

**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 15, 2010, 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 8:31 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;  
7 Janet S. Grant; Jon Northrop; Virginia Quinan

8 Directors Absent: None.

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

12 Guests Present: Duane Whitelaw/NTFPD; Dave Ruben/NTFPD; Pat  
13 Davison/Contractors Association of Truckee Tahoe (CATT); Don Fulda/Ward  
14 Young; Eric Price/Engineered Fire Systems; Jim Conlin/Northstar Fire  
15 Department; Pete Bansen/Squaw Valley Fire Department; Mark  
16 Shadowens/Northstar Fire Department

17 **2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

18 None.

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

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

24 **A. Financial Reports:**

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

- 27 • Mike characterized the month as fairly routine from a financial  
28 perspective.
- 29 • He reported that the Budget & Finance Committee identified two  
30 transactions that need to be reclassified.
- 31 • Mike spent time with the District auditors in September. The auditors  
32 have completed their field work, are now working on the audit and  
33 expect to have this year's audit ready earlier than last year's.
- 34 • During discussion about the District's Accounts Receivable balance,  
35 which is about \$16K less than at the same time last year, Mike noted  
36 that only about 10 customers are on the installment payment plan;  
37 that one of the District's largest clients – the Alpine ski resort – is on  
38 the installment payment plan, which is working out well for them and  
39 for the District; and that most of the Accounts Receivable balance is  
40 due to delinquent customers, not those on the installment plan.
- 41 i. **September Month-end Financial Statements:** Director Grant made  
42 a MOTION that the Board accept the September 30, 2010, month-end  
43 and quarterly financial reports. Director Northrop SECONDED the  
44 motion. Directors Grant, Northrop, Nungester and Quinan being in  
45 favor, the motion was APPROVED.
- 46 ii. **September Expenses Paid & Payable:** The Directors reviewed the  
47 monthly check register. Director Northrop made a MOTION that the  
48 Board approve the Expenses Paid & Payable (two direct debits for  
49 payroll and checks 25269 through 25300). Director Quinan

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1                   SECONDED the motion. Directors Grant, Northrop, Nungester and  
2                   Quinan being in favor, the motion was APPROVED.

3                   **B. Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting Held on September**  
4                   **17, 2010:**

5                   Director Northrop made a MOTION that the Board approve the minutes of  
6                   the September 17, 2010, Regular Board of Directors Meeting. Director  
7                   Quinan SECONDED the motion. In discussion, the following correction  
8                   was proposed:

- 9                   • Page 7, line 16: insert “[sic]” after “160”.

10                  Director Northrop amended the motion to include the correction. Director  
11                  Quinan SECONDED the amended motion. Directors Grant, Northrop,  
12                  Nungester and Quinan being in favor, the amended motion was  
13                  APPROVED.

14                  **F. General Manager’s Report:**

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

- 18                  • Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Grant: There has been no activity,  
19                  other than processing a pay request. The fire crews have completed  
20                  their thinning work. David Jaramillo is preparing a burn plan; once it is  
21                  approved, the cut materials will be burned either this fall or next  
22                  spring, depending on weather conditions and personnel availability.
- 23                  • Mineral Springs Trail Sewer Stability: Manager Collins completed and  
24                  submitted to SNC a grant application to pay for the design and  
25                  permitting associated with the project. Gary Furumoto granted the  
26                  District permission to access his property during the design process.
- 27                  • Alpine Sierra Subdivision: The District received a \$19,900 check from  
28                  Capstone Property (the developer). Manager Collins deposited it,  
29                  gave ECO:LOGIC notice to proceed, and the work has begun.  
30                  Manager Collins met with Capstone to review initial plans. The initial  
31                  plan involves a pump station which will be very expensive (\$400K), so  
32                  ECO:LOGIC will evaluate alternatives. Manager Collins mentioned  
33                  that Stantec has purchased ECO:LOGIC.
- 34                  • Marten Barry’s property: Manager Collins told Marten Barry that the  
35                  District agreed to grant him right of entry to the District’s property  
36                  adjacent to the Barry property on Deer Park Drive in exchange for Mr.  
37                  Barry granting the District the sewer easement on his property. Webb  
38                  Land is surveying the proposed easement to confirm the location of  
39                  the sewer line and verify the legal description of the easement.
- 40                  • Troy Caldwell’s property: Manager Collins completed the grant of  
41                  easement for water and sewer easements on Troy Caldwell’s  
42                  property; the grant has been recorded.
- 43                  • Consumer Price Index (CPI): Director Quinan asked Manager Collins  
44                  about the CPI. Manager Collins explained the various CPI categories  
45                  and said the indices varied between 2.19 and 2.29 this past year.

