

**ALPINE SPRINGS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Pursuant to notice given, the regular meeting of the Board of Directors, Alpine Springs County Water District, was held Friday, October 14, 2011, at 8:30 a.m., District Board Room, 270 Alpine Meadows Road.

1 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

2 President Danz called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

3 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4 Those attending joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

5 **ROLL CALL**

6 Directors Present: Barbara Danz, President; Charles Nungester, Vice President; Janet S. Grant; Jon Northrop; Virginia Quinan.

7 Directors Absent: None.

8 Staff Present: John Collins, General Manager; Lew Tift, Operations & Maintenance; Mike Dobrowski, CPA (by telephone); Jancis Martin, Recording Secretary.

9 Guest Present: Duane Whitelaw/NTFPD; Tim Alameda/NTFPD; Mike Geary/Squaw Valley PUD; Joanne McDonall/homeowner; Dina Morrison/homeowner; Kathy Richards/National Meter & Automation; Doug & Marie Rotz/homeowners; Alain Baume/homeowner

10 **The numbering of the following items matches the original order of the scheduled items in the meeting agenda. However, to take best advantage of meeting participants' time, the items were dealt with in a different order during today's meeting, as seen below.**

11 **2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

12

- 13 • Mike Geary, Squaw Valley Public Service District's new general manager, attended today's meeting to introduce himself. He has worked at Northstar and North Tahoe, and is looking forward to the opportunities at Squaw Valley. He reminded the Board that NTFPD and SVPSD provide fire protection and emergency medical services to each other's districts, including Alpine Meadows, on a mutual aid basis. He extended an invitation to the Directors to attend SVPSD board meetings.

14

- 15 • Joanne McDonnell said she heard there was a big housing development going in at Bear Creek, and that construction trucks would be driving through Alpine Meadows. President Danz said the District has no jurisdiction over Valley roads and suggested that Joanne contact Placer County for information about the use of Valley roads.

16 Manager Collins provided a brief description of the status of the Alpine Sierra project.

17 **3. ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION & ACTION**

18 **A. Financial Reports:**

19 Mike Dobrowski, District CPA, participated in discussion of this agenda item by telephone.

20

- 21 • Mike said the field work for the annual audit is complete. He is now working on some final questions from the auditors.

22 i. **September Month-end Financial Statements:** Director Grant made a MOTION that the Board accept the September 30, 2011, month-end and quarter-end financial reports. Director Northrop SECONDED the motion. Directors Grant, Northrop, Nungester and Quinan being in favor, the motion was APPROVED.

23 ii. **September Expenses Paid & Payable:** The Directors reviewed the monthly check register. Director Northrop made a MOTION that the Board approve the Expenses Paid & Payable (the debits for payroll and checks 25864 through 25913). Director Quinan SECONDED the motion. Directors Grant, Northrop, Nungester and Quinan being in favor, the motion was APPROVED.

24 **B. Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting Held on September 9, 2011:**

25 Director Northrop made a MOTION that the Board approve the minutes of the September 9, 2011, Regular Board of Directors Meeting. Director Quinan SECONDED the motion. Directors Grant, Northrop, Nungester and Quinan being in favor, the motion was APPROVED.

