



**OPEN MEETING**

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

**Thursday, July 28, 2022 – 2:00 p.m.  
ELM ROOM/VIRTUAL  
Laguna Woods Village Community Center 24351 El Toro Road**

**REPORT**

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jules Zalon

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Juanita Skillman, Kathryn Freshley, Kay Havens, Sherri Seitz, Doug Gibson, Ann Beltran

**ADVISORS PRESENT:** Lee Goldstein

**STAFF PRESENT:** Robert Merget, Jayanna Abolmoloki

**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**

Director Bhada made a motion to approve the agenda. The committee was in unanimous support

**4. Approval of the Meeting Report from April 28, 2022**

Director Jarrett made a motion to approve the Report. The committee was in unanimous support.

**5. Committee Chair Remarks**

Chair Rane-Szostak began her remarks by encouraging everyone in the room to give a brief introduction of themselves. Chair Rane-Szostak informed the committee that this meeting would be held in the Elm Room moving forward. She also stated that Water Conservation is more important now than ever before. Chair Rane-Szostak reviewed the PowerPoint presentation she provided in detail. Members made comments and asked questions.

Reports:

**6. Third Mutual Water Usage**

Chair Rane-Szostak reviewed the water charts provided in the PowerPoint presentation. She stated that starting last August, there has been a decline in residential water use each month. Chair Rane-Szostak reminded the committee that Landscape water usage is dependent upon the weather. Members made comments and asked questions.

Robert Merget notified that committee that he would be filling-in on behalf of Kurt Wiemann, who is on vacation. Mr. Merget stated that Mr. Wiemann developed a baseline from previous years water usage, and staff will be using this baseline to reduce water use by 15%. Mr. Merget stated that cuts in water use will begin with irrigation on turf areas. Mr. Merget described what he expects the landscaping to look like after several months of reduction in water use. He also assured the committee that the trees throughout the Village are being monitored by the staff arborists and tree crews. Mr. Merget explained that the new irrigation system will be a huge help in reducing the irrigation water use.

Items for Discussion and Consideration:

**7. El Toro Water District Charge Increase**

Chair Rane-Szostak invited Kay Havens, Vice President of ETWD, to discuss this topic. Ms. Havens stated that residents will see a decrease in fees overall, not an increase. Ms. Havens ensured the committee that ETWD would get back to them with more specific numbers. Members made comments and asked questions.

**8. Ongoing Water Shortage – Doing our Part: Conversation Measures for Third Mutual Residents**

Director Ira Lewis made a motion to limit watering of outside plants by hose to Wednesdays and Sundays. Director Cush Bhada seconded. The committee was in unanimous support. Members made comments and asked questions.

Robert Merget suggested should the Committee implement a two day a week watering schedule for residents with private plants to use perennial, rather than annual, as they require less water.

Director Rane-Szostak suggested hosting a plant-sale at the nursery to encourage residents to use more water-wise plants in their gardening. Mr. Merget stated that this idea would have to be reviewed and discussed with Kurt Wiemann.

Items for Future Agendas:

**9. Identify Items for Future Agendas**

Utilizing Media for Communication

Buckets in Showers

Concluding Business

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

None.

**11. Response to Member Comments**

None.

**12. Committee Member Comments**

Several general comments were made.

**13. Date of Next Meeting is Thursday, October 27, 2022**

**14. Adjournment at 3:59 p.m.**

Donna Rane-Szostak  
Donna Rane-Szostak (Aug 11, 2022 14:35 PDT)

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Donna Rane-Szostak, Chair