

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CACHUMA OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BOARD**

held at
**3301 Laurel Canyon Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105**

Monday, April 24, 2023

**1:00 PM
MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Holcombe at 1:02 PM.

Directors Present:

Polly Holcombe, Carpinteria Valley Water District
Kristen Sneddon, City of Santa Barbara
Lauren Hanson, Goleta Water District
Cori Hayman, Montecito Water District

General Counsel Present:

William Carter - Musick, Peeler, Garrett, LLP

Staff Present:

Janet Gingras, General Manager	Elijah Papen, Senior Program Analyst
Edward Lyons, Administrative Manager/CFO	Timothy Robinson, Fisheries Division Manager
Shane King, Ops Supervisor/Chief Distrib. Operator	Dorothy Turner, Administrative Assistant II

Others Present:

Dakota Corey, City of Santa Barbara	Matt Young, SBCO Water Agency
Matthew Scrudato, SBCO Water Agency	

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of March 27, 2023 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Investment of Funds
 - Financial Reports
 - Investment Reports
- c. Review of Paid Claims

Ms. Gingras called the Board's attention to the March 27th Minutes and noted that approval of the Consent Agenda would require two approval motions. She then invited Mr. Lyons to comment on the Financial and Paid Claims reports.

Mr. Lyons reviewed several expenditures of note in the Paid Claims report, including remittances to Reese Water & Land Surveying, Cushman Contracting, Geosyntec and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. As well, he highlighted the payments for two new COMB vehicles.

Director Hayman provided a motion to approve item 3.a. which was seconded by Director Sneddon. The motion carried with a vote of four in favor and two abstaining.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hayman, Holcombe

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain: Hanson

Director Hanson motioned to approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda. Director Sneddon seconded the motion which passed unanimously with a vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

4. VERBAL REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

- Operations Committee Meeting – April 21, 2023

Director Sneddon reported briefly regarding the single item reviewed by the Operations Committee and noted that it will be brought before the Board at the May 12, 2023 Special Budget Workshop Board Meeting.

5. FINANCIAL REVIEW – 3rd QUARTER FISCAL YEAR 2022-23

Mr. Lyons shared his presentation of the third quarter financial review with the Board. He recapped revenues received during the quarter, totaling \$4,585,000. Noting overall alignment to the budget, he provided explanation for any variances as compared to the budgets for both divisions. Mr. Lyons reviewed the status of the Administrative Division's deliverables for the upcoming quarter. He fielded questions and comments from the Board.

6. NORTH AMERICAN LAKE MANAGEMENT SOCIETY (NALMS) - CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

Ms. Gingras introduced Mr. Papen and invited him to share his presentation regarding approaches to water quality testing for harmful algae blooms (HABs). Mr. Papen shared the tools that COMB currently uses to address water quality testing for HABs. He fielded questions and received appreciative comments.

7. CONTRACT AMENDMENT – PHASE II WATER QUALITY AND SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT STUDY

Ms. Gingras asked Mr. Papen to discuss the proposed contract amendment. He first provided some background and reported the unanticipated increase in depth of lake-bottom sediment due to recent storms. This necessitated a revised plan for the collection of longer sediment core samples. The proposal includes allowance for the core samples, radio carbon dating, an added sulfide sensor and increased chemical analysis. Mr. Papen fielded questions from the Board.

Director Sneddon motioned to approve the contract amendment as described and Director Hayman seconded. The motion carried unanimously with a vote of six in favor.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

8. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

- Administration
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Accomplishments/Goals by Division

Ms. Gingras presented the General Manager report, advising that the draft budget had been provided to Member Agency technical staff who commented favorably. She referred briefly to the table listing the Contracts Executed by the General Manager over this past quarter. Ms. Gingras commented that the spill at the lake is ongoing, providing approximately 2700 acre feet of surplus water to the Member Agencies. As well, she provided an update on repairs made at Bradbury Dam. Finally, she highlighted the extensive list of COMB staff accomplishments over the past year. Ms. Gingras fielded questions and comments.

9. ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Climate Conditions
- Water Quality
- January Storm Disaster Recovery
- South Coast Conduit Rehabilitation
- Infrastructure Improvement Projects Update

Mr. Papen presented the Engineer's report, noting that this has been one of the wettest years on record and the third highest inflow year of record, with inflow still occurring. Water sampling results indicate that TOC levels are improved. He reported that staff continues to work through the FEMA/CalOES process. The Ortega reservoir cleaning is complete with repairs currently being undertaken. With the completion of the recent AVAR/BO work, Mr. Papen advised that staff was able to report to Reclamation that the Category One recommendation was complete.