26 **C. Fire Department Report:**

27 Chief Whitelaw and Tim Alameda from NTFPD were in attendance and reported the following:

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- 1 • September Dispatch Report: In response to a question raised at last month's
- 2 Board meeting regarding the occasional absence of street numbers on
- 3 dispatch reports, Chief Whitelaw said street numbers are withheld from the
- 4 report for dispatch calls involving medical emergencies, to comply with
- 5 HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) rules regarding
- 6 patient privacy. There were six calls to dispatch last month. The Pacific
- 7 Crest Trail call was for an injured hiker.
- 8 • Squaw Valley: Chief Whitelaw confirmed Mike Geary's statement that
- 9 NTFPD and SVPSD enjoy a good working relationship and added that Alpine
- 10 Meadows participates in and benefits from their mutual aid agreement.
- 11 • State Responsibility Area Fee: Chief Whitelaw is trying to find out if the SRA
- 12 fee will be collected. The best information seems to be that it probably will,
- 13 but that is not definitive.
- 14 • LPG Issues:
- 15 ○ Tim Alameda made a presentation regarding the status of NTFPD's
- 16 campaign to eliminate illegal installations of propane piping. He brought
- 17 an example of the type of faulty piping he said was present in 250
- 18 installations. He said liquid propane gas (LPG) expands 250:1; it can
- 19 leak out of weakened pipes, pool, flow downhill and sometimes find an
- 20 ignition source, thereby causing an explosion and fire.
- 21 ○ NTFPD is researching improvements to LPG piping, including thicker
- 22 pipes and flexible risers. November 1 is the target deadline in heavy
- 23 snow areas for homeowners to correct illegal installations and obtain
- 24 permits. After the deadline, NTFPD will take a look at each installation
- 25 and identify violations. Besides placing red tags on illegally installed
- 26 tanks, they will write notices of violation and inform the property owners
- 27 and vendors. Vendors cannot put LPG into a red-tagged tank.
- 28 ○ Tim said NTFPD is trying to educate the area residents about the
- 29 necessity of keeping snow and ice clear of LPG tanks. Even when an
- 30 installation is correctly permitted, glacial movement of snow and ice can
- 31 still rupture piping and even push tanks off their foundations. Tim said
- 32 NTFPD is aware of the difficulty and expense in keeping installations
- 33 snow-free, but stressed that propane is a hazardous product once it
- 34 leaves the tank.
- 35 ○ Chief Whitelaw added his concern that second-homeowners in particular
- 36 may not be aware of the issue or the campaign. They might call their
- 37 propane vendor to fill their tank but the vendor will not fill the tank if it is
- 38 red-tagged and the house will then run out of gas and be susceptible to
- 39 broken pipes due to freezing temperatures.
- 40 ○ Director Grant asked for confirmation that Alpine Meadows residents did
- 41 not have to pay the \$162 fee cited in NTFPD's literature. Chief Whitelaw
- 42 said that was correct. A member of the public asked if sensors were
- 43 available to shut down the system in the event of a pipe breakage. Tim
- 44 said yes. He added that some people have installed underground tanks.
- 45 He provided the Board with various documents: Guidelines for Proper
- 46 Propane Tank Installation for High Country Systems, North Tahoe Fire
- 47 Protection District LPG Inspection Report and North Tahoe Fire
- 48 Protection District Application/Permit for Liquefied Petroleum Gas
- 49 Installation/Maintenance.

D. General Manager's Report:

John Collins, General Manager, provided a written report on his activities during the month of September, with discussion on the following topics:

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- 1 • Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Grant: The identified areas in Bear Creek
- 2 have been thinned and, following the next storm event, David Jaramillo will
- 3 schedule burns to eradicate the slash piles.
- 4 • Alpine Meadows Bridge: Manager Collins met with Placer County personnel.
- 5 He found out that the District will not be working with Nichols Consulting.
- 6 Instead, the County will run the whole project, including ASCWD's pipeline
- 7 realignment. The District will have a contract with the County and will
- 8 reimburse them directly.
- 9 • Alpine Sierra Subdivision: Manager Collins met with NTFPD and Alpine
- 10 Sierra; they are working on identifying secondary access to the development.
- 11 He is still waiting for the Alpine Sierra attorney's comments on the District's
- 12 proposed development agreement.
- 13 • Marten Barry's property: Placer County approved the boundary line
- 14 adjustment last month. The next step is for the Board to approve a resolution
- 15 and sign title documents, after which the documents will be recorded. Then,
- 16 Manager Collins will rewrite the sanitary sewer easement across the Barry
- 17 property, which Mr. Barry has said he will approve.
- 18 • State Taxes: Manager Collins researched and paid back taxes for 2008-
- 19 2010. He is working with Staff now to ensure that District vendors know the
- 20 District has to pay California state taxes.
- 21 • Dissolution of the ASCWD Financial Corporation: Manager Collins received
- 22 requisite documentation from the California Attorney General's office and
- 23 filed the final paperwork with the Secretary of State's office.
- 24 • Remote-Read Meters: Manager Collins continued researching remote-read
- 25 meters and the tools available to help customers detect leaks. See item 3K
- 26 on today's agenda.

