

**WEST SLOPE WATER DISTRICT**  
**Work Session for the Board of Commissioners**  
**October 5, 2023**  
**Meeting Summary**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Present: Chair Susan Meamber; Commissioners Paul Schuler and Andy Smith  
Management Staff: Michael Grimm, General Manager  
Absent: Commissioner Chris Eppler; Commissioner Ramesh Krishnamurthy  
Public: None

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**1.0 – CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Meamber called to order the work session for the West Slope Water District Board of Commissioners at 3:03 P.M., Thursday, October 5, 2023. The meeting was held as a hybrid meeting – in person and virtual. The public was made aware of the meeting through the District’s website (the meeting agenda and Zoom meeting link were posted on the website).

**2.0 – DISCUSSION OF CONVERSATION AND ON-GOING RELATIONSHIP WITH TUALATIN VALLEY WATER DISTRICT (TVWD)**

Mr. Grimm shared several key “take-away” messages from a recent in-person conversation he had with TVWD’s Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Paul Matthews. Those messages include:

- TVWD will continue to operate as best as it can during the transition period until a final decision is made for a new CEO.
- There appears to be no real plan in place at TVWD to share their vision of county-wide / regional water supply or transmission plan.
- TVWD has no urgency to hold a joint work session for both District Boards as there is no urgent agenda item that is relevant for TVWD. There are a few things that can be worked on at the staff level. TVWD would like us to consider putting the joint work session on hold until 2024 or 2025 with a more current agenda at that time.
- TVWD has internal issues that need to be resolved before it can begin to contemplate outside ventures beyond what it needs to do for their District, the Joint Water Commission (JWC), and the Willamette Water Supply Project.
- Mr. Grimm expressed his and West Slope’s support for being available for assistance, support, and insight if needed by Mr. Matthews as TVWD navigates its way forward through the transition period. One identified strategy would be for any and all conversations taking place between commissioners from each District to halt at this time. Mr. Grimm agreed West Slope can certainly honor that request.

- Since there is no sense of purpose or urgency for a work session between the two policy-making bodies, Mr. Grimm informed Judy Clarke that there would be no joint meeting for her to facilitate at any point in the near future.
- Sometime in 2024 after a new CEO is hired and is on board for TVWD, it was thought there could be value for the CEO/GM and one Commissioner pay a visit to each other's work session for the purpose of sharing the current activities and strategies of their District.

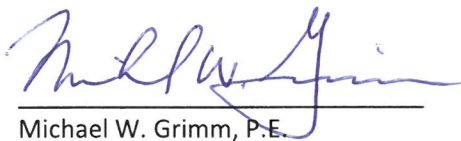
Commissioner Schuler stated one of the small asks of TVWD from many years ago was a wholesale water rate from TVWD as a second source option along with the option to stay with purchasing wholesale water from Portland. Mr. Grimm shared the Board was presented that wholesale rate information at the September 20 Board meeting as it was furnished by the JWC through its Director Niki Iverson. Included in the Board packet was the current JWC wholesale rate, an estimate on wheeling rates, and an overview of the procedural steps it would take (and a matching estimated timeline) to finalize agreements to theoretically purchase water from the JWC and/or TVWD. Commissioner Smith asked at the September 20 meeting if the comparison were an "apples to apples" comparison and would purchasing water at the JWC wholesale rate with a wheeling charge be at a higher cost than rate the District currently purchases it water from Portland, and Commissioner Smith stated that at the September 20 meeting Mr. Grimm confirmed the water rate would be higher to purchase water today from the JWC and would continue to be in the future. Commissioner Smith stated at this meeting again that it was sufficient due diligence for him, and he was supportive of putting the investigation of this option behind us. Chair Meamber stated this Board was willing to listen to TVWD's opinions on other issues not very relevant to West Slope in an effort to get a reasonable wholesale water rate estimate from TVWD. But since the JWC has supplied West Slope with that information to satisfy the due diligence pursuit desired by the Board, Chair Meamber commented the need for any joint work session no longer exists.

**3.0 – ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Schuler moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously (3-0). Chair Meamber adjourned the October 5, 2023 Board of Commissioners work session at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved:



Michael W. Grimm, P.E.  
Acting Secretary

