



## Mariposa County Department of Public Works

Airport – Cemeteries – Engineering – Facilities  
Fleet Maintenance – Parks & Rec – Plant Operations  
Roads – Solid Waste – Surveyor – Transportation

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### **MARIPOSA COUNTY WATER AGENCY ADVISORY BOARD**

### **MINUTES**

**February 28, 2022**

**Members Present:** Michael Martin, John McCamman, Sonny Palmer, Robert Keller,

Art Baggett

**Members Absent:** None

**MPUD Ex Officio:** Susan Wages

**BOS Liaison Present:** Marshall Long

**County Staff Present:** Steve Dahlem, Jean Dordan, Larry Harris. Tom Sweeney

**Guests:** Mark Rowney, and a guest of Robert Keller

1. **Call to order:** 3:01 pm.

2. **Public Comment:** None

3. **Approve minutes:** September 9, 2021 (M) Art Baggett (S) Mike Martin

4. **Action Items:**

a. Elect Chair: John McCamman (M) Robert Keller (S) Art Baggett

b. Elect Vice Chair: Art Baggett (M) Robert Keller (S) Mike Martin

Mark Rowney was invited by John McCamman as a guest. Mark has filled out an application to join the committee. Mark comes with much knowledge as retired MPUD.

c. Review and approve the RFP for Engineering Services for Preparation of a Feasibility Study for New Water Resources Projects.

Public Works has created an RFP. The committee believes the RFP is too open ended with the language of "Beneficial Use" and would be charged a large amount of money by consultants. There is a \$250,000 budget that is public knowledge which the various firms will probably quote. There were many ideas on possible projects with the settlement monies. Supervisor Long suggests Ag applications or tourists' attraction type activities rather than draining from creeks that go into Lake McClure. John McCamman also suggests recreation applications, wildland fire protection or a fish hatchery. Larry points out estimate for 250K. Larry Harris talked about the RFP that it can be left as is or focus on key areas. Larry Harris suggests the RFQ should have vision and goals such as one to three projects to focus on then proceed with the RFQ process then move to RFP process. Project cannot be used as potable or Class I water. Art Baggett reports that beneficial use also need a place of use with permittable projects.

Mark Rowney speaks of what is the engineering feasibility of the project and what we can afford to permit. Mark Rowney disagrees with a feasibility study. Mark Rowney suggests picking a place where we can pull water from then do a feasibility study. The committee needs to be specific with what it has in mind for a project. Supervisor Long sees a need for water in Greeley Hill and Coulterville for domestic use, or Ag use such as nut trees. Larry Harris suggests producing an RFQ with a permit process to follow, making changes to RFQ rather than do a feasibility study starting at beneficial use for the RFQ (M) Robert Keller (S) Sonny Palmer.

Public Works will need 60 days to produce RFQ. Mark Rowney asks what is engineering feasibility of the project and what we can afford to permit. Mark Rowney suggests picking a place where to pull water from then do a study. Be specific with what is in mind for a project. Larry asked about timeline. Project must be completed by 2047. Mike Martin talks of the beneficial use 8K acre ft of water and FERC license flows for quality aquaculture. The hatchery for steelhead trout will produce phosphorous and nitrogen that can be used as fertilizer. Mike Martin suggests a subcommittee with Mark Rowney, Mike Martin and Art Baggett.

d. Recommend to the Board of Supervisors that an audit of the MID Settlement and annual payments be conducted.

The committee suggest that an audit be done on the funds being held from the settlement and asks county counsel if an audit has been done. County counsel does not believe, an audit has been done but agrees that one should be by the Auditor's office and report back to the committee with the finding of the audit.

## **5. Discussion Items:**

a. Discuss the impact of Senate Bill 552 Chapter 245 (Hertzberg) Drought advisory committee required or state drought program. Does the water agency want to get involved or let the BOS decide?

**6. Set next meeting Date and Time:** May 19, 2022, at 3:00 pm

**7. Adjourn:** Meeting Adjourned at 4:01 PM (M) John McCamman (S) Mike Martin