46                  **G. Operations & Maintenance Department Report:**

47                  Lew Tift presented a written report for the month of September that  
48                  included status updates on water, sewer, garbage and other services  
49                  provided by the District.

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- 1                   • Staff Activities: Completed the annual sewer cleaning and TV
- 2                   program; replaced several water meters; repaired damaged water
- 3                   boxes throughout the valley; helped ski resort employees locate
- 4                   sewer and water lines to the mid-mountain chalet and located the
- 5                   Springs 2 and 4 supply line, so the ski resort would not damage the
- 6                   pipe while digging new power lines to several of their ski lifts.
- 7                   • Tank 4A: Inspection of the sagging roof (noted last month) revealed a
- 8                   rotted beam. Staff is having it shored up for the winter, and is having
- 9                   the repair crew inspect the rest of the beams and posts to determine
- 10                  the total amount of repair work that will need to be done after the
- 11                  winter. Resource Development is doing the work and has found more
- 12                  rotted beams. Director Nungester asked if the District will have to
- 13                  replace the tank, given that the tank has been deemed seismically
- 14                  unsafe. Lew said it depended on what the inspection revealed.
- 15                  Repairing the tank will not address the seismic concern. Rot was also
- 16                  discovered back in the 1990s and the tank had to be repaired at that
- 17                  time. Mike Bye, who built the tank, said to keep the tank full, because
- 18                  it is a lot cheaper to replace the fir beams than to replace the
- 19                  redwood. The tank was built by the ski resort for storage but not for
- 20                  drinking water purposes. The District had to retrofit it when they
- 21                  assumed ownership of the tank.

22           **H. TTSA Report:**

23           Director Northrop provided a written report on items of interest to ASCWD

24           from the August 11 and October 13 TTSA Board meetings.

- 25           • The plant is operating normally and efficiently.
- 26           • All waste water discharge requirements are being met.

27           The next TTSA Board meeting is scheduled for November 10.

28           **I. Resolution 12-2010: Establishing Appropriations Limit for the Fiscal**

29           **Year July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010:**

30           Manager Collins explained that the Board is required to establish an

31           appropriations limit every year, and that the actions associated with it

32           (determining the numbers, passing a Board resolution) are usually carried

33           out in response to a mailed notification from the Department of Finance.

34           However, the Department of Finance stopped mailing out notifications, so

35           last year the Board neglected to pass the yearly resolution. The auditors

36           noticed its absence. Now it is on the District calendar, so in the future

37           Staff will be reminded each year.

38           Director Quinan made a MOTION that the Board approve Resolution 12-

39           2010, Establishing Appropriations Limit for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2009-

40           June 30, 2010. Director Northrop SECONDED the motion. Roll was

41           called to approve the Resolution. Ayes: Directors Grant, Northrop,

42           Nungester, Quinan and President Danz. Noes: none. The Resolution

43           was APPROVED.

44           **J. Resolution 13-2010: Establishing Appropriations Limit for the Fiscal**

45           **Year July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011:**

46           Director Northrop made a MOTION that the Board approve Resolution

47           13-2010, Establishing Appropriations Limit for the Fiscal Year July 1,

48           2010-June 30, 2011. Director Quinan SECONDED the motion. Roll was

49           called to approve the Resolution. Ayes: Directors Grant, Northrop,

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1 Nungester, Quinan and President Danz. Noes: none. The Resolution  
2 was APPROVED.

3 **K. Committee Reports:**

- 4 i. **Budget & Finance Committee:** President Danz presented a written  
5 report of the Committee's October 14 meeting.  
6 a. **Non-standard Transactions:** None.  
7 b. **Investments/cash:** The Committee reviewed the Treasurer's  
8 Report and decided not to recommend any new investments.  
9 c. **Requests from Customers for Adjustments to their Bills:** The  
10 Committee reviewed two requests from customers seeking waiver  
11 of penalties and interest from their bills, and denied both requests.  
12 d. **Requests for Unbudgeted Expenses:** Per the Committee's  
13 recommendation, Director Northrop made a MOTION that the  
14 Board approve an unbudgeted expense for a sum not to exceed  
15 \$10,000 to Resource Development to repair the rafters supporting  
16 the redwood tank roof. Director Quinan SECONDED the motion.  
17 Directors Grant, Northrop, Nungester and Quinan being in favor,  
18 the motion was APPROVED.  
19 e. **Next meeting:** Scheduled for Thursday, November 11, at 12:00  
20 noon.  
21 ii. **Administration & Personnel Committee:** There was no meeting.  
22 iii. **Park, Recreation & Greenbelt Committee:** There was no meeting.  
23 iv. **Long Range Planning Committee:** There was no meeting.