27 **E. Operations & Maintenance Department Report:**

28 Lew Tift presented a written report for the month of September that included

29 status updates on water, sewer, garbage and other services provided by the

30 District.

- 31 • Maintenance performed: Staff completed the yearly TV sewer program,
- 32 which inspects and cleans 20,000 linear feet – about a fourth or fifth of the
- 33 District's sewer infrastructure - per year. The program located some laterals
- 34 that have not been accessed for years. Staff is fixing the identified problems.
- 35 They raised some meters and meter boxes for easier access when reading
- 36 meters or performing meter repairs. They also completed the fire hydrant
- 37 flushing program.
- 38 • Routine water samples were absent coliform bacteria.

39 **Emergency Agenda Item:**

- 40 • President Danz said there was a need for immediate action on an item that did
- 41 not come to the attention of the Board in time to include it on the agenda for
- 42 today's meeting. The purchase of the Alpine Meadows ski resort requires that
- 43 several contracts between the District and the ski resort must be assigned to the
- 44 new owners. The new owner needs the assignments by October 21 to complete
- 45 the merger/sale. Copies were available for only two of the five contracts; the new
- 46 owner's attorney is looking for the other three. Wording in the two available
- 47 contracts requires the Board to approve assignment of the contracts and states
- 48 that the District cannot "reasonably withhold" assignment of the contracts to the
- 49 new owner. Director Grant made a MOTION that there was a need for
- 50 immediate action – pursuant to California Government Code section 54954.2(b) -
- 51 to consider the matter. Director Northrop SECONDED the motion. Directors
- 52 Grant, Northrop, Nungester and Quinan being in favor, the motion was
- 53 APPROVED.