10. OPERATIONS DIVISION REPORT

- Lake Cachuma Operations
- Operation and Maintenance Activities

Mr. King presented the Operations Division report, reiterating that the completion of the Category One recommendation was a huge accomplishment. He reported that staff continues to monitor storm damage and address routine maintenance tasks. He advised that water was being drawn through gate three as testing indicated that depth would provide better water quality. Finally, Mr. King reported that staff had assisted Fisheries Division with oak tree planting at Live Oak Campground.

12. FISHERIES DIVISION REPORT

- LSYR Steelhead Monitoring Elements
- Tributary Project Updates
- Surcharge Water Accounting
- Reporting/Outreach/Training

Mr. Robinson presented the Fisheries Division report, first commenting that the lake is above capacity and target flows are above minimums due to the continued release. He reported that there is evidence of late spawning in some tributaries with a potential for a steelhead redd in Salsipuedes Creek. A request for gravel augmentation in Hilton Creek has been submitted with hope that the permits will be forthcoming and supplementation can take place next year. He provided updates on tributary projects and research efforts for grant funding. As well, he discussed valve reconditioning at Bradbury Dam and noted that he will present a poster illustrating the effects of Sulphur on salmonids at the upcoming Salmonid Restoration Federation conference.

13. PROGRESS REPORT ON LAKE CACHUMA OAK TREE PROGRAM

- Maintenance and Monitoring

Mr. Robinson presented the Oak Tree program report, focusing primarily on the replanting of 34 trees at the Live Oak campground. He acknowledged the assistance of Operations staff in the replantings as well as the County's contribution of mulch. Mr. Robinson also noted that the annual tree inventory was nearly complete.

14. MONTHLY CACHUMA PROJECT REPORTS

- a. Cachuma Water Reports
- b. Cachuma Reservoir Current Conditions
- c. Lake Cachuma Quagga Survey

Ms. Gingras reported that surplus water continues to be available to Member Agencies and noted that the reports were otherwise routine.

15. DIRECTORS' REQUESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

As the Oak Tree program enters its wind-down phase, President Holcombe requested a report detailing how staff anticipates that phase will evolve.

16. [CLOSED SESSION]: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL: POTENTIAL LITIGATION

- a. [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)]
Name of matter: *Kimball-Griffith L.P. v. Brenda Wren Burman, et al.*, Case No. 2:20-cv-10647
– Request for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief
- b. [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)]
Potential Litigation: Conference with Legal Counsel

The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 2:51 PM.

18. [CLOSED SESSION]: ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

- a. [Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)] Title: General Manager

19. [CLOSED SESSION]: CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

- a. [Government Code Section 54957.6(a)]
Agency designated representatives: Board President
Unrepresented Employee: General Manager

20. RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

- [Government Code Section 54957.7]
Disclosure of actions taken in closed session, as applicable
[Government Code Section 54957.1]

- 15a. [Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)]
Name of matter: *Kimball-Griffith L.P. v. Brenda Wren Burman, et al.*, Case No. 2:20-cv-10647
– Request for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief
- 15b. Potential Litigation: Conference with Legal Counsel
- 16a. Annual Performance Review – General Manager
- 17a. Conference with Labor Negotiators

The Board reconvened into open session at 4:15 PM. There was no reportable action for items 15a., 15b., and 16a. With respect to item 17a., the Board President was directed to negotiate and speak with the General Manager regarding the proposed labor agreement.

21. MODIFICATION OF GENERAL MANAGER'S COMPENSATION

President Holcombe advised Ms. Gingras that her employment evaluation ratings were all outstanding. The Board proposed a 4.56% merit increase to the GM's contract, effective 4-1-2023, along with the annual COLA adjustment that is received by COMB staff.

Director Hanson motioned to approve the proposed General Manager's compensation modification, followed by a second from Director Sneddon. The motion carried unanimously with a vote of six in favor. Ms. Gingras thanked the Board.

Ayes: Sneddon, Hayman, Hanson, Holcombe

Nays:

Absent:

Abstain:

22. MEETING SCHEDULE

- **Regular Board Meeting – May 22, 2023 at 1:00 PM**
- **Board Packages available on COMB website www.cachuma-board.org**

Ms. Gingras added a reminder for the Special Budget Workshop Board Meeting scheduled for May 12, 2023 at 11:00 AM.

24. COMB ADJOURNMENT

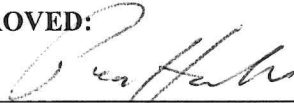
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Gingras, Secretary of the Board

√	<i>Approved</i>
	<i>Unapproved</i>

APPROVED:


Polly Holcombe, President of the Board