



CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2024, REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CAMBRIA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Cambria Community Services District was held at the Cambria Veterans' Memorial Hall located at 1000 Main Street, Cambria, CA 93428, on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

1. OPENING

1.A Call to Order

President Gray called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

1.B Pledge of Allegiance

President Gray led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.C Establishment of Quorum

A quorum was established.

Directors present: Tom Gray, Debra Scott, Harry Farmer, Karen Dean, and Michael Thomas.

Staff present: General Manager Matthew McElhenie, Administrative Department Manager Denize Fritz, Confidential Administrative Assistant Haley Dodson, and Utilities Department Manager Jim Green.

Staff present via Zoom: Assistant District Counsel David Hirsch, Fire Chief Michael Burkey, and Program Manager Tristan Reaper.

1.D President's Report

President Gray reported that the time limit for oral and written public comment is three minutes.

1.E Agenda Review

President Gray asked for any changes to the agenda.

Director Thomas suggested discussing 5B before 5A.

The Board of Directors agreed to discuss 5B before 5A.

2. BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Director Dean reported that the General Manager, Confidential Administrative Assistant, and the Climate Ad Hoc Committee attended a workshop on the guidelines and process for the Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Grant. She further indicated that discussions are ongoing.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Devaga, Cambria

Mark Ober, Cambria

Jeff Helman, Cambria

Doug Pugh (Confidential Administrative Assistant Dodson read a written comment into the record)

Frank Scozzari (Confidential Administrative Assistant Dodson read a written comment into the record)

Layon Whittaker, Cambria (Confidential Administrative Assistant Dodson read a written comment into the record)

Mark Garman (Confidential Administrative Assistant Dodson read a written comment into the record)

4. HEARINGS AND APPEALS

4.A Public Hearing to Receive Community Input on the Draft Project Description for the Water Reclamation Facility Coastal Development Permit Application, and Direct Staff to Release the Draft Project Description to the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Planning and Building Staff for Preliminary Evaluation, Input and Direction

General Manager McElhenie introduced the item and provided a summary.

President Gray stated that this is not the final project description that will be submitted to the County.

Vice President Scott noted that on page 8, there should be text that states the text will be continued on page 15.

Public Comment:

Amanda Rice, Cambria

Dennise Dudzik, Cambria

Christine Heinrichs, Cambria (submitted a written comment for the record)

Jim Townsend, Cambria (submitted a written comment for the record)

Crosby Swartz, Cambria (submitted a written comment for the record)

Laura Swartz, Cambria

Deryl Robinson, Cambria

Matthew Artez

Elizabeth Bettenhausen, Cambria (submitted a written comment for the record)

Bob Fountain, Cambria (Confidential Administrative Assistant Dodson read a written comment into the record)

Tim Borden (Confidential Administrative Assistant Dodson read a written comment into the record)

Paul Wellenkamp (Confidential Administrative Assistant Dodson read a written comment into the record)

General Manager McElhenie stated that three different things occurred when it came to staff and this project description. Staff's initial guidance was working with the consultant and working with the Ad Hoc Committee, which consists of President Gray and Director Dean. There were a lot of public comments about the staff involvement in the revised description as if staff was operating in a vacuum. Staff worked with President Gray and Director Dean collaboratively on the project description. This was not staff operating autonomously creating a document outside the scope of Board knowledge.

Director Dean stated there's a correction needed on page 18; the sentence reads, "This operation schedule would generate approximately 17.67 acre-feet of water per year." It should state per month. The other correction needed is on page 18, the sentence reads, "This operation schedule would generate approximately 35.4 acre-feet of water per year." It should state per month.

Vice President Scott recommends defining the term 'existing commitments.'

Director Thomas stated it's great seeing the operating scenarios defined within the document. The community will want to see the estimated incremental costs in those operating scenarios. It doesn't belong in the project description, but the community will want to see that. The intent is to enable the Board to direct staff when it's time to operate the facility to increase the volume in the San Simeon Groundwater Basin. We are asking for a permit to enable the District to operate the facility. This doesn't commit the District to issue intent-to-serve letters. We will gather data when we can run the facility, and that data will inform future decisions. Those decisions will come to the Board. This does not commit the District one way or the other regarding the issuance of water meters.

General Manager McElhenie stated we intend to fully permit it, to be able to run it and to find out its effects on our environment and what it can yield. From there, the Board will make policy decisions. The staff's position, based on the guidance from the Board and the Strategic Plan, is that we are to get this fully permitted and find out what it is capable of doing.

President Gray stated that's a fair assessment. The intent is to run the WRF in a variety of situations to find out how it affects the environment, how it actually improves the environment in some situations, and how much water it produces. The big question is, based on evidence, science, and data, what is, in fact, the amount of water that we can safely extract from that aquifer? The language may be vague, but we really don't know how many connections we can serve.

Vice President Scott stated that Director Thomas and President Gray's comments are important and should be included in an introductory paragraph for this permit.

General Manager McElhenie stated that it could be included in a staff report instead of a technical document.