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- 1 • Director Northrop made a MOTION that the Board approve the assignment to the
2 new owner of the Memorandum of Agreement between Alpine Meadows of
3 Tahoe, Inc. and Alpine Springs County Water District, dated July 1, 1989, which
4 dedicated Wells 2 and 4 to the District. Director Quinan SECONDED the motion.
5 In discussion, Director Nungester said he was concerned that this contract might
6 provide Squaw Valley with the legal ability to transport the District's water to
7 Squaw Valley. Manager Collins said the contract simply allows the District to use
8 the wells for water within the District. Director Quinan asked if there was any
9 negative to approving the assignment of the contract. President Danz said the
10 Board was legally required to approve the assignment. Directors Grant,
11 Northrop, Nungester and Quinan being in favor, the motion was APPROVED.
- 12 • Director Northrop made a MOTION that the Board approve the assignment to the
13 new owner of the Memorandum of Agreement between Alpine Meadows of
14 Tahoe, Inc. and Alpine Springs County Water District, dated August 3, 1992, the
15 so-called snow-making agreement, which involved the building and dedication of
16 Wells R-1 and R-2 to the District, including the pipeline up to the booster pump
17 station and the provision of snow-making water to the Alpine Meadows ski area.
18 Director Grant SECONDED the motion. In discussion, Director Nungester
19 expressed the same concern as he had for the previous motion. President Danz
20 said the motion had to do with assignment of the contract, not with sale of the
21 water. Director Nungester said he was concerned that water from the snow-
22 making ponds would be diverted to Squaw Valley. Manager Collins said he did
23 not believe it could happen because the water from the wells could not be taken
24 outside the ASCWD service district and conveyed to another service district, due
25 to California water district law. He said just because a customer (the new owner)
26 has properties in two districts does not mean he can move water from one district
27 to the other. President Danz read portions of the contract to assure Director
28 Nungester as to the content of the contract. Director Nungester asked why the
29 Board was trying to make an old contract work, rather than creating a new
30 contract to address the new rate agreement and new relationship. President
31 Danz said in her opinion the Board could not reasonably withhold the assignment
32 of the contract to the new owner. Director Grant said the only way water could
33 be conveyed from Alpine Meadows to Squaw Valley would be for the Board to
34 agree to convey the water and construct a means to do so. President Danz
35 reiterated her opinion that not assigning the contract would open up the District to
36 litigation. Manager Collins counseled the Board to stick with the current plan to
37 pay off the contract in due course. The current contract obligates the ski area to
38 pay for its water usage once the contract is paid off, which will motivate the ski
39 district to negotiate a new contract. President Danz said that Squaw Valley's
40 partial ownership of the Alpine Meadows ski resort had nothing to do with the
41 Board approving this motion. A member of the public asked if reopening the
42 Deer Park ski area would affect any of the agreements; President Danz said no.
43 Manager Collins said if the new owner wanted to reopen Deer Park, they would
44 have to enter into a new service agreement with the District. Directors Grant,
45 Northrop, Nungester and Quinan being in agreement, the motion was
46 APPROVED.
- 47 • President Danz said there were no available copies of the other three contracts.
48 She suggested that approval of their assignments be made contingent upon the
49 satisfaction of Manager Collins when copies of the documents are provided to
50 him. Director Northrop made a MOTION that the Board approve the assignment
51 to the new owner of the Agreement on Installation and Acquisition of Water
52 Storage Tank, Interconnection Works, Flow Controls and Related Facilities,
53 dated August 28, 1978, subject to Manager Collins' review and satisfaction.

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- 1 Director Grant SECONDED the motion. Directors Grant, Northrop and Quinan
2 being in favor, Director Nungester abstaining, the motion was APPROVED.
- 3 • Director Northrop made a MOTION that the Board approve the assignment to the
4 new owner of the Special Water Service Agreement, dated August 28, 1978, with
5 Alpine Meadows of Tahoe, subject to Manager Collins' review and satisfaction.
6 Director Grant SECONDED the motion. In discussion, Director Nungester
7 objected to the approval of documents that cannot be produced by anyone and
8 therefore cannot be read before approval. President Danz asked him what he
9 thought the Board should do. He said he would prefer for the Board to withhold
10 approval until they could review the actual contracts and that the Board could
11 then hold a special meeting to approve the contracts prior to October 21.
12 Director Northrop did not wish to retract his motion. Directors Grant, Northrop
13 and Quinan being in favor, Director Nungester being opposed, the motion was
14 APPROVED.
- 15 • Director Northrop made a MOTION that the Board approve the assignment to the
16 new owner of the Avalanche Control Letter of Agreement between Alpine
17 Meadows Ski Corporation and Alpine Springs County Water District, dated
18 October 18, 1999, subject to Manager Collins' review and satisfaction. Director
19 Quinan SECONDED the motion. In discussion, Director Grant recalled the
20 meetings and discussions leading up to the initiation of the contract. The ski
21 area does avalanche control for the District, as well as for Caltrans and the
22 County. Director Northrop asked if District counsel was involved; Manager
23 Collins said not yet and said he did not feel it was necessary. Director Quinan
24 asked if Director Nungester could participate in review of the missing contracts
25 when Manager Collins obtains copies of them. President Danz said all the
26 Directors were welcome to and that, while they could not discuss matters
27 between each other, they could discuss them with Manager Collins. Directors
28 Grant, Northrop and Quinan being in favor, Director Nungester abstaining, the
29 motion was APPROVED.
- 30 **F. Bridge Project:**
31 There is no longer a contract so this agenda item was removed.
- 32 **G. Alpine Meadows Road Pipeline Project:**
33 The Board reviewed the contracts with Stantec Engineers and Holdrege & Kull
34 Consulting Engineers and Geologists for the design of approximately 500 feet of
35 8" pipe along Alpine Meadows Road between White Wolf and John Scott Trail
36 and a 6" pressure reducing vault.
37 Manager Collins said the project would improve the reliability of water service
38 within the District. Currently there is only one point of transfer between each
39 pressure zone. This project will add a second transfer point between pressure
40 zones 1 and 2, and increase water pressure in Juniper Mountain. The contract is
41 for the design and geotechnical work, not for the installation itself. Director
42 Nungester pointed out that the contract referred to "Alpine Meadows Drive",
43 rather than "Alpine Meadows Road"; Manager Collins said he would make sure
44 the road's nomenclature was stated correctly throughout the document.
45 Director Nungester made a MOTION that the Board approve the Stantec contract
46 for a total of \$19,900, using the standard ASCWD professional services contract.
47 Director Northrop SECONDED the motion. In discussion, Manager Collins
48 showed on the District map where the proposed infrastructure would be installed.
49 Directors Grant, Northrop, Nungester and Quinan being in favor, the motion was
50 APPROVED.
51 Director Northrop made a MOTION that the Board approve the Holdrege & Kull
52 proposal for a geotechnical engineering report, in the amount of \$4,500, using
53 the standard ASCWD professional services contract. Director Quinan

