

# Minutes: Lake Canyon Mutual Water Board Meeting

Wednesday Aug 16, 2023 7:00 p.m.

## Held via Zoom Audio and/or Video Conference

lakecanyonmwc@gmail.com <http://www.lakecanyon.com/> 408-834-7745 (message)

PUBLIC FORUM: Any member of the public may address and ask questions of the Board relating to any matter within the Board's jurisdiction, if the matter is not on the agenda or pending before the Board.

**Roll Call:** Jim DiZoglio, Ru Rajapakse, Sam Monga, Mindi Porebski, Casey Farrand

**Also in attendance:** Bud Everts, Monika Varga

Ru called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

**Consent Agenda:** Financial, Water, Staff, Projects, and Maintenance reports (10 min.)

- Financials in good standing
- Intuit charge for Quickbooks increasing
- Electricity usage down Year-over-Year so costs for that decreasing in spite of PG&E increasing rates

Mindi makes a motion to approve the financials

Sam seconds

Motion passes 3-0

**Reports:** Communication, and Correspondence Reports (5 min.)

- Drop in our spring flow rate, but still far above the last two years in the month of August
- Providing 100% of water from spring with the exception of the leak
- Need approx 5 gallons per minute (gpm) and we are currently ~ 7.8 gpm from the spring
- Lake Ranch Reservoir is currently at 35,000,000 gallons (down 3.1 Million Month-over-Month) and is 51% full, which is great shape compared to this time last year
- Daily water usage was 115.8 gallons per day per household (9% more than prior month), but that is metered water. The leak was underground and was before the connection at the meter, so it was not seen from the meter reading. However, there were 8 homes that were unusually high in usage. Bud called and spoke with the owners of those homes.
  - One household has a leak and is looking to resolve it.
  - Another household had new tenants and also in need of pressure reducing valve
  - Other homes had visitors, etc.
- Question from a resident answered in regards to trucking in water during a drought, which we have never had to do historically

Casey makes a motion to approve the reports

Mindi seconds

Motion Passes 3-0

Business

- [Ru] New pipeline grant opportunities
  - No new updates on new money opportunities
  - Existing plan and options stand
- [Sam] Update on RFID meters
  - We ran a trial from a company that supplies equipment to small communities like ours and metering systems in apartments, etc.

- They supplied a receiver which would go in the treatment plant and a pair of transmitters that go in the meter.
- We wanted to run this trial as we would be required to install at each meter ourselves.
- It was very straightforward. Just 3 wires needing connection and they provide all the equipment to make that connection
- Downside is that distance from the meter at 19034 Laurel Drive to the treatment plant is too large to receive the signal reliably, meaning we will need a repeater
- Reliable readings from 19400 Beardsley, so that would be a good location for a repeater
  - Repeater costs \$718, already included in the quote
- Summary: this system will work for us, and at no additional cost we get leak detection via email for alerts and daily reports
- In case of power outages meters have memory for the last 5 readings
- Primarily we have 2 types of meters in the canyon, one type is very simple to integrate (Zenner). Some are missing an electrical part that we need to buy. Some are novel types that we may need additional parts to use this system
- Battery lasts 10 years and then you need to purchase a new unit
- Should be able to be submerged, handle dirt, etc.
- The electronics seem reliable
- Repeater is a small plastic box with a solar panel on top. The box is approx 8 in x 8 in
- We would need to install a small pole with the solar panel on top. It needs 2-3 hours of sunlight daily
- Thoughts on overstocking the transmitters in case of battery failure or other loss
  - Current quote is for 60 transmitters, each is approximately \$123
- Each receiver for house is relatively inexpensive compared to paying for human meter readers and the money we'll save not paying for excess water during leaks
- This brand and system (Meter, Valve & Control) is less than the previous \$19K system that included annual subscription (\$3000/year), etc.

Sam requests approval for \$11,826.45 to move forward with the smart RFID meter purchase and installation from MVC "Meter, Valve & Control", Alamo CA.

Casey makes a motion to approve the budget request  
 Mindi seconds  
 Motion approved 4-0

- Sam to bring estimates for the costs of meter replacement to the next meeting
- [Ru / Bud] Brush trimming and road cleanup (Laurel Dr)
  - Ru shows some pictures of the area where there is a lot of issues with debris washing down
  - Proposal to put up a debris wall is where you cut into the hill (about 6 inches from where it is now) and use small 4 inch piping to build a debris wall under 4 ft tall.
  - Proposal to use I-beam posts, ~4ft apart, 2 x 12 pressure treated planks and slide it into i-beam groves to make the wall.
  - Locally built/installed by residents to save costs.
  - Maybe ~60 ft long along Laurel (on the hillside of the Laurel, starting just past the guard rail extending past the telephone pole)
  - Once we get a clearer sense of cost for this project we can assess it against the factors in our capital plan
- [Bud / Kirk] Fire road repairs: Status
  - Bud spoke with Kirk
  - Current status of the fire road will be checked this weekend
  - Minor cleanup can be done to make it more accessible only if it is dry
  - French drain project would be under CSD cost and that would be constructed by Kevin Cunningham
- [All] Annual Fall Meeting, including election of board members
  - Aaruna is interested in running, and has been an active member attending as a community

- member to the LCMWC and LCCSD
  - Casey, Sam, and Mindi are interested in running again (We would like to at least have two more volunteers for the board)
  - Jim would like to take a break, but will run if we don't get 5 board members without him
  - Members will reach out to see if other community members are interested in running for the board
  - Ru has met his term limit with 2 terms as president
    - Discussion of available dates and available board members
  - Potential schedule: Board meeting Sept 6th, Meeting Sat., Sept 9th 4pm with Oktoberfest following
  - Potential location: The empty lot next to 19451 Beardsley is available per Rebecca
  
- [Bud] Emergency Evacuation Plan
  - Firewise is considering systems in order to alert the community to a emergency
  - Casey and Sam have knowledge of communications systems that are more powerful than regular walkie talkies that could be used in an evacuation type situation (HAM Radio)
  - Also option to use Starlink and mesh the whole canyon for emergencies, estimate would be \$1200-\$1500 for a rudimentary mesh and \$150/month recurring cost
  - Unclear if this might fall under LCMWC purview or if we need to form a community group to tackle these issues
  
- [Ru, Bud] Back-up Generator
  - 2024 is approaching and we should get compliant with the new law
  - Pricing has not change significantly
    - 38 KW - \$16K
    - 48 KW - \$18K
  - The 38kW should be sufficient for our systems, but the start-up power of when all the pumps come on at the same time is the difficult part. The 48kW would run the system with absolutely no question or problem

**Review Meeting Minutes from this meeting**

Jim makes a motion to approve the meeting minutes

Casey seconds

Motion Passes 4-0

**Adjourned meeting at 8:59 p.m. to Wednesday, Sept. 20th at 7:00 pm via Zoom**