Director Thomas stated that the data yield, with expected costs, would be uncertain. It's also worth noting the lack of environmental specificity in the project description, but the attachments listed on page 19 are a part of the project description.

Director Farmer thanked the Ad Hoc Committee and staff for putting this document together. On pages 3 and 11, the construction commenced dates are different. On page 15, the prolonged dry weather conditions, the WRF could run 24/7, during the driest time of the year, for approximately six months. How do we know that? On page 18, under WRF Facility Hours of Operation, during normal precipitation years, it is anticipated that operation of the WRF would begin in July and run until September. We've had normal precipitation years, dry precipitation years, and a lot of rain for as long as I've lived here, and we've survived all of them. For the statement to say during normal precipitation years, we'd run this for 2-3 months. Why? I can understand why we need to get the data required to submit the Coastal Development Permit application.

President Gray stated that if there were no further comments, he would close this item.

General Manager McElhenie stated we can better rephrase the precipitation years during the next revision.

President Gray thanked everyone for their comments, and said that this item would be returned for Board consideration.

5. REGULAR BUSINESS

5.A Receive Community Input for Strategic Plan Accomplishments, Current Internal Strengths, Current Internal Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis and Vision for Cambria

General Manager McElhenie introduced the item and provided a summary.

Public Comment:

Debbie Black, Cayucos

Dennis Dudzik, Cambria (submitted a written comment for the record)

Amanda Rice, Cambria

Deryl Robinson (submitted a written comment for the record)

Ron Keck (Confidential Administrative Assistant Dodson read a written comment into the record)

Joan Linton (Confidential Administrative Assistant Dodson read a written comment into the record)

David Valeron (Confidential Administrative Assistant Dodson read a written comment into the record)

Bill Currin (Confidential Administrative Assistant Dodson read a written comment into the record)

5.B Discussion and Consideration of Strategic Plan Update

General Manager McElhenie introduced the item and provided a summary.

Vice President Scott stated this is easily reviewed in the new format and thanked Director Thomas.

Public Comment:

Dennis Dudzik, Cambria (also submitted a written comment for the record)

Amanda Rice, Cambria

Deryl Robinson, Cambria (also submitted a written comment for the record)

The Board of Directors took a break at 2:46 p.m.

The Board of Directors reconvened the meeting at 2:57 p.m.

Director Farmer stated he neglected to thank the community who arrived at the Vets Hall or via Zoom regarding the CDP permit application.

Director Dean moved to accept the Strategic Plan update as described.

Vice President Scott seconded the motion.

Motion Passed Unanimously Ayes – 5 Nays - 0 Absent – 0

5.C Discussion Regarding 2024 Fire Hazard Fuel Reduction Program Process and Deadlines

General Manager McElhenie introduced the item and provided a summary.

Director Thomas complimented General Manager McElhenie for being open and forthright about what happened and what we are going to do.

Public Comment:

Deryl Robinson, Cambria

Donald Archer, Cambria (Confidential Administrative Assistant Dodson read a written comment into the record)

Director Thomas moved to approve the 2024 Fire Hazard Fuel Reduction Program process and deadlines.

Vice President Scott seconded the motion.

Motion Passed Unanimously Ayes – 5 Nays - 0 Absent – 0

5.D Discussion and Consideration of Providing Direction to Prepare a Civil Administrative Citation Ordinance for Violation of CCSD Ordinances and Regulations

The Board of Directors agreed to extend the meeting to 4:30 p.m.

General Manager McElhenie introduced the item and provided a summary.

Assistant District Counsel Hirsch provided a summary.

Public Comment:
Laura Swartz, Cambria

Director Thomas moved to direct staff to prepare a civil administrative citation ordinance for violation of CCSD ordinances and regulations.

Director Dean seconded the motion.

Motion Passed Unanimously Ayes – 5 Nays - 0 Absent – 0

6. BOARD MEMBER, COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

President Gray asked for public comment on item 6. There was none.

6.A Finance Committee's Report

A written report was included in the agenda packet.

6.B Policy Committee's Report

A written report was included in the agenda packet.

6.C PROS Committee's Report

There was no written report in the agenda packet.

6.D Resources & Infrastructure Committee's Report

There was no written report in the agenda packet.

6.E Other Liaison Reports and Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Written reports were included in the agenda packet.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S)

President Gray asked for any future agenda items.

Administrative Department Manager Fritz announced the agenda items for the March Board meetings.

Director Thomas stated the East Ranch Community Park Ad Hoc Committee met with the landscape architect consultant. They have the initial plans and location for the East Ranch Restroom. The Ad Hoc Committee will bring a recommendation to the PROS Committee, then the PROS Committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Directors.

President Gray asked for public comment on item 7. There was none.

8. ADJOURN

President Gray adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

For further details on the CCSD meeting, please visit the District's website to review the meeting recording or visit SLO-Span's website: <https://slo-span.org/static/meetings-CCSD.php>. CCSD's written comments can be reviewed on the District's meeting webpage.