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- 1 SECONDED the motion. Directors Grant, Northrop, Nungester and Quinan
2 being in favor, the motion was APPROVED.
- 3 **H. Policy 2.2.0: Board Pay:**
4 The Board discussed revisions to Policy 2.2.0 reflecting the increase in Board
5 pay approved at the August Board meeting. Director Northrop made a MOTION
6 that the Board approve the revisions to Policy 2.2.0: Board Pay. Director
7 Nungester SECONDED the motion. Directors Grant, Northrop, Nungester and
8 Quinan being in favor, the motion was APPROVED.
- 9 **I. Resolution 4-2011: Execution of a Minor Boundary Line Adjustment:**
10 This resolution approves paperwork required by the County prior to recording the
11 boundary line adjustment involved in transferring District property to Marten
12 Barry. Director Quinan made a MOTION that the Board adopt Resolution 4-
13 2011: Execution of a Minor Boundary Line Adjustment. Director Northrop
14 SECONDED the motion. Roll was called to approve the Resolution. Ayes:
15 Directors Grant, Northrop, Nungester, Quinan and President Danz. Noes: none.
16 The Resolution was APPROVED.
- 17 **L. TTSA Report:**
18 Director Northrop provided a written report on items of interest to ASCWD from
19 the September 14 and October 12, TTSA Board meetings.
20
 - The plant is operating normally and efficiently.
 - All waste water discharge requirements are being met.
21 The next TTSA Board meeting is scheduled for November 9.
- 22 **M. District Semi-Annual Newsletter:**
23 The Board reviewed a draft of the District semi-annual newsletter.
24
 - Director Grant suggested that it be made clear that homeowners in the Valley
25 are not subject to the NTFPD permit application fee.
 - Since winter issues are discussed in the newsletter, Director Quinan
26 suggested that the time frame on the top left of the page be changed from
27 “Fall” to “Fall/Winter”.
- 28 **N. Committee Reports:**
29 i. **Budget & Finance Committee:** President Danz presented a written report of
30 the October 13 Committee meeting.
31 a. **Non-standard Transactions:** None.
32 b. **Audit:** The audit field work is complete. The auditors expect to be able
33 to supply a draft audit report later this month or in early November.
34 c. **Investments/cash:** Per the Committee’s recommendation, Director
35 Northrop made a MOTION that the Board authorize Manager Collins to
36 invest \$200,000 from the District’s checking account (earning 0.01%
37 interest) and \$100,000 from the District’s Wells Fargo money market
38 account (also earning 0.01% interest) into the Placer County Treasurer’s
39 account (currently earning 1.62% interest). Director Nungester
40 SECONDED the motion. Directors Grant, Northrop, Nungester and
41 Quinan being in favor, the motion was APPROVED.
42 d. **Requests from Customers for Adjustments to their Bills:** Three
43 customers requested adjustment of their bills. The Committee denied
44 two of the requests to waive penalties and interest, but agreed to wave
45 penalties and interest for one customer, since he acquired his property
46 from a trustee’s sale in August 23, 2011, and had already paid the full
47 amount of the charges for the prior year, even though he was not
48 obligated to do so.
49 e. **Requests for Unbudgeted Expenses:** None.
50 f. **Next meeting:** Thursday, November 10, at 8:30 a.m.
- 51 ii. **Administration & Personnel Committee:** There was no meeting.
52 iii. **Park, Recreation & Greenbelt Committee:** There was no meeting.
53
54

