

WESTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board President Mike Gardner called the regular meeting of the Western Municipal Water District (Western Water) Board of Directors to order at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, in the Western Board Room, 14205 Meridian Parkway, Riverside, California.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call of the Board of Directors was taken by Board Secretary Tammi Ford. The following board members were in attendance:

Directors Present

Mike Gardner, President
Laura Roughton, Vice President
Fauzia Rizvi, Secretary-Treasurer
Gracie Torres
Brenda Dennstedt

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Carlos Florez, Asset Manager Coordinator, Enterprise Asset Management – Operations Department, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

It was noted that any member of the public who wished to comment on any item within the jurisdiction of the District, or any item on the agenda, and written comments received by November 19, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. would become part of the Board Meeting record, or any member of the public may provide comment telephonically by calling the number listed on the agenda.

One written public comment from:
Hilde Van Westhuizen

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

Consent calendar items are expected to be routine and non-controversial and are to be acted upon by the Board at one time, without discussion. If any Board member, staff member, or interested person requests that an item be removed from the Consent Calendar, it will be moved to the first item on the Action Agenda.

Motion: Rizvi
Second: Torres

- A. Approve the Minutes of the January 8, 2025, Regular Board Meeting
- B. Receive and File the December 2024 Government Affairs and Legislative Update
- C. Receive and File Western Municipal Water District's Annual Water and Sewer Capacity Charges Report
- D. Receive and File October 2024 Cash Disbursement Report

The Motion passed 5-0
Voting No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

6. ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA

(If any) In accordance with Section 54954.2 of the Government Code, upon determination by a two-thirds vote of the legislative body, or, if less than two thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present that there is a need to take action, and the need to take action arose after the agenda was posted.

None.

7. ACTION AGENDA

The following items on the Action Agenda call for discussion and action by the Board. All items are placed on the Agenda so that the Board may discuss and take action on the item, if the Board is so inclined.

- A. Approve Resolution 3335 to Clarify Ordinance 392 Allowing Staff to Authorize Long Service Laterals**

This item was presented by: Tim Barr

Motion: Torres
Second: Rizvi

As to the following:

1. Approve Resolution 3335 to grant staff the authority to approve long service laterals to clarify current Ordinance 392 rules and streamline the current process.

The Motion Passed 5-0

Voting No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

B. Election of Board Officers; Discuss Appointments to Committees and Board Assignments

This item was presented by: Jeff Ballinger, General Counsel

Motion: Gardner

Second: Dennstedt

As to the following:

1. Elect Director Laura Roughton to the office of Board President.

The Motion Passed 5-0

Voting No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion: Roughton

Second: Gardner

As to the following:

1. Elect Director Fauzia Rizvi to the office of Board Vice President.

The Motion Passed 5-0

Voting No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion: Roughton

Second: Gardner

As to the following:

1. Elect Director Brenda Dennstedt to the office of Board Secretary-Treasurer.

The Motion Passed 5-0
Voting No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Following the election of Board Officers for 2025, the Board had a brief discussion about the appointment and confirmation of Board members to outside agencies and organizations. The appointments and confirmation to these organizations will be confirmed at the January 22, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

8. ACTION AGENDA – FACILITIES AUTHORITY

A. Affirm Board Members and Officers of the Western Municipal Water District Facilities Authority

This item was presented by: Craig Miller, General Manager

Motion: Torres
Second: Dennstedt

As to the following:

1. Affirm the Board Members and Officers to the Western Municipal Water District Facilities Authority.

The Motion Passed 5-0
Voting No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

9. REPORTS

A. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

A. Report of General Counsel

Jeff Ballinger, General Counsel, stated that Best Best & Krieger will be preparing an annual update of new legislation, which he will bring to the Board at a future date.

B. GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS

1. General Manager's Report

Craig Miller, General Manager, recognized the accomplishments of Staff in 2024 and noted that Western Water is already at work on new key issues. He briefly highlighted projects that will be the focus of 2025, including CA Water for All, the new Western Water video launches, the San Bernardino Basin Optimization Plan, PFAS litigation/settlements, the upcoming Western Water Open House, Rate Adjustment discussions and ongoing business with Metropolitan Water District (MWD). He acknowledged a lot of activity occurring on the development side, and upcoming SCADA and GIS improvements, and he introduced Western Water's new Assistant General Manager/Chief Financial Officer Rick Aragon. Lastly, he discussed the successful approval of Western Water's application with MWD for their Reverse Cyclic Program, a refurbished parking lot at the Meridian facility and congratulated Staff for being able to handle a 4-day MWD shutdown with no impact to customers.

C. DIRECTORS REPORTS AND REQUESTS

1. Report of SAWPA Commissioner

Director Gardner stated there was nothing to report.

2. Report of MWD Representative

Director Dennstedt gave a brief report on activity as a result of the Pacific Palisades and Eaton fires as they relate to business at MWD. A brief discussion was had regarding emergency response and the lack of available water due to resources being over utilized and limiting water pressure.

3. Report of CBWM Representative

Director Gardner stated there was nothing to report.

4. Report of CDA Representative

Director Roughton stated there was nothing to report.

5. Report of WRCRWA Representative

Director Rizvi stated there was nothing to report.

6. Report of WRCOG Representative

Director Dennstedt reported WRCOG will be holding a strategic planning meeting on January 10, 2025 at the Western Water Meridian facility.

7. Report of SRRRA Representative

Director Rizvi stated there was nothing to report.

8. Report of ACWA Representatives

Director Dennstedt reminded the Board that the next Region 9 meeting will be on January 17 and will be hosted by Desert Water Agency.

9. Directors' Comments

Comments were made by:

Director Torres
Director Dennstedt
Director Rizvi
Director Gardner
Director Roughton

10. Request for Future Agenda Items

None.

10. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board of Directors, President Laura Roughton called for a moment of silence for all those involved with the wildfires raging in Southern California and then adjourned the meeting at 10:11 a.m. in honor and memory of fallen Riverside County Deputy Sheriff Timothy Corlew.

LAURA ROUGHTON
President

BRENDA DENNSTEDT
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes were prepared by Board Secretary, Tammi Ford.