



**OPEN MEETING**

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

**Thursday, April 29, 2021 – 2:00 p.m.**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Laguna Woods Village Community Center 24351 El Toro Road**

**REPORT**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair- Donna Rane-Szostak, Reza Karimi, Lynn Jarrett

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** John Frankel

**OTHERS PRESENT:** None

**ADVISORS PRESENT:** Kay Havens, Kathryn Freshley

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

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Acknowledgement of Media**

No media was present.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Director Jarrett moved to approve the agenda after updating the next meeting date to July 29. It was approved by consensus.

**4. Approval of the Meeting Report from January 20, 2021**

Director Jarrett moved to approve the Report. It was approved by consensus.

**5. Committee Chair Remarks**

Chair Rane-Szostak said the pandemic had put a hold on these meetings during 2020. With the availability of the virtual format, meetings have now resumed. She introduced the committee members. She thanked the advisors for attending and for keeping the committee informed and for their invaluable input.

~~She highlighted concerns regarding water conservation including: 90 percent of South Orange County's water comes from somewhere else; rainfall is down quite a bit; and we have an aging Village water infrastructure and that is a concern.~~

Third Mutual's annual cost for water is approaching 3 million dollars; for irrigation and residential water usage.

She also reviewed the committee charter with the committee.

Advisor Havens stated that 100% of our water is imported and delivered from the Colorado River and the State Water Project. At this time, we do not have any ground water supply.

The Third Mutual water bill covers all three significant water services: 1. Water delivery 2. Sewage services and 3. Recycled water.

40% of California's energy costs involve moving water. Treating water is also very expensive.

Advisor Freshley stated that this year, we will only get 5% of our normal allocation from California. The rest is from the Colorado River. We are sharing this same water source with several other states and Mexico. The Metropolitan Water District has water stored for us in Lake Mead. It is part of our allocation. The Diamond Valley reservoir would provide us with enough water about 60 days if there was an earthquake or something which prevented us from getting the Colorado River water. That is better than many other water districts.

Advisor Havens stated that those calculations are based on the worst days.

Advisor Freshley stated that a good portion of the water bill is sewerage costs and costs to process the sewer water.

The permits required for us to put treated water into the ocean is a huge cost. These costs most people don't realize. We have been good about reducing water consumption but now the sewer systems don't function as efficiently because less water is in the sewer system.

Advisor Freshley said a tour of a recycled water plant would be possible.

Chair Rane-Szostak would like to put the topic of recycled water onto the next agenda.

Advisor Havens stated that current water allotment per person is 55 gallons per day but that will be lowered to 45 gallons per day. Maintenance is important.

Using more drought resistant plants in the Village is good for water savings.

Additional discussion and questions ensued.

Advisor Havens asked residents to please attend the next Consumer Advisory Group (CAG) on May 13 at 1 p.m.

Mr. Wiemann asked if sewage charges are attached to irrigation water. When VMS is talking to residents about what is included in the bill, it is important to let them know

that half of the Village bill for residential is for sewerage. And, irrigation water is only part of the bill not half.

Advisor Havens stated that it would be a good idea to also show numbers on water bill into gallons so residents would have more understanding of the water usage.

Consent Calendar:

None.

Reports:

**6. Analysis of the Irrigation Meters**

Mr. Wiemann reviewed the information with the committee.

**7. Tier 4 Water Usage – Members/Tenants**

Chair Rane-Szostak told residents who get a high-water usage letter from the Village, and don't think they are using a lot of water, to contact the Village so someone can come out to see what could be causing the high-water use.

Perhaps put a landscape department report onto future agendas.

Discussion on best examples to use when asking residents to conserve water.

Advisor Havens stated that ETWD can help get out conservation messages as they have graphics already in place for the Village to use.

Items for Discussion and Consideration:

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

Chair Rane-Szostak thanked both advisors for their spots on Village TV regarding water conservation.

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

Chair Rane-Szostak stated that the committee has mentioned a lot of ideas at this meeting

Items for Future Agendas:

**10. Identify Items for Future Agendas**

Education

Recycled Water

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Better ways to detect water leaks. One meter shows usage for multiple units, not just one.

When things open up, we can offer the blue toilet tablets to detect a toilet leak.

Advisor Havens stated that there is an emerging issue regarding re-lining the pipes. Sometimes the lining extends into our sewer lines and creates a blockage. Let contractors know not to do that. That problem has NOT been happening in the Village.

Concluding Business

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

None.

**12. Response to Member Comments**

None.

**13. Committee Member Comments**

Director Jarrett stated that this was a productive meeting. Thank you, advisors, for attending.

Mr. Wiemann stated that they are doing some turf reductions projects on small areas which are difficult to maintain. He asked Advisor Havens if she has any formula for water usage of sprinklers vs. a drip system water usage so that we can get a better sense of cost savings related to turf. She stated that Toro may have that calculation since they sell drip systems.

**14. Date of Next Meeting is Wednesday, July 29, 2021**

**15. Adjournment at 3:05 p.m.**

*Donna Rane-Szostak*  
Donna Rane-Szostak (May 6, 2021 14:41 PDT)

Donna Rane-Szostak, Chair






# Third Water Committee Notes 4-29-2021 Open\_kw\_drs

Final Audit Report

2021-05-06

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