

Minutes of Special Meeting
Los Carneros Water District
Special Meeting, April 14, 2021 – 6:00 PM
Live Stream Via Zoom
<https://countyofnapa.zoom.us/j/97388002084>

1. Roll Call: Directors **Deyermond, Drayton, Jones, Lincoln, Walker, Wilkinson**
2. Public Comment: **Member of public** asked for a point of clarification whether the board be taking public comment during item 4 which was confirmed.
3. Discussion and possible action on a vacancy on the Board due to the resignation of **Samantha Mueller**. District Counsel is recommending a Notice of Vacancy be posted for a 15-day minimum and interviewing interested, eligible applicants at the regular May meeting.

A member of the board asked for clarification about the opening of the position and how/when it is posted, and how it will be filled.

District Counsel Apallas indicated that there are 60 days to fill the position (up until June 4th) which would allow the board to appoint to the position at the May meeting. If the position is not filled by that date, Napa County has 30 days to try and fill before it goes to the County Board of Supervisors

Director Deyermond raised a motion to post the vacancy, seconded by **Director Drayton**.

Motion passed 6-0-0

4. Discussion and possible action on request from Napa Sanitation District (NSD) regarding possibility of NSD allowing limited use of its recycled water hydrant located at the intersection of Cuttings Wharf Road and Stanly Cross Road for limited trucking of water for irrigation uses. LCWD does not regulate the use of the hydrant and NSD has typically allowed its use for dust suppression and emergency fire response. NSD would make the hydrant available as a filling station for anyone that has an account with NSD for a limited duration so as to not cause any effect on the parcels belonging to the LCWD Assessment District 2014-1. NSD is requesting the LCWD Board discuss proposed hydrant usage and make a recommendation.

Andrew Damron with the Napa Sanitation District raised that Napa San had been asked for access to hydrants by members of the public both belonging to and outside the district.

The two hydrants in question are at the junction of Buchli Station rd. & Las Amigas, and Cuttings Wharf rd. & Stanly Cross rd.

At this point **Director Lincoln** recused himself from any further discussion due to a conflict of interest – his employer would benefit from the access to the water from the hydrants if allowed.

Several items regarding the proposed access to the water from the hydrants were then discussed: Neither location has good access/room for parking while water trucks are being filled. Napa San has two alternate truck filling stations at 1) their front gate which is open all the time and 2) Silverado Middle School in Coombsville which is intended for members of the public who are too far from the existing MST pipeline.

The question in front of the Board was for access to water by both members and non-members of the LCWD with the following conditions/notes

- Water could be available when the demand was less than the flow available so as to not affect the other LCWD system users
- The LCWD demand must be less than the design capacity of the system (both pressure and flow)
- Volume of flow through the hydrants would not count against the District's total allocation of water
- There is a portable meter and clip board at the water filling location to allow members of the public to record their details and what water they are taking
- Water would most likely be available in the "shoulder periods" of the season

- The intention of opening access to the hydrants would be to shorten the truck route to the water's eventual destination

Director Wilkinson asked for clarification on what was meant by "shoulder periods" and **Andrew Damron** responded that he was talking about March, April and maybe some of May. He also shared that there are about 5M gallons of water enters their system per day from the city of Napa and that it would take a very large customer taking advantage of this water to make any difference to the other recycled water users.

Director Drayton asked who paid for the hydrants in question and their installation and connection to the water district. **Andrew Damron** responded that the LCWD had paid for the infrastructure and it had been handed over to Napa Sanitation District for operation.

Public comment then opened

Member of the public – Given that the district paid for the hydrant and infrastructure connecting it, can the district charge for the water being taken, or get a credit of their tax bills when someone else is using it? Also the Board should not open "Pandora's Box" by allowing public access to the hydrant water – there are property owners who live next to the hydrants who missed out on access to the LCWD recycled water and could now tap in directly. She was sorry that there are people who need water and are not connected but opening it up would mean a free-for-all. She hoped that the Board does not ignore the issue of people moving water around by truck, in addition to the access to the water. The roads are already narrow and dangerous without the extra traffic that this could invite.

Member of the public 2 – asked Director Wilkinson to represent her thoughts. The member of public had been in contact with a county roads engineer to discuss concerns about safety and parked vehicles near the hydrant where they would be filling up. There were also public concerns about the disruption of privacy for the landowners near they hydrants, as well as noise and additional damage/wear & tear to the road. They empathized with the need to access water in a drought and there seemed to be willingness from the landowners in the area to find a middle ground. It should not be envisaged that this is an ongoing privilege but perhaps the access could be assessed annually. They suggest that the Board pause their decision to allow more time to understand the problem. They also raised that somehow the decision could go to the members of the LCWD to vote on the decision.

End of public comment

Director Jones – Clarification was requested as to whether the people requesting water were current members of the LCWD or not. **Andrew Damron** said that people needed to have an account with Napa San but were not necessarily district members. **Director Jones** stated that was probably against the LCWED Ordinance.

Director Wilkinson raised the fact that there are considerable costs to trucking water and so water access from a hydrant and through purple pipe are not equivalent. Additionally, it's impossible to know the number of trucks that opening access would bring to the neighborhood

Director Walker pointed out that it is a policy question rather than a quantity question and said that people not in the district are already trucking water without the Board's involvement

Director Drayton asked **District Counsel Apallas** how the Ordinance and Policies in place related to this use of water by non-district members. He said he was not sure it is considered in the those documents but that it was assessed parcels within the district that are paying for the infrastructure and access to water from those hydrants. The hydrants are essentially an unregulated point of connection to the LCWD network. He raised that the Board has options and that the decision did not necessarily need to be made during this current meeting.

Director Deyermund asked if the use of the pipeline and access to hydrants was within the Boards jurisdiction.

Director Wilkinson responded that the Board has been asked for their opinion by Napa San and as such should give it. He added that he was swayed by the "Pandora's Box" argument.

Director Drayton added that he was very uncomfortable with access to they hydrants by anyone in the

public. If that is the case then why bother to regulate who gets access from the purple pipes?

Director Deyermund agreed and added that she was also concerned about the use of water trucks for landscape irrigation

Director Wilkinson raised a motion to: Ask Napa San to limit the usage of hydrants specifically to Napa County Public Works and in the case of emergencies, and to not allow any other use.

Motion was seconded by **Director Walker**. Motion passed 5-0-1

5. Future Agenda Items.

Budget run through
New records retention policy
Website walk through

6. Adjourn to the Regular Meeting of May 11, 2021.

Submitted by Secretary William M Drayton

Approved Date _____