



## MINUTES

### UNION PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

May 22, 2024

Directors Present: Greg Rasmussen, Vice-President  
Tom Quincy, Secretary  
Bruce Tallakson, Treasurer  
Ralph Chick, Director

Directors Absent: Eric Bottomley, President

Staff Present: Jessica Self, General Manager  
Jenna Mayo, Administrative Analyst/Board Clerk

Others Present: Andrew Ramos, Legal Counsel  
Joel Metzger, UWPA General Manager  
Public at Large

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

### CALL TO ORDER & THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### 1. ROLL CALL

Vice President Rasmussen called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Director Chick  
Second: Director Quincy  
Ayes: Directors Rasmussen, Quincy, Tallakson, and Chick  
Nays: None  
Absent: Director Bottomley  
Abstained: None

MINUTE ENTRY. MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mike Peirano presented a statement representing UPUD Irrigation customers, which stated: It would be highly beneficial for both UPUD management and its customers to allow public input and discussion leading up to the new 218 CIP approval. By allowing customers to give constructive input and being included in the discussions during this transition, there will be more transparency potentially avoiding litigation in the future. If UPUD is open to allowing its customers to be constructively involved in the new 218/CIP outcome, the current Water Rate Initiative can be dropped from the ballot. Our hope is that this will be a positive outcome from all of this for the future of UPUD.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. Approval of Minutes: April 24, 2024 – Regular Meeting
- b. Expenditures - April 2024
- c. Fund Balance Report – April 2024
- d. Balance Sheet & Income Statement – April 2024
- e. YTD Budget to Actuals – April 2024
- f. Legal Fees Year-to-Date Review

Motion: Director Chick  
Second: Director Quincy  
Ayes: Directors Rasmussen, Quincy, Tallakson, and Chick  
Nays: None  
Absent: Director Bottomley  
Abstained: None

**MINUTE ENTRY. MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED WITH ITEM 4 E AND 4 F TO BE PULLED FOR DISCUSSION AND REVIEW.**

Director Rasmussen wanted to review the Year-to-Date Actuals report. He questioned why the Education and Training account was over budget. General Manager Jessica Self explained that a line-item adjustment was needed, as some expenses should have been allocated to Travel due to conference travel. Director Rasmussen said that we have one more month and we should be balancing everything out pretty close. General Manager Jessica Self highlighted the last line, the grand total, which shows a negative \$201,574.20 because it does not include the Reserves Contribution. She explained that the Monge Bridge project, budgeted at around \$260,000.00, is being paid for using Reserves, which is not reflected in the report. She emphasized that the deficit is not as large as it appears compared to the approved budget.

Director Quincy inquired about account 01-06-6207 (Permits and Fees). Jessica said she was unsure why it was over budget but said she would investigate and report back. Director Rasmussen also asked about the Workers Compensation account for the Treatment Department. Jessica clarified that workers compensation was incorrectly allocated and needed to be attributed

to the field, not admin, due to her fieldwork. Elaine has made the correction, and this will be fixed in the new budget.

Director Tallakson pointed out that three legal issues have brought the year-to-date total legal fees to \$131,248.00. Director Chick asked about the original budget, and Director Tallakson replied it was \$30,000.00. He mentioned that fortunately, the General Manager and the Finance Committee adjusted the budget mid-year to \$140,000.00, which will likely be fully used by the end of June. General Manager Jessica Self noted that no funds had to be pulled from Reserves.

Motion: Director Chick  
Second: Director Quincy  
Ayes: Directors Rasmussen, Quincy, Tallakson, and Chick  
Nays: Director  
Absent: Director Bottomley  
Abstained: None

MINUTE ENTRY. MOTION TO APPROVE ITEM 4 E AND 4 F AS PRESENTED.