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1 iv. **Long Range Planning Committee:** There was no meeting.

2 **J. Rate Study:**

3 The Board had expected to review and vote to approve an addendum to the rate
4 study approved at last month's meeting. However, the addendum is not yet
5 available.

6 **O. Open Items:**

- 7 • The November Board meeting would normally be held Friday, November 11,
8 at 8:30 a.m. President Danz suggested that the meeting be moved to
9 Thursday, November 10, since the Office will be closed November 11; the
10 Budget & Finance Committee would meet at 8:30 a.m. and the Board at
11 10:00 a.m. The Directors agreed.
- 12 • President Danz will not be available for the Friday, December 9, Board
13 meeting. She requested that the Budget & Finance Committee and Board
14 meetings be moved to Tuesday, December 13, at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.,
15 respectively.
- 16 • Director Grant asked that the February Board meeting be moved from
17 February 10 to February 15. President Danz suggested that references to
18 the February and March meetings be removed from the District newsletter
19 and that the Board discuss those dates at the November or December
20 meeting.

21 **P. Correspondence to the Board:** None.

22 **4. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

23 Director Quinan asked if the merger of ski resorts might result in another push by LAFCO
24 to combine districts. Manager Collins said he felt that, if LAFCO got involved at all, it
25 would make more sense to bundle all the Tahoe districts, adding that usually LAFCO only
26 gets involved if there is something wrong with a district.

27 **3K. Remote-Read Meters:**

28 The Board listened to a presentation by Kathy Richards, National Meter & Automation,
29 regarding remote-read meters.

- 30 • Kathy introduced herself, summarized her company's qualifications and experience
31 and said National Meter was active in the Tahoe area. She said her company can
32 provide tools whereby customers can monitor their own water usage during the year,
33 rather than being surprised by once-a-year readings.
- 34 • Manager Collins reminded the Board and members of the public that Kathy's
35 presentation was in response to a suggestion that the District investigate remote-read
36 technology, following several large pipe breaks this past winter, one of which resulted
37 in a customer bill of over \$11,000.
- 38 • Director Grant asked if customers in the Tahoe area were individuals or districts.
39 Kathy said districts. A few individuals purchase her company's products to monitor
40 wells.
- 41 • Kathy showed a standard meter and explained how it worked. Around 1998, meters
42 started coming out with a radio-read technology. An encoder puts out a signal that
43 can be read by a receiver, with the assistance of an antenna mounted near the
44 encoder; the signal conveys the customer id and the meter reading, repeated every
45 few seconds. SVPD, for instance, monitors its meters monthly so it can react
46 quickly to major water leakages, but only bills once a year. Power consumption by
47 remote-read meters is minimal (10 milliwatts). The antenna can be mounted in the
48 meter box, or a wire can be run from a buried meter box to an above-ground location.
49 The signal can be read about two blocks (30-500 feet) in advance, sometimes even
50 from as far away as 1,000 feet. Snow does not inhibit the signal. A utility company
51 uses a handheld or laptop device to read the signals from the encoders. Right now
52 the District takes three-four weeks to dig out meters and read them for the annual
53 billing. Kathy said that with the remote-read devices, the District could do the entire
54 annual read in less than a day.

