

**Amsterdam Water District
Board Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2022**

ATTENDANCE:

DIRECTORS

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

OTHERS

Brad Samuelson:	Water & Land Solutions, LLC
Mike Gardner:	Water & Land Solutions, LLC
Art Godwin:	Robbins, Godwin, et al.-called in
Mark Couchman:	The Silverado Group-called in at 1:06 pm
Alice Contreras:	Crane Cattle Company-Arrived at 1:05 pm

CALL TO ORDER

President Crane called the meeting to order at 1:01 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 Johnson and seconded by Director Couchman, the July 12, 2022, minutes were unanimously approved.

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

Upon a motion by Director Crane and seconded by Director Johnson, the financial report and payment of bills were unanimously approved as presented.

PROJECTS: PROP 68 WATER PROJECTS UPDATE

Mr. Samuelson reported the 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.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR), MID, and AWD have been working diligently on the draft grant agreement and Mr. Samuelson is confident the agreement will be signed this week. Once the agreement is signed, the staff will begin working with Summers Engineering to start the process of the boring hole study for the three groundwater recharge projects. The grant is set up for AWD to spend the money up front and then get reimbursed by DWR. The District will have to decide how to fund the projects before the reimbursement happens.

PROJECTS: TEMPORARY WATER RIGHTS APPLICATION

Mr. Samuelson reported AWD along with adjacent water districts applied for a flood water right application a few years ago. Until the flood water right application is awarded AWD had to submit a temporary flood water right application. Mr. Samuelson reported that due to the streamline process, AWD and La Paloma MWC will not be included in the application this year. Mr. Samuelson also reported that there is an existing pipeline from Castle Reservoir to the Bert Crane reservoir that would be perfect for groundwater recharge and AWD could take ownership of the pipeline. After a lengthy discussion, the Board gave staff direction to meet with all the Directors individually to discuss the project.

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY UPDATE

Mr. Samuelson reported the Prop 218 passed a few months ago which will have a new \$24 GSA tax assessment fee on the next tax role. The GSA recently had a workshop on the Land Following Program. Beginning in October, landowners can fill out an application to give a bid to the GSA to follow their land. The GSA is trying to eliminate 15,000 af of demand which equates to approximately 3,300 acres that will need to be followed.

Mr. Samuelson also reported that groundwater allocations will begin in 2026. Several committees will be working out the details.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Director Bert Crane Jr:	No report
Director Couchman:	No report
Director Benjamin Crane:	Director Crane wants to add Alice Contreras to the Board meeting email list.
Director Johnson:	No report
Director McNab:	Director McNab is looking forward to a resolution regarding the Castle Reservoir pipeline issue for the benefit of the AWD

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Director Crane reported that Merced County will be having several ethics training workshops in the near future. Mr. Godwin stated that all Board members are required to take 2-hour ethics training course every 2 years.

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE

October 11, 2022, at 1:00 pm.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Staff will meet with all Directors individually to discuss existing Castle Dam pipeline project.
2. Staff to add Alice Contreras to the Board meeting email list.

ADJOURNMENT

President Crane adjourned the meeting at 1:57 pm.



Secretary

Benjamin C. Crane