5. **OLD BUSINESS: NONE**

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Discussion/Action Regarding District Policy Updates  
(Jenna Mayo, Board Clerk)

**RESO NO. 2024-010**

Motion: Director Rasmussen  
Second: Director Chick  
Ayes: Directors Rasmussen, Quincy, Tallakson, and Chick  
Nays: None  
Absent: Director Bottomley  
Abstained: None

RESO NO. 2024-010. TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2024-010 – UPDATING DISTRICT POLICY UPDATES, AS PRESENTED.

b. Discussion/Action Regarding Legislative Updates  
(Jessica Self, General Manager)

Motion: Director Chick  
Second: Director Tallakson  
Ayes: Directors Rasmussen, Quincy, Tallakson, and Chick  
Nays: None  
Absent: Director Bottomley  
Abstained: None

MINUTE ENTRY. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO FORMALLY SUPPORT PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE BILLS SB 1088, SB 470, AB 1255, AB2257, SB 1072, AND ADVOCACY FOR THE CLIMATE RESILIENCE BOND ON BEHALF OF UNION PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT.

c. Discussion/Action Regarding USDA Authorized Roles and Funding  
(Jessica Self, General Manager)

**RESO NO. 2024-011**

Motion: Director  
Second: Director  
Ayes: Directors Rasmussen, Quincy, Tallakson, and Chick  
Nays: None  
Absent: Director Bottomley  
Abstained: None

**RESO NO. 2024-011. TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2024-011 – SUPPORT FOR OBTAINING USDA LEVEL 2 E-AUTHORIZATION AND SECURITY ROLES TO SEEK FUNDING THROUGH USDA’S GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, AS PRESENTED.**

d. Discussion/Action Regarding Utica Budget and 5-year Financial Plan  
(Joel Metzger, Utica Water and Power Authority)

UWPA General Manager Joel Metzger presented a five-year Financial Plan that included a financial analysis by HDR, hired by Utica, to project revenues and expenses over the next five years. These projections will inform UPUD and COA's rate studies to ensure sufficient revenue. Following consultations with JPA managers, the Utica Budget Committee, and the Utica Board, HDR developed scenarios with reduced contribution amounts from JPA members. The latest scenario proposes starting contributions at \$370,000 each from UPUD and COA, increasing by 10% annually. Even with a successful FERC Exemption, JPA contributions are needed to balance the budget.

Currently, UPUD can collect about \$370,000 in Utica fees, down from \$430,000, while the City of Angels collects approximately \$440,000 under its current rate structure. As of January 2024, Utica reserve balances are \$193,000 for UPUD and \$390,000 for COA.

To increase funding for Utica, UPUD and COA could approve a rate increase for FY 2024-2025 or use restricted Utica reserve funds to reduce the impact on customers. Next, Utica will present an update to the Angels Camp City Council on June 4th. A JPA meeting is scheduled for June 13th at 5:30 pm to discuss and vote on the five-year funding agreement.

**7. UPDATES**

a. Discussion/Potential Direction Regarding UWPA

Director Quincy reported that the board convened for a budget committee meeting on the 20th, where they successfully created a balanced budget ready for presentation to the full board. Achieving this balance required UPUD and COA to contribute \$370,000, aligning with the standard yearly collection of \$18 per month.

Additionally, a presentation on five-year funding was delivered. Director Quincy stated that it is crucial that he and Director Chick receive voting guidance from the UPUD board regarding this matter, especially if it's slated for discussion on the UWPA agenda.

8. **REPORTS**

a. General Manager

A copy of the General Manager's report was provided to the Board, and General Manager, Jessica Self reviewed the report with the Board.

9. **DIRECTORS REPORTS, INFORMATION, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

10. **CLOSED SESSION:** The meeting was adjourned into Closed Session at 6:50 PM

a. Pursuant to Government Code § Section 54957(b)(1): Public Employee Performance Evaluation - Title: General Manager

11. **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:** The meeting returned to open session at 8:05 PM

12. **REPORTABLE ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION:** There was no reportable action.

13. **NEXT BOARD MEETINGS & EVENTS**

1. Tuesday, June 4, 2024 at 11:00 AM – Financial Committee Meeting
2. Thursday, June 13, 2024 at 5:30 PM – JPA Meeting
3. Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 5:30 PM - Regular Meeting

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM

Respectfully Submitted:

  
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Tom E. Quincy, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

  
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Jenna Mayo, Clerk to the Board