

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE SEWERAGE COMMISSION - OROVILLE REGION**
(Held at the Commission office on September 26, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.)

1. Call to Order ❖

Vice-Chairman Pittman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call ❖

Commissioners present were Commissioners Mastelotto and Salvucci from the Lake Oroville Area Public Utility District, Pittman and Thomson from the City of Oroville, Taggart and Koch from the Thermalito Water and Sewer District. Staff present was Manager Glen Sturdevant, Plant Supervisor Mikah Salsi, and Attorney Ryan Jones.

3. Salute to the Flag ❖

Manager Sturdevant led the commissioners and staff in the salute to the flag.

4. Acknowledgment of Visitors ❖

None

5. Board Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 22, 2023 ❖

Upon motion by Commissioner Koch to approve the minutes of the meeting, and seconded by Commissioner Salvucci, the minutes of the August 22, 2023 regular meeting were unanimously approved.

6. Employee Safety Meeting Minutes held on September 12 and 19, 2023 ❖

Manager Sturdevant reported that a safety meeting was held on September 12 to cover the new Chlorine B repair kit to be used if there is a chemical leak. On September 19th we did a hands-on training of how to use the equipment. Commissioner Mastelotto asked if the tools being used are in the kit. Manager Sturdevant affirmed that they are. Everything is labeled, and the instructions have step-by-step procedures. We train a couple times a year so that employees are prepared in case of a leak.

Upon motion by Commissioner Mastelotto to approve the minutes of the meetings, and seconded by Commissioner Salvucci, the minutes of the September 12 and 19, 2023 employee safety meetings were unanimously approved.

7. Authorization of Warrants ❖

Commissioner Koch met with Manager Sturdevant and reviewed the warrants earlier: Warrants included check numbers 28359-28416 for a total amount of \$641,254.66 from August 23, 2023 to September 26, 2023, including Commissioner fees and electronic fund transfers. The warrants were ordered paid.

8. Fiscal Reports ❖

Manager Sturdevant stated that both July and August fiscal reports were included in the packets because July's weren't available last month due to the annual audit being conducted.

9. Closed Session ❖

The Commissioners adjourned to closed session at 5:06 pm and reconvened to open session at 5:24 pm. Vice-Chairman Pittman stated that there was only information received in closed session, and no action was taken.

10. Hourly Wage Schedule (Appendix II)

Manager Sturdevant stated that by SC-OR policy we have a built-in cost-of-living that becomes effective on September 1st each year. This year the COLA it was 3.7%. The wage scale must be adopted per CalPERS rules.

A motion was made by Commissioner Koch to adopt the Hourly Wage Schedule (Appendix II) for fiscal year 2023-2024. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Salvucci, and passed by the following vote: Pittman – Yes, Taggart – yes, Mastelotto – Yes.

11. Resolution 06-23 (Fixing the Time and Place of Regular Meetings) and SC-OR Policy 6000 ❖

Manager Sturdevant reported this resolution and policy were missed when we changed the day that the meeting is held each month, so we are bringing it now for adoption.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mastelotto, and seconded by Commissioner Salvucci to adopt Resolution 06-23 (Fixing the Time and Place of Regular Meetings) and SC-OR Policy 6000. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

12. Resolution 07-23 (Fixing the Regional Facility Charge) and SC-OR Policy 7260 ❖

Manager Sturdevant stated that annually the RFC is reviewed by staff, who then makes a recommendation to keep it the same or change it. Our recommendation is to keep it at \$6,638 per connection until the Proposition 218 hearing. At that time, we will have to use the weighting factor for multi-family units and mobile home parks, but until then we recommend no change.

Commissioner Mastelotto asked when the rate study would be completed. Manager Sturdevant stated that it was complete, we are now waiting LOAPUD to have their study done, and the city needs to finalize their study, and then we can move forward. We were originally thinking the rates could be adjusted in January, but we don't believe that LOAPUD nor the city will have their studies done by then, so it will be pushed out to probably July 2024. It also depends upon the litigation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Koch, and seconded by Chairman Taggart to adopt Resolution 07-23 (Fixing the Regional Facility Charge) and SC-OR Policy 7260. The motion passed by the following vote: Pittman – Yes, Taggart – yes, Mastelotto – Yes.

13. Pond Re-Surfacing and Rehabilitation Account ❖

Manager Sturdevant stated that Neal Road Landfill has an ongoing problem with water in their ponds that they must dewater and haul to a facility that will take it. We have made a decent amount of money taking their leachate, and used it in the past to purchase heavy equipment, etc. They have already paid us \$163,000+ this year, and have brought in enough to pay us another \$160,000+. Typically, these monies roll right into the reserves. He would like to create an account that is specifically for resurfacing and rehabilitation of the sewer ponds. That is the part of the plant that gets used when taking the leachate, so he would like to use those monies to rehabilitate the ponds. Our ponds are supposed to be 100% sealed, and we have cracks in them. We do not want to violate our permit by having our pond water leaching into the ground, so we need to resurface and rehabilitate those ponds, which will be a substantial cost to do so. He will bring a plan to the next meeting of how we should go about it. Commissioner Koch said that if the ponds are in bad shape, then we need to start working on them now and use the leachate monies to pay back the funds used. It probably needs to be done sooner than later. He said this is at least a 3-year project, as two ponds must be in service at any one time. Direction was given to create an account and put 100% of the leachate money into the newly created pond resurfacing and rehabilitation account.

14. Attorney's Report ❖

Attorney Jones stated that regarding the litigation filed by K&M, our firm of Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley are compiling documents from staff and are still in the discovery phase of the litigation. They are confident in the boards' decisions on the rate setting on the development. There has been no action from the last meeting to this meeting.

15. Manager's Report ❖

Manager Sturdevant reported that our Thermalito Waste & Sewer Districts' flow meter is finally working, so you will receive a full flow report at the next meeting.

Manager Sturdevant stated that the draft audit was given to each commissioner to take and review, and bring any questions to him prior to the next board meeting.

We have begun recruitment for a new operator. We have advertised for an OIT, Grade I, II or III operator, which should give us the best person for the position based on their fit and not their certification. We received many applications we will be reviewing.

Assemblyman James Gallagher will be here Thursday to talk about future projects that SC-OR is looking into, such as, water sales, recycle water, the small hydro facility, class A biosolids, etc. We are going to try to get support and guidance from him. The main topic will be the small hydro facility because that is where we are trying to gain some traction.

Supervisor Salsi is looking at obtaining a grant to study the feasibility of the small hydro project. He is continually looking for money for the water sales and the full plant upgrade.

Chairman Taggart asked how the new work week for the operators is going. Manager Sturdevant stated It is taking some adjustment to the longer days, but it seems to be a success, and we are working out the kinks.

16. Visitor Comments ❖

None

17. Commissioner and Staff Comments ❖

Commissioner Pittman asked if we had heard anything from the County on the bio-mass plant. Manager Sturdevant said he is waiting to hear from Yosemite Clean Energy. He had had a couple of brief conversations with them, but nothing in depth. He reported that the county is working on the POPI property, bringing in multiple companies there: A co-gen facility and hydrogen manufacturing facility.

Chairman Taggart thanked vice-chair Pittman for chairing the meeting.

18. Adjournment ❖

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m. to the regular meeting scheduled for October 24, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



GLEN E. STURDEVANT, CLERK