselle DeGrave, DeGrave Communications  
Parag Kalaria, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
Greg Khalen, The Khalen Group

### LESJWA STAFF

Mark Norton, Sara Villa

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Regular Board of Directors meeting of the Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority (LESJWA) was called to order at 4:04 p.m. by Chair Dennstedt at the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, 31315 Chaney Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92531.

#### 2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was duly noted and recorded by the Clerk of the Board.

#### 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

#### 4. CONSENT CALENDAR

##### A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: AUGUST 15, 2019

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

##### B. TREASURER'S REPORT: JUNE - AUGUST 2019

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

##### C. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT: QUARTERLY REPORT JULY – SEPTEMBER 2019

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

##### D. TMDL TASK FORCE REPORT: AUGUST 14, 2019

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

**MOVED**, approve the Consent Calendar.

Result:	<b>Adopted (Unanimously)</b>
Motion/Second:	Jeffries/Magee
Ayes:	Dennstedt, Jeffries, Magee, Williams
Nays:	None

Abstentions: Bonner  
Absent: None

**5. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

Recommendation: Receive for information.

**A. LAKE ELSINORE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN AND SURVEY OUTREACH (LES#2019.16)**

Mark Norton provided a brief background of the previously authorized Lake Elsinore Fishery Management conducted by Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. Liselle DeGrave of DeGrave Communications led the outreach efforts in close coordination with the City of Lake Elsinore staff. Ms. DeGrave provided a PowerPoint presentation titled: *Lake Elsinore Fishery Survey Outreach*, contained in the agenda packet on pages 61-69. The fishery survey took place over the course of two (2) months (September-October) for a period of five (5) separate days. The Consultant worked closely with the City of Lake Elsinore to seek volunteer assistance in the fish netting, measuring, and counting process at various locations around the lake. There were three (3) tactical ways used to build awareness; media relations, photography, and social media. A news release was published for the Press Enterprise, Valley News, and Kim Passoth (Journalist) from KABC Channel 7 News and Spectrum News Channel 1 (Community News) both reported on the Lake Elsinore Fishery Management Survey. LESJWA's Facebook added pictures taken during the fishery surveys and the news clips. The data that is collected during the fish surveys will be used to update the Fishery Management Plan that will help improve overall water quality. Director Williams questioned when the results will be available. Mr. Norton noted the results will be released at the end of the fiscal year.

This item was for informational and discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 5.A.

**B. LAKE ELSINORE ADVANCED PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT (LEAPS) UPDATE (LES#2019.17)**

Mark Norton introduced Greg Kahlen, representing Nevada Hydro to provide a verbal status report on the Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage Project (LEAPS). The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is taking the lead in conducting the work and is anticipating the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process will begin in six (6) months. The applicant (Nevada Hydro) must also go through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process due to them not being a public agency. In order to fulfill CEQA requirements, the applicant must enter into a third-party MOU contract (between SWRCB, the applicant, and an environmental consultant). Mr. Kahlen provided a verbal status update to the Board of Directors. Nevada Hydro submitted an application to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on October 2017. In January 2018, Nevada Hydro received a letter of deficiency with a list of items requesting further information on the project. In June 2018, FERC issued a letter requesting a number of preliminary studies of environmental, traffic, water quality, fire, and etc., which have been completed and submitted. In July 2019, Nevada Hydro received a Notice of Acceptance of the application being complete. It is anticipated FERC will announce a CEQA Scoping meeting in November with the meeting taking place in December. The scoping meeting will be held jointly with FERC and SWRCB taking the lead, and a bus tour may also be provided by the project proponents. Mr. Kahlen noted that Nevada Hydro is looking into putting together a tour for public officials that are interested to the Olivenhain Pump Storage Project located in San Diego. It's a project similar to the LEAPS project and has been in existence for about 12 years.

This item was for informational and discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 5.B.

