



PINE-STRAWBERRY WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Board Action Item

MEETING DATE:	March 23 2023
AGENDA ITEM:	6.c
PRESENTER:	Larry Bagshaw
SUBJECT:	Secretary's report

RECOMMENDED MOTION/ACTION: None, Information only

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

First thought about the prayer being offered at the beginning of this meeting. Do you realize that due to prayers being offered in this meeting, we have been the recipients of plentiful precipitation this winter and also less contention in previous meetings. A certain former board member requested that we discontinue having prayers during the time he served on the board.

I joined the board because of the recall in June 2014 and it took at least 6 months for most of the new board members to figure out what they needed to do and what was going on with the management company who was only willing to put band-aids on the system and not fix it and the accountant who was embezzling from the district.

For those of you who are talking about recalling the board members. Are you aware that it takes a petition with several hundred signatures to do a recall and then an election? Do you realize that PSWID has to pay for any election out of its budget? Do you have enough people willing to run to replace the board members? If so, where were you last summer when it was time to file to run for the board when there were three openings? As to the idea of the county taking over the district, the last time they did nothing was accomplished and one time they drained all the funds without any meetings or minutes.

Many of our board members have worked long and hard to manage the district and feel like we have made a lot of progress in the last 6 years. We have been pressed hard to find a manager who will actually manage the employees and not let them override his decisions, ask other employees to track their co-workers so they could be backstabbed, or is willing to discipline the workers under them. How many of our 3000 plus customers will be pleased to find out that they are facing problems that will be created by a brand new board who has no idea what it takes to manage the district, just because a few of you are buying into the stories you are hearing from a disgruntled former short term board member who really has no idea about the history of the district and running it (compared to his experience in a well-funded, extremely large, employee managed sanitary district that he served on the board) and started raising a ruckus after not being appointed chairman in January, from disgruntled ex-employees some of who truly deserved to be terminated, and realtors/developers who want to build over 200 new units and don't really care what that many new customers will do to the system.

A certain realtor who has a podcast had an “expert” appear on it who said that we should tap into the Coconino Sandstone on top of the rim for our water supply. I am a geologist and will challenge him to prove that the water from the Coconino Sandstone is viable for us also considering the challenge of drilling in the national forest.

Do you realize that Sharon Hillman has spent nearly every working day in the office to apply for the WIFA and USDA loans, jump through the bureaucratic hoops to provide all the documentation required, and is currently making sure the district and the contractors are complying with all the requirements to receive the money? It isn't just given to us. We will lose the funds for our water line replacement projects and other improvements if someone is not making sure all the i's are dotted and the t's crossed. Is someone willing to step up to volunteer their time to do this? The district's office employees don't have time and aren't willing to do it.

If you have CONSTRUCTIVE suggestions that are financially feasible, we would be glad to hear them. We are not looking to be a target of a witch hunt.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Loss of WIFA/USDA funds