



**Fish Camp Mutual Water Company
Minutes of Spring Membership Meeting
Held Saturday, May 25, 2024 - 9:30 AM
At Camp Green Meadows Nature Center
Fish Camp, CA
<https://www.fishcampwater.org>**

The Notice and Agenda for this meeting was sent by email to the Directors on May 1, 2024.

The Notice and Agenda for this meeting was posted to the public on May 10, 2024 at

Fish Camp US Postal Service Office

Fish Camp General Store

by Jim Franklin.

A copy of the Certificate of Posting is included as Attachment A.

Administrative Items

Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m.

Request approval to record the meeting

All present approved the meeting being recorded.

Directors present or absent

Directors present: Robert Frediani, Greg Baxter, Jim Franklin

Rick Musto, Mark Spencer, Paul Sullivan

Directors absent: Jeff Cerioni, Jim Christian

Additional people assisting the Board of Directors:

Co-Watermasters: Thorn Hertwig and Jim Allen

Agenda Items

1. Welcome Members and introduce Board of Directors
2. Count of Members present or by proxy, 38 required for quorum
Robert stated that we had a quorum comprised of Members present and Member's proxies.
3. Current status of the water system

Thorn introduced Jim Allen, the new Co-Watermaster.

Thorn reported that the system is operating normally as it has for the past several years. We have 2 wells working and 2 wells out of service due to iron contamination.

There were questions from the Members present about the possible causes of the iron contamination that has caused Wells 2 and 4 to be removed from use. Thorn discussed the recent years history with Well 2. There can be several different sources of high levels of iron in well water. The typical cause is that the aquifer from which a well is extracting water has leached iron from the surrounding rocks.

Members asked about the viability of filtering out the iron. Jim A. explained that this is possible but that it is very expensive and that it would be an ongoing expense. Jim's experience is that developing a new well is, in the long term, more cost effective.

4. New Well: status and planning

Thorn and Jim A. discussed our efforts to develop a new well.

We have chosen a site on property owned by FCMWC near the Laurel water tanks. This site is within about 75 feet of a septic system, a distance less than is allowed. We are seeking a variance from Mariposa County based on depth of the well and sealing of the well to mitigate exposure to the septic system. The process of seeking the variance is not yet resolved.

5. Proposal to change FCMWC to a Transient water system as defined by the California State Water Resources Control Board (CSWRCB).

Robert, Jim A. and Thorn explained the distinction and benefits of being a community water system vs a transient water system.

From the CSWRCB web site:

There are three legal distinctions between the types of public water systems: community, non-transient non-community, and transient. The type of water system is based on how often people consume the water.

If a significant number of the users of a water system are consuming the water from that system for over half of their time, e.g. primary occupancy, then that water system is categorized as a community water system and must abide by the CSWRCB regulations for a community water system.

If a significant number of users of a water system are consuming the water from that system for less than half of their time, e.g. transient occupancy, then that water system may be categorized as a transient water system and, if so categorized, then may abide by the CSWRCB regulations for a transient water system.

Benefits of being classified as a transient water company include:

- less stringent water sampling and testing
- consumer confidence reporting is optional
- lead and copper sampling is optional
- lead service line inventory and reporting is not required
- annual reporting is a summary, less detailed

These reduce water company costs and Watermaster work load.

FYI, the Yosemite Alpine Community Services District is classified as a transient water system.

In order to apply to become a transient water system, the CSWRCB requires that we survey the FCMWC members to determine the occupancy level, transient or primary, of each member household in Fish Camp.

Jim A. drafted a letter with which to poll our Members to determine their status in terms of transiency. This letter requires state approval.

The Board will coordinate a mailing of the transiency survey letter to all Members.

Jim A. noted that we do not have a list of all members with thorough contact information: telephone number, email address, FC cabin address, etc. That hinders the process of surveying the Members for transiency status.

This same proposal was presented and discussed at a Board Meeting on May 24, 2024. From that discussion it was moved to apply to the CSWRCB to change the FCMWC to a transient water system status. Ideally, this should be accomplished by August 2024. This is dependent upon completion of the Member survey.

6. Treasurer's Report

Greg presented the Treasurer's report showing the current cash balance, around 224,000, and the 2023 expenditures. There will be no more significant income for the rest of the 2024 year. Details are shown as Attachment B.

7. Increase annual amount that the Board may levy to the Members.

The current limit is \$100,000 per year. The limit is stated in Section 14 of the By-Laws.

This year, for example, with around 75 members, we assessed a fee of \$1,000 per member. That complies with the Board's assessment limit of no more than \$100,000 per year.

This agenda item is motivated by the anticipated cost of a new well. There was discussion of how to pay for the new well.

The discussion resulted in the decision to not increase the present \$100,000 limit for the amount that the Board can assess annually. (Given the current member count of 75, that provides capacity for an annual Water System Fee of around \$1,330 per Member.) Instead, as the new well project proceeds and the costs become known then the Board may convene a special meeting of the Members to consider a special assessment with the stipulation that

the special assessment must not exceed \$2000 per member. If that special assessment is not sufficient to pay the costs of the new well, it is anticipated that there may be sufficient funds in the normal annual budget to cover the gap.

Therefore the Membership passed the following Motion:

Retain current assessment limit, as stated in our by-laws, of \$100,000 that can be assessed upon the membership by the Board each year for annual expenses.

As the costs of the new well become known, direct the Board to convene a meeting of the Members to present costs of the new well and issue a special assessment that shall not exceed \$2000 per Member in order to pay for the new well.

8. Water use and conservation

Thorn reported that the FCMWC delivered over 3 million gallons of water last year. We do have plenty of water but we are encouraged to use that water prudently.

9. Review Minutes of May 27, 2023 Members Meeting for revision and approval

The Members passed a Motion to approve the Minutes from the May 27, 2023 Annual Meeting of the Members

10. Election of Board of Directors and Nominate Wayne Childress to fill the vacant Director position.

The Members passed a Motion to approve the current members of the Board: Greg Baxter, Jeff Cerioni, Jim Christian, Jim Franklin, Robert Frediani, Rick Musto, Mark Spencer, and Paul Sullivan, and to approve new Board member Wayne Childress.

11. New business for future meetings, comments, questions

Greg encouraged that all of us make use of the FCMWC web site and to notify FCMWC of your contact information. There are elements on our web site to provide your contact information.

12. Adjourned at about 11:00 AM.

Draft Minutes from the meeting will be available within approximately 30 days after the meeting at the FCMWC web site

<https://www.fishcampwater.org/minutes-and-agenda>



**Fish Camp Mutual Water Company
Certificate of Posting of Notice and Agenda for the
Annual Meeting of the Members
To Be Held May 25, 2024**

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I posted a copy of
“Notice and Agenda for the Annual Meeting of the Members
To Be Held May 25, 2024”.

The Notice and Agenda was posted at two places in the community
of Fish Camp, California:

Fish Camp General Store	Date Posted: May 10, 2024
Fish Camp USPS Office	Date Posted: May 10, 2024

My name and title or position with Fish Camp Mutual Water
Company is

James R. Franklin, Secretary for the Board of Directors

I am signing this Certificate on May 10, 2024

Signature: James R. Franklin

May 10, 2024