

**BROOKTRAILS TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Tuesday, February 10, 2009**

The Board of Directors of Brooktrails Township Community Services District met in regular session on February 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Brooktrails Community Center.

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**B. ROLL CALL**

Roll call showed the following directors present: Williams, Ziady, Orth, Horrick and Skezas. Also present were General Manager Chapman and District Counsel Neary.

**REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**C. ADDITIONS/ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

**D. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

1. January 27, 2009. Director Orth asked for the following changes: p. 3917, last sentence of Item 4; change "General Manager's" to "Annual Brooktrails Water." Director Williams moved to approve the minutes as so amended; Director Orth seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**E. SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

None.

**F. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

2. Public Hearing on Draft Ord. 137 adding greenbelt rules to Ord. 63. President Skezas opened the hearing. There being no comments, the public hearing was closed.

**G. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Bob Houtz commented on a heating system circulation pump he had installed, which he had demonstrated for the General Manager and showed to the Board. He suggested this would be the time to change our plumbing requirements for new home construction to include this pump as a way to conserve water. He confirmed for Director Williams that it circulates the hot water through the pipes all the time without replumbing. He did not have exact figures on his water savings. The pump costs about \$125.00. Director Orth said all building codes will be reviewed by all governments in the next year or so; the pump would need evaluation; it could be included on a list of available technologies.

Wally Stahle commented on this as well, saying the system can be set on timers and doesn't have to be on all the time. Mr. Stahle further commented that the trees slated for removal at the Golf Course were the biggest and best trees of a redwood grove. He said this is the only public access redwood grove between Montgomery Woods and Humboldt County. He requested the Board to look at them again and also to look at the trees behind them and other trees that would be removed in the future, in light of their being part of a moisture-collecting redwood grove, and the contrast with a future open, heat-absorbing golf course.

**H. CONSENT CALENDAR**

3. Review of Accounts Payable report and authorization to issue checks. Director Williams moved to approve payment of the outstanding invoices, and Director Orth seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**I. ACTION AGENDA**

4. Discussion of potential water emergency / water rationing for 2009. General Manager Chapman thanked Richard Estabrook for once again working on the water model for us. He reported we basically have two-thirds of our water supply. Given the dry December and January weather, this evening we would discuss a voluntary conservation measure of 20% and then see how it works out for us in the next two weeks with this new pending storm. He reported that in the event of an emergency, the golf course would be shut off (it annually consumes about 11 acre-feet of water).

Richard Estabrook discussed the graph of his projection. Last year we had some fairly significant storms around Christmas. This year we aren't starting out with a full reservoir as we always have in the past. This current projection has been done a little earlier than usual. Our new reservoir capacity is about 370 acre-feet. His chart represented a worst case scenario with no more significant rainfall. He did trial-and-error projections, using 160 gallons per SFR per day produced, chopped off 20% for reserves, and

came up with a 130 gallons/day/SFR throughout the summer rationing amount from March 1 through the end of the year. With this, he said, we could make it through. Mr. Estabrook said he considered November 23rd the date to project to because it represented a 95% probability of getting rain.

Using the 130/gal./SFR figure, Mr. Estabrook continued, June – September are the critical months to cut back on usage. He presented some rainfall probability data for Willits based on cumulative rainfall February-May from the 1950s through 2008. The worst year for this period of time was 1988; 1977 was a really dry year. The average was 19.7 inches. He reported we still get about 7 acre-feet of storage for every inch of rain direct into the reservoir, excluding water from the creek

Director Orth said the big difference this year is we actually have the dam up and are retaining water. This year might be a critical year regionally, in which case it's likely we'll be called upon by the state to sell drinking water to other agencies. Director Orth said if we have the ability to conserve and provide that at the end of the summer, we have to keep that possibility in mind. Comments were made about the dire situations in other areas.

Director Williams asked how we would get drinking water to other communities. Mr. Chapman referred to the fire hydrants in our parking lot. Director Orth said the National Guard would provide the deliveries. Mr. Stahle asked if there would be reimbursement for the water; Mr. Chapman said yes.

Director Williams said if we are talking preliminarily about rationing, we needed to start deciding what to do about the biggest users, and the commercial nursery. Mr. Chapman said we have 23 users who historically go beyond 20,000 gallons in the summer.

President Skezas quizzed about making the 130 gpd a voluntary number starting March 1. Mr. Estabrook said he thought that could work for March. Discussion ensued. Mr. Chapman said in 10 days this could all go away. He asked for direction for what should be given to the newspaper. Director Ziady said voluntary reduction; it will put people on notice who grow their own vegetables and gardens. Director Orth agreed with the idea of asking for voluntary conservation and putting people on notice about gardens. Director Williams said the sooner people start cutting use, the less likely it will get draconian at the end of the summer, no matter what happens. If we can have more water in our reservoir, we might be able to give others water without real sacrifice up here, and he felt we should do that.

