

Minutes
Water Conservation Commission

April 5, 2018

1. Call to Order/Introduction:

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Commission members Phil Clark, Jan Shriner, Charlie Eskridge, Margaret-Anne Coppernoll, David Brown, and Efrem Valentin (arrived at 5:36 p.m.) were present. Jim Felton, Jason Montgomery, and Bethany Taylor were absent. Paul Lord, Jean Premutati, Patrick Breen, Thomas Barkhurst, and Paula Riso were present from staff. Nate Martin and Dave Chandler were present from the public.

2. Public Comments on Any Item Not on the Agenda:

Chair Clark commented that Mr. Nate Martin would give a brief presentation on his solar water pump. Mr. Martin shared information on his solar water pump that can be used for water fountains, circulates water in rain catchment devices for irrigation, and helps eradicate mosquito larvae in these devices.

3. Action Item:

A. Approve the March 1, 2018 Meeting Minutes:

Commissioner Coppernoll made a motion to approve the March 1, 2018 minutes. Vice Chair Eskridge seconded the motion. With a vote of 5-Ayes, 0-Noes, 4-Absent (Valentin, Taylor, Felton, Montgomery), the motion was passed.

Commissioner Valentin arrived at 5:36 p.m.

B. Consider Recommending for Approval by the Board of Directors the 2017 Consumer Confidence Report for the Marina Coast Water District System, Central Marina and Ord Community:

Mr. Barkhurst introduced this item and reviewed the 2017 Consumer Confidence Report with the Commissioners explaining that last year, for the first time, Lead and Copper testing was performed at eleven schools within the District. He said that although a small amount of lead was found in a couple of samples, they were far below the action level of 15 parts per billion. The Commissioners asked clarifying questions.

Councilmember Brown made a motion to recommend for approval by the Board of Directors, the 2017 Consumer Confidence Report for the Marina Coast Water District System, Central Marina and Ord Community. Commissioner Coppernoll seconded the motion. With a vote of 5-Ayes, 0-Noes, 1-Abstained (Shriner), and 3-Absent (Taylor, Montgomery, Felton), the motion was passed.

C. Select Volunteer WCC Commissioner as Event Coordinator for the 2018 Holiday Dinner:

Chair Clark asked if there were any volunteers for event coordinator. The Commission noted that it was a little early to decide and requested to table this item until next month.

4. Staff Reports:

A. Receive Updated and Modified Listings of Commission Objectives and Goals for 2018:

Mr. Lord introduced this item and reviewed the updated Goals and Objectives for 2018. Director Shriner suggested removing “A) Promote Lawn Care in Sandy Soils” from the list as it is done. She also questioned if “Consumption Rates of Hotels/Motels” should be on the list, and recommended removing it.

Mr. Lord will email all the Commissioners a list of the 2018 Objectives and Goals and have them prioritize their top five Goals and return it to him. He will provide the results at a future meeting.

B. Receive an Updated Calendar of Public Events:

Mr. Lord introduced this item. Mr. Valentin noted that he volunteered at the East Garrison HOA event in January, and the Cars in the Park event in March. He added that he would like to volunteer for the November Native American Greeting event. Mr. Lord mentioned that the CSUMB Earth Day event was scheduled for April 19th and Vice Chair Eskridge volunteered for that event.

Mr. Lord gave a brief update of the Working Group meeting and that they discussed how to best display information at public events. He stated that they came up with three priorities: 1) work on HE Toilet and Landscape programs; 2) where the water comes from; and 3) why the need to conserve water.

5. Workshop:

A. Review the Current Landscape Incentive Program Description and Develop Recommendations to Improve Participation and Water Savings:

Mr. Lord introduced this item. He reviewed the District’s current Landscape Incentive Program and asked for feedback on the program. Director Shriner stated that she has many questions about residential and commercial participation and welcomed discussion on how to encourage more commercial and institutional interest. There was discussion on changing some of the aspects of the program, i.e. the 60 day time frame to complete the project.

Mr. Chandler, Monterey Peninsula Unified School District Coordinator of Renewable Energy and Conservation, commented that it was his job to save as much water as possible for the schools and the District. He said that they have removed 170,000 square feet of turf so far and the District’s rebate program is not adequate to participate in. Mr. Chandler said that because of the low 25 cent per square foot rebate and the \$2,000 cap, it is not feasible for the school district to participate. He said that the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District offers \$1 per square foot and they go before the Board with the amount they are planning to remove to see if it is approved. He encouraged the District to consider raising the rebate amount and relaxing some of the requirements regarding replanting. Another option, Mr. Chandler suggested, was to partner in a demonstration garden to share water conservation ideas.

Agenda Item 5-A (continued):

Mr. Breen suggested bringing the different options discussed at recent Working Group meetings to the Commission for further discussion and consideration.

6. Receive Update on Board/District Activities:

Director Shriner updated the Commission on activities the Board of Directors is currently involved in. She said that Conservation Ordinance was scheduled to come back before the Board, but it has been delayed until May. Director Shriner also commented that staff was in the process of completing the budget, of which the Ord budget goes before FORA. She noted that the recent Prop. 218 rate increase process was completed in March with the District only receiving seven protests against the rates. Director Shriner said that the annexation process was continuing, and the consultant helping with the annexation needed their contract amended to address the comments made by Keep Fort Ord Wild and LandWatch. She finished by confirming the Stanford AEM Study results would be given at the April 16th Board meeting.

7. Receive Comments from Commission Members:

Commissioner Coppernoll commented on the great job with the Recycled Water project pipeline that is being installed through Marina. Director Shriner noted that there was a water forum scheduled for April 11th at the City of Marina's Council Chambers. Chair Clark shared the "Unit of Water" concept, with PVC pipes formed into a large square. The size of the square was the same size of a unit of water (748 gallons). He said that this was going to be used as a visual aid at public events with information to be displayed on the sides of the square.

8. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.