



**OPEN MEETING**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE THIRD LAGUNA HILLS MUTUAL  
WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, February 24, 2022 – 2:00 p.m.  
BOARD ROOM AND VIRTUAL MEETING  
Laguna Woods Village Community Center 24351 El Toro Road**

**REPORT**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair- Donna Rane-Szostak, Lynn Jarrett, John Frankel, Cush Bhada, Nathaniel Lewis

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** None

**ADVISORS PRESENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** Kurt Wiemann, Eve Morton

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Rane-Szostak called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**2. Acknowledgement of Media**

No media was present.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Chair Rane-Szostak requested to amend the agenda by noting that the Irrigation Master Control Update would be provided by the Director of Landscape Services, Kurt Wiemann. Director Jarratt made the motion to amend the agenda. The committee was in unanimous support

**4. Approval of the Meeting Report from November 9, 2021**

Chair Rane-Szostak asked for a motion to approve the Report with one small change. Director Jarrett made the motion for a small change to the Minutes and then to approve them. The committee was in unanimous support.

**5. Committee Chair Remarks**

Chair Rane-Szostak wanted to remind everyone with what this committee is tasked to do; to collaborate with VMS, to inform Members of water cost and usage, to put programs into place to help conserve water, to recommend best practices, and to maintain relationships with El Toro Water District (ETWD), Municipal Water District, and the Fire Authority.

Last year, there was a panel regarding water conservation. Residents may view it on the Village YouTube account.

There are three directors on ETWD who live in Laguna Woods. Including the current President, Vice President, and past President

A resident, who is on the ETWD Board, informed the committee that ETWD is going to go through tremendous capital expenditures; a reservoir in Lake Forest must have a liner and cover replaced, a pump station must be replaced in another location, there are sewer costs, etc.

ETWD is working on 10 different projects over the next few years. They need to upgrade equipment.

The Chair of the State Water Board spoke at the recent ETWD Board meeting and said conservation and storage of water are main concerns now.

ETWD was on TV6 to talk about emergencies and earthquakes.

Storage for rain water is very expensive. We have to weigh costs of that versus the rate we buy water for.

Chair Rane-Szostak said 100% of our drinking water comes from somewhere else.

There are no aquifers to access in south Orange County.

Chair Rane-Szostak introduced the first resident advisor to the committee, Lee Goldstein.

Dennis Caffery, General Manager of ETWD, will be at the March Third Board meeting

Salt needs to be removed from any water from the Colorado River.

Much information given at the CAG meetings at ETWD building. Much information there. Information on their website.

#### **5a. Irrigation Master Control Update from Kurt Wiemann**

"We irrigate over 650 acres, not including the golf course.

The master control system we do have is twenty years old and there are no more updates offered for it. This brings a host of issues.

Some of system is controlled by old phone lines and 450-Megahertz radio which are obsolete now. No remote control is available with the current system. We need to have people on-site at one computer to take care of things.

The new system will allow system to be accessed remotely. Will also save us water through efficiencies. The new system is 2.2 million dollars. This system may save up to 21 percent in water annually which could potentially be +/- \$500K in water savings annually. Staff is still working on the water savings calculations.

The existing weather station is in a micro-climate. Currently, water needed is determined by evapotranspiration (ET) systems which tell us how much water

is evaporating out of the ground. New system will give us access to all the ET stations in the area, of which there are many. We can use this data to better fine-tune system. We can turn off water much closer to when work is being done such as landscaping or painting.

We are looking at the potential of new flow meters/master valves for Third Mutual. These would enable the computer to sense an increase in water usage and turn it off until a technician can diagnose the cause.

We have 500K sprinkler heads in the community.

I am putting costs together for Third to purchase these flow meters and valves and will be bringing it to the Landscape Committee in the near future. GRF is responsible for the master control system/controllers and Mutuals pay for everything else downstream i.e.: valves, backflows, etc.

There are rebates available for the updated master control system.

Low flow sprinkler heads are \$10 each and regular ones are only 10 cents each. We are switching all over but it is expensive and takes time.

Our nursery is phasing over to drought tolerant plants.”

Consent:

None

Reports:

**6. Analysis of the Irrigation Meters**

Mr. Wiemann stated that staff keeps an eye on any meters that go into Tier 4 territory.

**7. Third Mutual Water Usage**

Chair Rane-Szostak reviewed the three water charts in the committee packet. She said Village water use, over the last four years, keeps going down from year before which is wonderful.

Leaks, showering times, and watering plants with the hose all add to high water use.

Items for Discussion and Consideration:

**8. Village Television and El Toro Water District**

See above.

**9. Update on Additional Ways to Educate Village Residents Regarding Water Usage**

TV6 spots

Articles in the Breeze

Advisor Goldstein is chair of Earth Day and he said booths are available for April 21.

Items for Future Agendas:

**10. Identify Items for Future Agendas**

Concluding Business

**11. Member Comments (Items Not on the Agenda)**

A Member suggested that through turf reduction and turf conversion the Village can bring down water use.

**12. Response to Member Comments**

Above.

**13. Committee Member Comments**

Advisor Goldstein offered the theme for Earth Day, "There is a way." We have a lot of interested people in making this work.

**14. Date of Next Meeting is Thursday, April 28, 2022**

**15. Adjournment at 3:16 p.m.**

*Donna Rane-Szostak*  
Donna Rane-Szostak (Mar 7, 2022 15:16 PST)

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Donna Rane-Szostak, Chair