

**Amsterdam Water District  
Board Meeting Minutes  
April 11, 2023**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**DIRECTORS**

Bert Crane Jr:	President
Mary Crane Couchman:	Vice President
Benjamin Crane:	Secretary
Karen Crane McNab:	Director
Craig Johnson:	Director

**OTHERS**

Cody Alldrin:	Mary Crane Couchman Trust-Zoom
Alan Doud:	Young Wooldridge, LLP-Zoom
Mike Gardner:	Water & Land Solutions, LLC
Art Godwin:	Robbins, Godwin, et al.
Brad Samuelson:	Water & Land Solutions, LLC

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Crane called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Gardner stated that all Directors were present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon a motion by Director McNab and seconded by Director Johnson, the February 15, 2023, minutes were unanimously approved. The vote on the matter was as follows:

Ayes: Bert Crane, Couchman, Ben Crane, McNab, Johnson	Nays: None
Absent: None	Abstain: None

**BOARD TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Upon a motion by Director Ben Crane and seconded by Director Couchman, the Financial Report and payment of bills were unanimously approved as presented by Mr. Gardner. The vote on the matter was as follows:

Ayes: Bert Crane, Couchman, Ben Crane, McNab, Johnson	Nays: None
Absent: None	Abstain: None

**BOARD TO CONSIDER APPROVING A REVISED 2023 MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH WATER & LAND SOLUTIONS (WLS) (WLS would replace Kemper CPA Group (formerly Spinardi & Jones) as the bookkeeper)**

Upon a motion by Director McNab and seconded by Director Johnson, the Board took action to elect a committee of two (Ben & Karen) to meet with WLS to understand the breakdown between the accounting services and the WLS increase and bring a new proposal to the next board meeting. The vote on the matter was as follows:

Ayes: Bert Crane, Couchman, Ben Crane, McNab, Johnson	Nays:	None
Absent: None	Abstain:	None

**PROJECTS: PROP 68 WATER PROJECTS UPDATE**

Mr. Samuelson reported that Merced Subbasin received a total of 7.6 million dollars for 10 projects. Merced Irrigation District (MID) is the applicant for the Merced Subbasin. Amsterdam Water District (AWD) received \$100,000 from the Prop 68 grant for planning purposes. Per the Governors orders, all recharge projects are exempt from CEQA. WLS is currently in the process of getting proposals from hydrogeologic firms to perform the borings.

**PROJECTS: TEMPORARY WATER RIGHTS APPLICATION**

Mr. Samuelson will be giving testimony in a meeting in Sacramento on April 18<sup>th</sup> on how difficult it was diverting flood waters, due to regulatory restrictions.

Mr. Samuelson would like AWD to sign a letter of support on behalf of Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency to Chairwoman Bauer-Kahan and Assemblywoman Soria. The letter would support AB 830-A common-sense approach to supporting groundwater recharge and fighting floods.

Upon a motion by Director Ben Crane and seconded by Director McNab, the Board approved signing the letter of support. The vote on the matter was as follows:

Ayes: Bert Crane, Couchman, Ben Crane, McNab, Johnson	Nays:	None
Absent: None	Abstain:	None

**GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY UPDATE**

Mr. Samuelson reported that there is a strategic planning Ad-Hoc committee of the GSA Board comprised of Mike Gallo, Eric Swensen, and Gino Pedretti that are tasked with planning the groundwater allocation program. The committee has separated 3 different kinds of ag properties: irrigated ag, irrigated wetlands (which will get sustainable yields) and non-irrigated.

Mr. Samuelson also reported that the Merced Subbasin GSP was approved and the Chowchilla subbasin was rejected by the State Water Board. The Madera Subbasin is currently in the process of re-submitting their GSP and the GSA has asked the State Water Board to get involved.

**BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Director Bert Crane Jr:	No report
Director Couchman:	No report
Director Benjamin Crane:	No report
Director Johnson:	No report
Director McNab:	Director McNab gave Alan Doud a chance to speak and said he has a lot to offer because of his knowledge in the Bakersfield/Kern area.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Samuelson reported that MID is very concerned about flood control this year. There is 1.7 MAF of water that still must go through Exchequer Dam. We are confident that they are going to make extra water available (as much as needed) this year and are hoping at the in-district price of \$50/af. Mr. Samuelson is hoping that we can keep all groundwater wells off this year.

Director Couchman reported that Mark Couchman had been pumping flood water into a recharge pond and it is leaching two feet per day into the underground aquifer.

### **NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE**

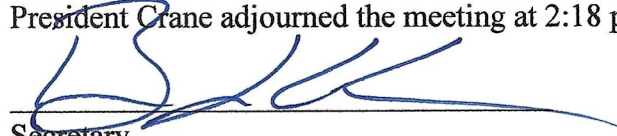
May 9, 2023, at 1:00 pm.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

1. Show a breakdown between accounting services and WLS increase.
2. Find out if Mechanics Bank can submit electronic checks to our vendors.
3. Send a letter of support to all board members.
4. Get a monthly schedule of flood water releases from Hicham Eltal.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

President Crane adjourned the meeting at 2:18 pm.



Secretary

Benjamin C. Crane