



## MINUTES of the Special Meeting of the Pliocene Ridge CSD

### Board of Directors

Date: Friday September 24, 2021 6:30 pm

Held by conference call

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Guyer. Board members present Larry Allen, Daniel Guyer, Bruce Coons, and Chris Mills. Grace Knowles had reported that she could not attend. Also present: Sierra County Supervisor Lee Adams, Pike Community Support Foundation President Roland Robertson & Treasurer Denise Ruane. Public present: Bill Adasiewicz, Zack Kostik & Vicky Tenney. PRCSD Secretary Rae Bell Arbogast was present and took the minutes.

**2. Adoption of resolution #21-086** A draft resolution for the District to administer a project to clean out the Wayman Dam in Pike and to appoint an authorized representative to represent the district was presented (attached to these minutes).

It was asked if there were any questions: Vicky Tenney wanted to know if any district funds would be used for the project. Rae Bell explained that nothing had been determined yet. The County has Title III funds that need to be allocated quickly and the purpose of this meeting was to start the process of figuring out how much money would be needed to complete the project and to see how much the Sierra County Board of Supervisors would be willing to allocate towards the project.

Roland Robertson asked if matching funds were required. Rae explained that it was unknown at this time if matching funds would be needed because the project budget needed to be updated and the district needs to see how much the County will allocate. Lee Adams explained that the Title III money is specifically for projects for Fire Protection or response or prevention and developing water sources on Federal Land is one of the things that it can be used for. There is no set match requirement. A very similar project has been approved for up to \$20,000 for Calpine and their Fire District has \$15,000 set aside for the project as matching funds.

Roland also asked what the Wayman Dam Pipeline Association is. Bill Adasiewicz explained that it is an association of three property owners in Pike that has a special use permit from the Forest Service to use the Wayman Dam as a water source. This use goes back to 1863. The three property owners are: Bill Adasiewicz, Daniel Guyer and Rayette Ringle.

It was explained that the association has installed a fire hydrant and that the scope of the proposed project includes the installation of a standpipe for water drafting. This could be used in the event of a fire by firetrucks and water tenders.

Zack Kostik explained that the association replaced 1,200 feet of cement pipe with PVC this year. This line runs from the dam to the hydrant.

Denise Ruane asked if the water right was going to be turned over to the district if the district took on the project and who owns the water right.

Bill explained that the water right is issued by the State and has nothing to do with the project which is on Federal Land. He explained that all water is available to fight fire in the event of an emergency. Currently there are approximately 6,000 gallons of water in the pond. Cleaning out the reservoir will create storage for a minimum of 600,000 gallons of water and as many as millions of gallons. It is unknown at this time exactly how much material can feasibly be removed.

Denise stated her opinion that using public money to clean out the pond would be a misuse of public funds for private gain because it would disproportionately benefit the Wayman Dam Pipeline association members.

Lee Adams said that a parallel project is the project in Calpine to clean out a reservoir there. The public purpose is putting a large body of water in service for use in the event of a catastrophic wildfire. He also explained that this body of water would not only benefit the immediate community surrounding it, but it could be put to use for fires in nearby areas if other water sources become inaccessible.

Zack explained that the association members are already using the water. Expanding the water storage capacity of the dam will not change that.

It was pointed out by Rae Bell that the amount of water stored in the reservoir does not change the terms of the state issued water right that is in Dan Guyer's name. The water right places a limit on how much water can be used and that would not change as a result of increasing the water storage capacity of the pond.

Roland wanted to know if a helicopter could dip water out of the reservoir. Bill explained that part of the scope of the project is tree removal. If the trees are removed as proposed in the project documents, then yes, a helicopter should be able to scoop out water for firefighting.

Roland asked about the status of the permit from the Forest Service to do the work. Bill explained that the process was started in 2015. It included developing a scope of work and getting an estimate from John Jaynes to do the work. Pliocene Ridge CSD sent a letter of support to the Forest Service in 2015. The Forest Service bundled the permit process with the pipeline association special use permit and he isn't sure why that was done. To date, a biological study has been done, an antiquities study and they had to provide an emergency action plan of what would be done if the dam should fail. He keeps providing everything that the Forest Service asks for and months and months go by between each request. The process has been moving forward slowly but surely since 2015.

Roland wanted to know if the Forest Service has been provided with everything that they have asked for and the answer was: "yes".

**A motion was made by Chris Mills to approve resolution 2021-086 as presented. A second was made by Bruce Coons. Ayes: Allen, Coons, & Mills Nays: none Absent: Knowles Abstain: Guyer ~ Motion carried.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rae Bell Arbogast  
Secretary