

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

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES February 18, 2021

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Phil Williams, Chair, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
Dale Welty, Vice Chair, City of Canyon Lake  
Robert Magee, Secretary/Treasurer, City of Lake Elsinore  
Brenda Dennstedt, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority  
Kevin Jeffries, County of Riverside

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

T. Milford Harrison, SAWPA Commissioner  
Greg Morrison, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
Ganesh Krishnamurthy, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
Margie Armstrong, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
Parag Kalaria, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
Nicole Dailey, City of Riverside  
Liselle DeGrave, DeGrave Communications  
Greg Kahlen, The Kahlen Group

### **LESJWA STAFF**

Mark Norton, Karen Williams, Jeff Mosher, Rick Whetsel, Sara Villa

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Board of Directors meeting of the Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority (LESJWA) was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Williams on behalf of the Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California. The record will reflect this meeting was conducted virtually.

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom, this meeting was conducted virtually. Members of the public who were unable to participate by teleconference or virtually were invited to submit comments and questions in writing via email for the Board's consideration.

#### **2. ROLL CALL**

An oral roll call was duly noted and recorded by the Clerk of the Board.

#### **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Director Dennstedt introduced SAWPA Commissioner T. Milford Harrison and SAWPA's new General Manager, Jeff Mosher; there were no public comments received via email.

#### **4. NEW BOARD MEMBER WELCOME**

Chair Williams welcomed newly appointed Councilmember Dale Welty of City of Canyon Lake.

#### **5. ITEMS TO BE ADDED OR DELETED**

There were no added or deleted items.

The Board of Directors next considered Agenda Item No. 8.B.

#### **6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

##### **A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: OCTOBER 15, 2020**

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

**B. TREASURER’S REPORT: SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2020**

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

**C. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT: OCTOBER 19, 2020 | JANUARY 11, 2021**

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

**D. LE/CL TMDL TASK FORCE REPORT: SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 | OCTOBER 19, 2020 | DECEMBER 7, 2020**

Recommendation: Approve as posted.

**MOVED**, approve the Consent Calendar.

Result:	<b>Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Unanimously)</b>
Motion/Second:	Jeffries/Dennstedt
Ayes:	Dennstedt, Jeffries, Magee, Williams, Welty
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. REPORT ON AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020 (LES#2021.1)**

Karen Williams recommended that the Board of Directors receive and file the FY2019-20 Report on Audit prepared by Teaman, Ramirez & Smith, Inc., and to direct staff to file Report on Audit with respective government agencies as required by law. Williams noted the financial statements presented herein contain no qualifications or reportable conditions. This indicates that LESJWA’s financial reporting is compliant with applicable State and Federal laws and regulations. The Audit report was distributed to each of the member agency’s financial staff for review and no comments were received.

Director Magee left the meeting at 4:15 p.m., during the presentation for Agenda Item No. 7.A.

**MOVED**, approve the to receive and file the FY 2019-20 Report on Audit prepared by Teaman, Ramirez & Smith, Inc., and direct staff to file the Report on Audit with respective government agencies as required by law.

Result:	<b>Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Unanimously)</b>
Motion/Second:	Dennstedt/Welty
Ayes:	Dennstedt, Jeffries, Williams, Welty
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Magee

**B. SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED WEATHER MODIFICATION FEASIBILITY STUDY (LES#2021.2)**

Mark Norton provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification for Water Supply Feasibility Study contained in the Agenda packet on pages 104 – 130. Cloud seeding is a process of adding a specific chemical agent into an already existing cloud mass that causes the cloud to thicken and/or water vapor to condense and fall as rain or snow. The potential benefits of increased precipitation in the watershed, 5-15% on average, could have significant benefit to local ski resorts, forest fire suppression, downstream stormwater recharge, and replenishment of natural lakes like Lake Elsinore which is very dependent on storm flow.

North American Weather Consultants was hired through an RFP process to conduct a feasibility study for the Watershed Weather Modification for Water Supply Feasibility Study. Funding for this study was provided by each SAWPA member agency contributing \$15,000 each for the \$75,000 study. The next steps are to continue briefings to interested governing bodies and agencies in the watershed, study of ground-based seeding unit sites and access, CEQA/Permits, and the potential cost share partner agencies and companies who may benefit are being approached by SAWPA. Director Dennstedt noted that she requested this item to be brought forward because some of the location sites proposed would affect the Lake Elsinore area and she is not entirely convinced over what the nexus of benefit is to the Western customers. Another concern is if there is a lot of rainfall, what are the unintended consequences of that action especially in burn scar areas of which the City of Lake Elsinore and City of Beaumont are significantly still dealing with recovery. Mark Norton noted that there are ground seeding stations that may be located near areas that later burn. In Los Angeles County, their cloud seeding program was placed on hold for the San Gabriel mountains when forest fires swept through the mountains resulting in burn areas. Director Dennstedt suggested looking at other partners to reduce the overall cost that benefit more on the water capture instead of having the member agencies that are not reaping as much benefit front load the cost; and get the public's opinion and conduct continued outreach. Director Welty noted that he agrees with conducting outreach and he would be happy to coordinate it within his community. Director Jeffries loves the idea in doing this in the near future, though he understands it should be approached with a little caution and the need to build partnerships. Chair Williams noted that the education and outreach is extremely important, and it is the long-term is what is concerning, and if there has been any long-term testing. A very detailed report would need to be provided especially with concerns in the flooding sub areas.

This item was for informational and discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 7.B.