24 **M. Correspondence to the Board:**

- 25 • SDRMA thanked the District for not filing any workers compensation  
26 or property liability claims in 2009-2010.  
27 • Thomas Tone (Alpine Meadows resident) sent an email suggesting  
28 that the District use a camera to identify people leaving garbage  
29 beside the dumpsters.

30 **C. Fire Department Report:**

31 Chief Whitelaw and Dave Ruben from NTFPD were in attendance and  
32 reported the following:

- 33 • September Dispatch Report: There were only three dispatched calls.  
34 Chief Whitelaw characterized the summer as a good one and said he  
35 was looking forward to the winter.  
36 • Annual Interagency Meeting: Chief Whitelaw reported he was  
37 scheduling the annual meeting for involved agencies to discuss  
38 readiness and emergency response to avalanche and other potential  
39 disasters in the valley.  
40 • Mitigation Plan Update: Chief Whitelaw said he thought NTFPD would  
41 have the Plan ready for Board approval in November. He told Pat  
42 Davison (CATT) that NTFPD would provide her with a copy of the  
43 Plan prior to the November meeting. In response to a question from  
44 Pat, Dave Ruben said the Plan would not include a fee increase.  
45 • Chipping Program: The NTFPD chipping crews are chipping existing  
46 piles, but are taking no new requests. They will drive through the  
47 valley looking for any piles they may have missed. Directors can pass  
48 on information to NTFPD about any existing piles.

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1           **D.     Ordinance 10-2010: Fire Prevention Code of the Alpine Springs**  
2           **County Water District:**

3           The Board conducted a public hearing on proposed modifications to the  
4           ASCWD Fire Prevention Code. The following members of the public  
5           were in attendance for this agenda item: Pat Davison (CATT), Don Fulda  
6           (Ward Young), Chief Whitelaw and Dave Ruben (NTFPD), Pete Bansen  
7           (Squaw Valley Fire Department), Jim Conlin and Mark Shadowens  
8           (Northstar Fire), and Eric Price (Engineered Fire Systems).

- 9           • President Danz opened the public hearing at 9:00 a.m.
- 10          • Dave Ruben summarized the status of the fire code, saying that he  
11           introduced it at last month's meeting; made the changes the Board  
12           requested regarding the fire alarm section; and met with members of  
13           the public, including the Tahoe Truckee Engineers Association and  
14           CATT. He said the fire code was mostly well-received and he has  
15           cleaned up some of the language in the code.
- 16          • Dave said CATT has requested a delay in approving the fire code,  
17           due to imminent implementation of new State standards for fire  
18           sprinklers. He reviewed the history of current concerns about fire  
19           sprinkler systems that use anti-freeze - the type used in the valley -  
20           and the work that is being done to study and test these systems. The  
21           results of the studies show that activation of systems using a high  
22           concentration of anti-freeze, high pressure and a small nozzle  
23           (resulting in small drops) can contribute to an existing fire, but that the  
24           system will then extinguish the fire. The studies show that systems  
25           using less than or equal to 50% of anti-freeze are safe, regardless of  
26           the pressure or size of aperture. The State fire marshal is about to  
27           make emergency changes to the State fire code, mandating the use  
28           of 50% or less anti-freeze in systems that use anti-freeze, and the use  
29           of pre-mixed solution (to avoid uneven concentrations throughout a  
30           system).
- 31          • Eric Price introduced himself as president of Engineered Fire  
32           Systems, a fire protection company in Grass Valley. He has worked  
33           with them since the early 1980s, works nationally, including in Alaska,  
34           and came to today's meeting at the request of NTFPD to answer  
35           technical questions. In reference to Dave's summary of the issues  
36           concerning fire systems using anti-freeze, he said that a high  
37           percentage of anti-freeze and high pressure are problems, but that the  
38           size of droplets is not an issue. In regard to the mandate of pre-mixed  
39           solutions, he said research has shown that if anti-freeze and water are  
40           mixed properly, they do not separate. However, contractors do not  
41           always mix the solution properly when they install fire sprinkler  
42           systems.
- 43          • President Danz asked for confirmation that high pressure in fire  
44           sprinkler systems using anti-freeze was not a factor in contributing to  
45           flash fires if the systems used a 50% solution of anti-freeze. Eric  
46           confirmed that high pressure was not a factor, but said he would err  
47           on the side of caution if he were designing a fire sprinkler system.
- 48          • Pat Davison distributed a statement she prepared on behalf of CATT.  
49           She said CATT had no objections to the changes proposed in the fire