**C. LAKE ELSINORE GRANT APPLICATION STATUS (LES#2019.18)**

Mark Norton provided a verbal status update regarding the Lake Elsinore Physical Harvesting of Algal Biomass project in Lake Elsinore that was submitted to SAWPA's OWOW Proposition 1 Integration Regional Water Management (IRWM) Round 1 Grant Application. The pilot project proposes the removal of lake algae through the use of floating barge system that will remove algae from the lake and then be harvested for biofuels. The project was reviewed by the State during a Pre-Application Workshop where comments were received. Staff is looking at various technologies with a floating barred system that will remove algae. The project is estimated to cost \$297,000 and no local funding match is proposed or required since it supports disadvantaged communities that predominantly surround the lake. The City of Lake Elsinore's project along with the ten (10) other projects will be submitted to Department of Water Resources (DWR) on November 1. The implementation grant monies won't be available until the Agreements are executed by the State, possibly late Spring 2020. Director Bonner questioned why the Canyon Lake Dredging Project wasn't approved. Mr. Norton noted that the Canyon Lake Dredging Project, unfortunately ranked low due to not having local match and the current stage with the preliminary design and permits. It was not recommended for funding by the watershed stakeholders, OWOW Steering Committee and the SAWPA Commission. It may be eligible for funding when more details are defined for the project perhaps for Round 2 of Proposition 1 IRWM Grant Program in FY2020/21.

This item was for informational and discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 5.C.

**D. LAKE ELSINORE & CANYON LAKE NUTRIENT TMDL TASK FORCE UPDATE (LES#2019.19)**

Mark Norton provided a verbal status update regarding the Lake Elsinore & Canyon Lake Nutrient TMDL Task Force Update. The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board held a public workshop on May 3<sup>rd</sup> regarding the potential amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin to revise the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for nutrients in Lake Elsinore, Canyon Lake, and the San Jacinto Watershed. The Draft TMDL Revision Technical Report (Report) was presented and discussed with presentations by Regional Board staff, CDM Smith, and others who wrote much of the report. The Report has gone through peer review and comments are currently being incorporated. Some delays have occurred due to some Regional Board staff retiring. It is anticipated that the Public Hearing for the TMDL adoption will be taken to the Regional Board in January 2020. The Canyon Lake Alum Application is ongoing and is scheduled for the following week.

This item was for informational and discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 5.D.

**E. REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL PIPELINE CONVERSION PROJECT UPDATE (LES#2019.20)**

Mark Norton introduced Parag Kalaria, representing EVMWD and he provided a PowerPoint presentation of the Regional Agricultural Pipeline Conversion Project. The existing system is the recycled water effluent from Regional Water Reclamation Facility (RWRf) that is pumped through an existing pipeline to the Wasson Sill. The Wasson Sill effluent flows to the Lake Elsinore Outlet Channel (LEOC) through a dissipation structure. There is a cooperative agreement with EVMWD, City of Lake Elsinore, and Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (RCFC&WCD) for the design and construction for the Wasson Sill Diversion Structure. The existing 36" RCP Agricultural pipeline was converted to an effluent conveyance line. It was a six (6) month construction duration of the work components including cleaning and inspection, addition of two (2) new 5' diameter manholes, and the new dissipation structure at Lake Elsinore. The total construction

cost was \$1.3 M, equally shared by all three (3) partners. The project benefits are the reduction of vegetation in LEOC, decreased maintenance costs, decreased evaporation and evapotranspiration, and improved water flows into Lake Elsinore. The Regional Water Quality Control Board will bring the project forward for approval at their Board Meeting on October 25, 2019. Once approved, RCFC&WCD will coordinate cleanup with all three (3) partnering agencies. Director Magee noted he fully supports the project, and references page 45 of the Agenda Packet and page 5 of the PowerPoint slide. The water isn't flowing and will not flow until they are fully permitted. There was a Press Release that went out September 13 showing a ribbon cutting ceremony with elected officials present. A ribbon cutting ceremony should not be taken place until it is 100% through the permit process to comply with the law. Director Magee stated he appreciates the project, the partnership, and the goal that we are trying to attain, but the delivery is not appropriate, and we need to make sure it doesn't happen again.

This item was for informational and discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 5.E.

**F. ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS**

Mark Norton informed the Board of Directors that every other year a LESJWA Water Summit is held, and the planning process has begun. Mr. Norton met with the Education and Outreach Committee and took a tour of the Launch Pointe Recreation Destination and RV Park in Lake Elsinore with the new Community Hall there as the possible location to hold the summit for April 29, 2020. Planning is underway and more details to come.

**G. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

Director Bonner noted that there has been a lot of feedback from the smell of the water in the reservoir. Mr. Norton noted there was some discussion at the Education and Outreach Committee meeting. Director Kasey Castillo was in attendance and she notes there was some construction work that was being done. Director Williams noted he will follow up with his staff and get more information.

**H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS REQUESTS**

None at this time.


**6. CLOSED SESSION**

There was no Closed Session.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for review, Chair Dennstedt adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

**Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority Board of Directors Meeting on Thursday, February 20, 2020.**

  
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Phil Williams, Chair

Attest:

  
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Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board