



**OPEN MEETING**

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

**Tuesday, November 9, 2021 – 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, 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 p.m.

**2. Acknowledgement of Media**

No media was present.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Director Frankel moved to approve the agenda. The committee was in unanimous support

**4. Approval of the Meeting Report from July 29, 2021**

Chair Rane-Szostak moved to approve the Report. The committee was in unanimous support

**5. Committee Chair Remarks**

Chair Rane-Szostak stated that Third Mutual went from 44 meters of excessive water use down to 31 meters. Even though we had an increase in water charges, the Tier 4 water costs are down which is promising.

Mr. Wiemann stated that they are starting to update the irrigation system. We are switching to remote controls valves so they may be turned off remotely, if needed. We will also install flow meters, which belong to each Mutual, which is one step above we have know to monitor water use. That will save us time and money down the road.

We are encouraging residents to switch to drought tolerant plants. You would make that request by filling out a Landscape Request Form.

We will be putting onto the website locations we have already changed to drought-tolerant areas.

Chair Rane-Szostak said CDS 343 is a beautiful example of a location that has already been done.

Consent:  
None

Reports:

6. Analysis of the Irrigation Meters
7. Third Mutual Water Usage
8. Tiered Water Usage Rates

Items for Discussion and Consideration:

**9. Discuss Leak Detection with Representative from Maintenance & Construction Dept.**

Ian Barnett from the Maintenance and Construction Department stated that copper pipe epoxy is being done to seal up the pipes and make them last longer than they typically would.

We do have water meters and they are monitored.

He stated that Members should contact Resident Services if they get a letter that they are Tier 4 water users and staff will look for any leaks and repair them.

Director Lewis stated that you could have a valve leak in your toilet that isn't detected with those leak tablets. If you have an older toilet, you may want to replace it to avoid those hidden leaks there.

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

Chair Rane-Szostak stated that the Village is fortunate to have three Directors from El Toro Water District (ETWD) who live in the Village.

ETWD has been good about providing water usage educational spots on Village Television.

We would love to hear from residents on what may be a good topic regarding water use. We are trying to be very collaborative.

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

Director Frankel spoke about the M&C committee and a French drain at Gate 11 to mitigate ground water seepage. There will be a Request for Proposal sent out to get bids and then start this project.

Mr. Wiemann stated that the water seepage is ground water; it is not potable or irrigation water. When the Village was being built, they found some springs and over time, the water is seeping out. We have put in small drainage systems over the years but they are overwhelmed.

If you do see a broken sprinkler head, please call it in. However, if leak happens on a Sunday, someone will repair it on Monday. But please call it on Sunday so we can get someone out first thing on Monday. We have 500K sprinkler heads in the Village

#### Items for Future Agendas:

### **12. Identify Items for Future Agendas**

None.

#### Concluding Business

### **13. Member Comments (Items Not on the Agenda)**

Member emailed in a comment, "At the HOAs I manage, where water is paid by the HOA, we inspect each unit's toilets periodically to ensure there are no toilet tank leaks. We do this every 1 to 3 years. Toilet tank leaks can waste up to 6,000 gallons a day."

A Member stated that updating the water control system was a good investment.

Pilot programs Mr. Wiemann is doing will help.

She gave a talk at H2O for HOAs. There will be video through ETWD website if you would like to see it.

Chair Rane-Szostak said that if your home water being used when you use the hose, it is not recycled water.

All landscaping water is recycled water except at Gate 11 and Gate 14.

A Member asked what is circumstance that United hasn't able to get recycled water? A Member who works at the ETWD said it's engineering and it costs more to get water up the hill. ETWD is looking at additional areas to expand recycled water but it is very expensive. Also, right now, United is on one system so systems would need to be separated and that is also expensive.

Director Lewis stated that an aerator on your kitchen or bathroom faucet can make a lower flow out of your faucet. They only cost four or five dollars.

We did have some low flow shower heads donated by ETWD are available in Resident Services.

Chair Rane-Szostak stated some statistics about water savings and what people can do to save water. High efficiency toilets can save 19 gallons per person per day. Just taking a five-minute shower, instead of 10 minutes, saves 12 gallons per person per shower. Only run full loads in dishwasher or clothes washer.

**14. Response to Member Comments**

Above.

**15. Committee Member Comments**

Director Frankel stated there is a geotechnical report on Gate 11 regarding French drain system.

Director Lewis stated that Irvine also has underground water issues as well as many other communities.

Chair Rane-Szostak thanked people who attended meeting. Additional water savings will only come from Members help.

**16. Date of Next Meeting is Thursday, January 27, 2022**

**17. Adjournment at 4:02 p.m.**

*Donna Rane-Szostak*  
Donna Rane-Szostak (Nov 20, 2021 11:55 PST)

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Donna Rane-Szostak, Chair