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- 1 • The homeowner can purchase a water meter monitor to use inside their home. To
2 check for leaks, the homeowner would hit the restart switch each evening and see
3 the next morning how much water was registered by the meter overnight. Director
4 Nungester asked if the device could be hooked into the internet to advise a non-
5 resident homeowner in the event of excess water usage. Kathy said there were all
6 kinds of transmitters. There are transmitters that use more power and elaborate
7 infrastructure. They are expensive and difficult to maintain. If the District put in
8 remote-read meters and did a monthly read, it could catch big leaks much sooner
9 than they can currently with their annual read.
- 10 • There is a new model for use by homeowners that provides a graphic seven-day
11 usage profile, rather than merely usage since the button was last pushed.
- 12 • President Danz asked what equipment and software the District would need. Kathy
13 said either the handheld or a laptop. The handheld is a Trimble; it and the necessary
14 software come as a starter pack. National Meter comes out and integrates the starter
15 pack with the accounts in the billing system. The handheld is an easy-to-use system.
- 16 • Dina Morrison said it seemed like remote-read meters would save the District money,
17 since they require less workforce than standard meters.
- 18 • Doug Rotz asked about the life span of the remote-read equipment. Kathy said the
19 meter components have an average 20-year life span and the radios have a 20-year
20 life warranty, meant to coincide with the life of the meter components. Kathy said
21 they have an excellent history. The batteries cannot be replaced in the field,
22 because the encoders are epoxy-sealed to keep out water. Over time, the features
23 of the system have gone up, and the prices have gone down. As a case in point, she
24 mentioned that SVPSSD and IVGID (Incline Village General Improvement District) put
25 in remote-read systems in the early 1990s. The systems were designed to last
26 seven-ten years. When it came time to replace the batteries, they decided it was less
27 expensive to purchase a newer system that provided leak detection, better range and
28 data profiling. Data profiling allows the utility to produce a graph showing a
29 customer's usage for a period of two years with hourly resolution, displaying for the
30 customer exactly how and when the customer has used water.
- 31 • President Danz asked how much time would be required to install remote-read
32 equipment on District meters. Lew said Staff has been installing Badger meters at
33 the rate of about 10 per year. About three quarters of the District's meters would still
34 have to be replaced to be compatible with remote-read hardware. A full meter
35 change-out takes 30-45 minutes.
- 36 • Manager Collins asked about the cost of components. Kathy used the city of St.
37 Helena as example. She said about 50% of its customers wanted to use the
38 homeowner water meter monitors, which lowered the cost to \$125 each. She said for
39 the type of meter used by the District there would be a cost of \$65 per encoder, with
40 sets (meter, encoder, antenna) running about \$185-\$190. Badger Meter typically
41 bundles equipment to make it easier for a district to get started. Their handheld
42 starter bundle is currently about \$7,500, and the laptop starter bundle is \$12,000.
43 President Danz asked if the cost of the starter pack included integrating the software
44 into the current billing system; Kathy said yes. She said she has used Quickbooks,
45 but customers typically prefer to put the data in a separate program and upload and
46 download between the two. She said Quickbooks was a great accounting system,
47 but never intended to track usage.
- 48 • President Danz asked if there were meter locations with which Kathy's system would
49 not be compatible; Kathy said no.
- 50 • Doug Rotz asked if National Meter had a competitor. Kathy said there were four or
51 five companies, each with different advantages. Many of the companies are
52 proprietary and only support their own hardware. National Meter's products can be
53 used on any meter and do not require an IT expert and multiple servers.