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- 1 code, but rather with the type of fire sprinkler systems NTFPD  
2 approves for use in the valley. She characterized CATT's concern as  
3 having to do with policy, rather than with technical specifications. The  
4 issue is that CATT prefers installation of multi-purpose systems, not  
5 only those which use anti-freeze, but NTFPD is not likely to approve  
6 their installation, concerned that the systems can be rendered  
7 inoperable by a combination of freezing temperatures and a power  
8 outage, resulting in dangerous situations for residents, neighbors and  
9 firefighters. Pat asked for a one-month delay in approval of the fire  
10 code, so CATT can perform more research and information sharing.
- 11 • Don Fulda spoke on behalf of CATT. He thanked Eric Price for his  
12 presentation. He said anti-freeze systems were a moving target,  
13 pointing out that more is being learned about them every day, that  
14 they have not yet been endorsed at the State level, and that CATT  
15 needs more time to understand the issue better. He said he was not  
16 an expert on multi-purpose systems but felt they might be a viable  
17 alternative to anti-freeze systems, since they were easier to install,  
18 easier to clean up since they contain no toxic solution, and an easier  
19 "sell" to contractors as safer than anti-freeze systems. He expressed  
20 his appreciation to NTFPD and ASCWD for simplifying the fire code  
21 and said NTFPD's insistence on the use of anti-freeze systems was  
22 his only concern.
  - 23 • Responding to a concern raised by CATT that NTFPD was mandating  
24 a stricter standard than the one in the State fire code, Dave said  
25 NTFPD frequently mandates more stringent standards; the State  
26 standard covers a huge range of terrain and circumstances, leaving it  
27 up to local ordinances to define more stringent standards when  
28 necessary. In response to CATT's position that multi-purpose  
29 systems are safe, Dave said NTFPD was concerned about the  
30 possibility that when a system is drained down for the winter and the  
31 inhabitants are gone, a fire in the empty residence can spread to  
32 neighboring structures and wildland areas. In response to Don's  
33 concern about the toxicity of anti-freeze systems, Dave said that  
34 glycerin, the type of anti-freeze used in systems approved by NTFPD,  
35 is not toxic. Dave said he did look into the issue of multi-purpose  
36 systems, but felt they were not applicable systems for the valley. He  
37 noted that the ASCWD fire code does not specifically exclude their  
38 use.
  - 39 • Eric Price expressed his opinion that multi-purpose systems were fine,  
40 that all three types of fire sprinkler systems should be options in the  
41 valley, and that the most appropriate one should be installed. That  
42 said, he has found through experience that multi-purpose systems are  
43 not cost-advantageous in freezing environments. The primary issue is  
44 that in the type of homes constructed in freezing areas, there is  
45 extensive piping in the roof area, making it hard to drain the water out.
  - 46 • Don Fulda said it may not be an issue of cost, but rather of perceived  
47 safety; he questioned whether people who cannot remember to  
48 maintain their smoke detectors would remember to maintain their  
49 backflow preventers and sprinkler systems on a yearly basis. He also