Director Orth asked what it would require per day for drinking water only for Willits. Director Orth said we could tweak our ordinance because we don't have a voluntary first stage and we should change it so it would be easier for other agencies to use our ordinance; Mr. Chapman said we can do voluntary conservation anyway. Director Williams voiced voluntary conservation isn't enforceable and he didn't know that it should be in the ordinance, which is about mandatory with enforcement.

Mr. Chapman said when we do a mailer we might discuss both water conservation and sewer rates; directors agreed. Director Williams said again if we don't end up needing our water, someone else definitely will. Director Ziady said Mr. Chapman could do the Willits paper and the next water bill. Then a letter on conservation and sewer would be done in mid-March.

Bob Terry said that the top 10% of users would probably be the most resistant to conservation and asked about turning them off. Mr. Chapman said he wasn't worried about that, especially if we used Bruce Burton, PE, California Department of Health, to support our cause. He reported that he had mailed 23 letters out to high users in the system asking them to attend this meeting, and the March 10, 2009 meeting where we would discuss a cap. An audience member asked about families and whether there would be any way to trade credits. Mr. Chapman said the appeals process through the Board would probably award more water to say, a family of seven. Discussion followed. No motion was required. Mr. Chapman said we would be back in a month if we don't get some rain.

5. Adoption of Ord. 137 adding greenbelt rules to Ord. 63. Director Orth moved to adopt Ord. 137 amending Ord. 63 specifying regulations for public use of the Brooktrails Redwood Park; Director Ziady seconded. Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Directors:	Williams, Ziady, Orth, Horrnick, Skezas
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	None

6. Consideration of tank liner purchase – Tank 14 (Oriole Drive). Mr. Chapman said this, our largest tank, was relined back in the 1990s by one of these bidders. Currently there was a leak and we were concerned about the matter could get worse. This would come out of the Water Enterprise Reserve Fund. Director Orth moved to purchase a 20-year warranty 220,000 gallon tank liner for Tank 14 from Flexi-Liner Corporation at a turn-key cost not to exceed \$37,300.00; Director Horrnick seconded. Roll call vote was as follows:

AYES:	Directors:	Williams, Ziady, Orth, Horrnick, Skezas
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	None

## **J. ADDITIONS TO FUTURE AGENDAS**

Mr. Chapman mentioned the addition of the water item.

**K. SPECIAL REPORTS**

**From Directors:** Director Orth said MCOG had a director’s opening and he wanted Mr. Chapman to apply for that position. These meetings occur on Mondays. This could assist with the Second Access Road.

President Skezas discussed the first joint sewer committee meeting with City of Willits, saying he felt it had been productive and better than expected. He mentioned that this was a public committee meeting and that we will be alternating meeting locations and chair. The next meeting will be held at Brooktrails March 9, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. The City will be briefing the current status of the sewer project. He mentioned they were past 90% of the final design now. At the next meeting Brooktrails will provide more information on our own I&I (inflow & infiltration) program. City audits were under discussion and historically these have always been a problem between our organizations. However, we just received the 2007 audit and received some preliminary data for 2008. He lastly mentioned that it was possible that the Fourth Amendment to the Sewer Agreement may not have ever passed by the City Council.

Director Orth commented that the City's staff was happy to see this committee in effect, and that we would be working on trying to get some federal dollars to help offset the cost of the sewer project. He mentioned that "shovel ready" covered up to two years. He said that any decisions from the committee meetings would eventually come before the Board of Directors and the City Council.

Mr. Neary commented, for better or worse, the City seems to be assuming control of that project in a way that it hasn't been controlled for quite some time. There seems to be a plan in place. He said that as the City develops its policy in the administration of that project, the sewer committee may have an opportunity for input as to how decisions are actually made in the Council. Director Ziady requested copies of those minutes when finished. Director Williams voiced he was pleased that there was a positive transforming relationship happening between our two entities.

**From District Counsel:** None.

**From General Manager:** Mr. Chapman reported that we would at least make an attempt to apply for some federal stimulus dollars for the sewer project on Poppy Drive. He felt we had a 50/50 chance due to our particular permit situation because this was a repair (County permits required). There was a meeting on March 10, 2009 in Eureka, CA and he would try to get a staff member to attend. As much as he wanted to attend, he couldn’t because there was a board meeting day that evening.

**L. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Bob Houtz said our streets and curbs were slipping, and he wondered whether we should have our own plan in place to get a grant.

**M. ADJOURNMENT**

President Skezas adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

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George Skezas, President

ATTEST:

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MICHAEL V. CHAPMAN