**C. FY 2020-21 TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO LAKE ELSINORE/CANYON LAKE TMDL TASK FORCE - ADDITIONAL IN-LAKE MODELING SCENARIOS (LES#2021.3)**

Mark Norton provided a brief background of working closely with the Regional Board and the consultant Tess Dunham on the peer review comments for the TMDL Revision. There is a lot of change in the regional board staff overseeing the TMDL with retirements and the new staff are getting up to speed. It has been an extensive effort in updating the TMDL. With the new staff, there are new questions that arise, and requests of additional modeling scenarios to be conducted. And additional modeling scenario for the forest area was requested along with looking at scenarios under the reference conditions that reflect the levee project in predevelopment. CDM Smith has capability to conduct the additional modeling with Dr. Michael Anderson. Although the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force is unhappy to spend additional funds, the realization is that in order to close the TMDL Revision and adopt by the State Board, eventually by EPA, these are necessary steps and will pull the money out of Task Force reserves.

**MOVED**, to authorize a Change Order to Task Order No. CDM160-04 with CDM Smith, Inc. for an amount not-to-exceed \$37,160.00 to conduct additional in-lake modeling scenarios to support the TMDL adoption process for the Lake Elsinore/Canyon Lake Nutrient TMDL Task Force for Fiscal Year 2020-21.

Result:	<b>Adopted by Roll Call Vote (Unanimously)</b>
Motion/Second:	Jeffries/Dennstedt
Ayes:	Dennstedt, Jeffries, Williams, Welty
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Magee

## **8. INFORMATION REPORTS**

### **A. ACOE LAKE ELSINORE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION FEASIBILITY STUDY (LES#2021.4)**

Mark Norton introduced Greg Morrison of EVMWD, and he provided a brief background and update on the Lake Elsinore Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study. In 2019, EVMWD staff contacted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to request Federal assistance in developing an aquatic ecosystem restoration study for Lake Elsinore. The FID study was completed in February 2020 and indicated that there was sufficient evidence to proceed with a Section 206 Feasibility Study. Following the completion and approval of this FID, the USACE and the non-Federal sponsor executed a Project Management Plan (PMP) which was completed in November 2020. EVMWD is serving as the lead for the project with local funding support from the City of Lake Elsinore and County of Riverside. LESJWA staff discussed potential in-kind support and/or funding as well as taking over the lead for the project with EVMWD. EVMWD preferred that they continue in the lead role for this study with their partners of the City of Lake Elsinore and County of Riverside. LESJWA will serve as a resource of past lake studies that will help support the future feasibility study.

The next step is to implement the feasibility study that would then identify a project to construct on the lake as part of the federal interested determination. Three (3) potential projects, dredging the lake to some extent because its cost prohibitive, and habitat or watershed restoration somewhere along the lake shore or potentially upstream between Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake. The USACE is authorized under this program to spend up to \$12 M. The partnership with the three (3) parties involved would split \$5 M of the cost. Chair Williams suggested this would be a good idea to have other agencies help join in and support LESJWA and the three (3) parties involved to help spread the cost.

This item was for informational and discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 8.A.

### **B. LAKE ELSINORE ADVANCED PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT (LEAPS) UPDATE (LES#2021.5)**

Mark Norton provided a brief update on the Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage Project (LEAPS). Nevada Hydro (applicant) has filed a license application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the LEAPS project. In order to fulfill CEQA requirements, the applicant entered into a third-party MOU contract among State Water Board, the applicant, and an environmental consultant (Cardno) hired by the State. The MOU parties are coordinating to establish the Project scope, budget, and timeline. The State Water Board project manager is Mr. Chase Hildeburn, and once FERC issues the Notice of Ready for Environmental Analysis document, the State expects Nevada Hydro will submit their application for water quality certification. It is anticipated to have a public CEQA scoping meeting for the project March timeframe. Greg Kahlen noted that there's ongoing negotiations/discussions with the US Forest Service on the studies and are slowly getting resolved. Director Magee questioned if there was an understanding with the tribal partners? Mr. Kahlen noted they are still working with the tribal partners. Director Dennstedt questioned if this item is still an item of discussion at the City Council meetings? Director Magee stated that questions arise all the time not necessarily at Council meetings, though there is a Town Hall meeting scheduled, and he anticipates there might be a question. He met with Congressman Calvert this week and he indicated that he is monitoring the project closely.

This item was for informational and discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 8.B.

The Board of Directors next considered Agenda Item No. 6., Consent Calendar and continued the Agenda Order.

**C. LAKE ELSINORE & CANYON LAKE NUTRIENT TMDL TASK FORCE UPDATE (LES#2021.6)**

Mark Norton provided a brief status update on the Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake (LE/CL) Nutrient TMDL Task Force Update. LESJWA staff continues to work with the Regional Board on seeking to adopt the TMDL Revision by completing the additional modeling scenarios. It is anticipated that the additional modeling scenarios will be completed by April with a possible public hearing by mid-summer. The LE/CL TMDL Task Force Budget will be brought forward at the next LESJWA Board meeting in April.

This item was for informational and discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 8.C.

**D. ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS**

There were no Administrator's comments.

**E. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

Director Welty requested to meet with Mark Norton before the next LESJWA Board meeting in April to get additional information on LESJWA.

**F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS REQUESTS**

There were no future agenda items requests.

**9. CLOSED SESSION**

There was no Closed Session.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for review, Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 5:18 p.m.

**Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority Board of Directors Meeting on Thursday, June 17, 2021.**



Phil Williams, Chair

Attest:



Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board