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- 1                   said that most homes in the valley do not have attics so the pipes run  
2                   in the walls, rather than in the roof area, and asked Eric about the  
3                   efficacy of side-wall discharge heads. President Danz said that  
4                   installation issues were not a subject of the public hearing and  
5                   requested that members of the public refrain from discussion about  
6                   installation.
- 7                   • President Danz asked if anti-freeze systems required annual  
8                   drainage. Dave said the standard was that they be drained annually,  
9                   the solution percentage verified and the system refilled. President  
10                  Danz asked if the test still needed to be done if a pre-mixed solution  
11                  was used. Pete Bansen said theoretically no. He said he would be  
12                  surprised if even 20% of the anti-freeze systems in Squaw Valley  
13                  were drained and refilled every year.
  - 14                 • President Danz asked if anti-freeze systems use a tank; Eric said no,  
15                  the solution exists in the pipes.
  - 16                 • President Danz asked what happens to anti-freeze and multi-purpose  
17                  systems when power (heat) is turned off in the house. Don said anti-  
18                  freeze systems cannot be turned off and there are two approaches to  
19                  multi-purpose systems: 1) they can be drained for periods of non-  
20                  occupancy, or 2) if they are not drained, they can use a freeze alarm,  
21                  which would alert someone to drain the pipes when temperatures  
22                  approach freezing. Don said he thought standards and technical  
23                  specifications could be written to make multi-purpose systems an  
24                  effective option. Eric pointed out that multi-purpose systems cannot  
25                  be turned off because they are life safety systems; he said, however,  
26                  there were other ways than draining pipes to ensure against pipes  
27                  breaking during freezes (insulation, space heating).
  - 28                 • President Danz asked if the valley ever experiences temperatures  
29                  below -20° F. Director Northrop said in 1961 the valley experienced  
30                  temperatures below -35° F for two weeks. Chief Whitelaw said the  
31                  Tahoe basin has hard freezes every five to eight years.
  - 32                 • President Danz asked how often a larger meter size is required in new  
33                  or retrofit construction which includes installation of fire sprinkler  
34                  systems. Dave said usually a new meter has to be installed to handle  
35                  increased water pressure and flow for sprinklers.
  - 36                 • President Danz asked about the District's procedure for approving  
37                  sprinkler systems. Dave said a fire sprinkler contractor submits plans  
38                  and specifications to NTFPD, who evaluates the type of system. In  
39                  the Tahoe area, all the contractors install anti-freeze systems; NTFPD  
40                  makes sure the concentration is right, that glycerin is used and that all  
41                  the hydraulics work. Eric asked if a 10% solution can be used; Dave  
42                  said it would be okay if the plans called for a backup generator.
  - 43                 • Director Northrop asked for details about the Truckee fire. He asked  
44                  where the water came from that caused the flash fire; Dave said a  
45                  resident poured water on a grease fire, which caused the initial flare-  
46                  up. Director Northrop asked if a dry system could contribute to a fire.  
47                  Eric said no.
  - 48                 • Director Nungester asked about Dave's position on multi-purpose  
49                  systems. Dave reminded him that the ASCWD fire code does not

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1 exclude multi-purpose systems, but said he told CATT that he does  
2 not like that multi-purpose systems can be turned off (i.e., drained),  
3 since it defeats the purpose of a life safety system. He said fire  
4 sprinkler systems should never be turned off. Also, the multi-purpose  
5 systems he has seen do not appear to be capable of being drained  
6 down and therefore do not meet the requirement for being non-  
7 freezing. If there were a backup generator and a way to ensure heat  
8 inside the structure (insulation not being sufficient during sustained  
9 freezing temperatures), Dave said he might approve a multi-purpose  
10 system.

- 11 • Don said pipes for multi-purpose systems were more freeze-proof  
12 than copper, having the ability to expand. It is not likely that heads  
13 would break, even if the system were only partially drained.
- 14 • Chief Whitelaw said he was hearing that the ASCWD fire code was  
15 acceptable, but that there was a difference of opinion about how to  
16 get to an end result that everyone agrees is the right end result. He  
17 suggested that the fire code be adopted today and that he would  
18 make a commitment on behalf of ASCWD that NTFPD would work  
19 with CATT to develop a document that says NTFPD will consider any  
20 submittal that meets the code's performance criteria.
- 21 • Don said he appreciated Chief Whitelaw's proposal. Pat asked if the  
22 status of the memorandum of understanding could be an agenda item  
23 on the ASCWD November Board meeting. President Danz said yes,  
24 but that the Board would not delay approval of the fire code pending  
25 the agenda item. Dave suggested creating a code interpretation  
26 document, which he has done in other cases. Chief Whitelaw asked  
27 Eric for his opinion. Eric said it sounded right, because it would allow  
28 the designer to do the best job as long as it met the code.
- 29 • President Danz said her opinion was that sprinkler systems installed  
30 in residential construction should not only reduce the intensity of a fire  
31 and allow inhabitants to evacuate, but also provide for the safety of  
32 firefighters and preserve the structure.
- 33 • President Danz said she appreciated everyone's attendance and that  
34 the information presented at the meeting was very helpful. Chief  
35 Whitelaw thanked Eric Price and the representatives from Squaw  
36 Valley and Northstar for their attendance.
- 37 • At 10:01, President Danz closed the public hearing.

38 Director Nungester made a MOTION that the Board adopt Ordinance 10-  
39 2010, Fire Prevention Code of the Alpine Springs County Water District.  
40 Director Grant SECONDED the motion. Roll was called to approve the  
41 Ordinance. Ayes: Directors Grant, Northrop, Nungester, Quinan and  
42 President Danz. Noes: none. The Ordinance was APPROVED.

43 **E. Resolution 11-2010: ASCWD State of California Findings of Facts or**  
44 **Modifications to the State Building Standards Code Because of**  
45 **Local Conditions:**

- 46 • Dave Ruben said the State requires a local district to adopt such a  
47 Resolution whenever it adopts a fire code more stringent than the  
48 State code. The Resolution contains statements of fact about local  
49 conditions to support the need for greater stringency. Since the

