DONA ANA MUTUAL DOMESTIC WATER CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION Special Membership Meeting on 04/21/2016

DONA ANA MUTUAL DOMESTIC WATER CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

April 21, 2016 7:09 p.m. to 7:34 p.m. Radium Springs Community Center 12060 LB Lindbeck Road Las Cruces, New Mexico

TRANSCRIBED BY: CYNTHIA GONZALEZ, RPR
NM CCR 59, TX CSR 8467

Huseby, Inc.

1230 West Morehead Street

Charlotte, NC 28208

1	PRESENTERS	
2	James Melton, Board President	
3	Jamie Stull, Vice President	
4	Jennifer Horton, Executive Director	
5	Kurt Anderson, Member	
6	Lee Peters, Esq.	
7		
8		
9		
10	Also Present:	
11	Guy Tubbs, Videographer	
12		
13		
14		
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	MR. MELTON: I have just been informed
3	that we have a quorum. So that being the case, I
4	would like to call this special meeting of the
5	membership of the Dona Ana Mutual Domestic Water
6	Consumers Association to order at 7:10 on the
7	what is it? the 21st of April of 2016.
8	I would like to, first of all, introduce
9	our guests, Mr. Lee Peters who is our legal counsel,
10	and also let's see Karl Tonander is right back
11	here. He's one of our engineers who works with us
12	on our engineering and whatnot.
13	We have a gentleman in the audience also,
14	Mr. Oscar Vasquez Butler, who is a member of the
15	Colonias Infrastructure Board and has been very,
16	very beneficial in helping us to obtain colonias
17	funding which is kind of a special set-aside fund
18	that is comes from the State.
19	That having been said, do we have Proof of
20	Notice?
21	MS. HORTON: Yes.
22	MR. MELTON: Jennifer, our executive
23	director, says we have Proof of Notice.
24	And do we have a quorum?
25	MS. HORTON: Yes.

1	MR. MELTON: How many do we have present?
2	MS. HORTON: 44.
3	MR. MELTON: We have 44 members present;
4	so therefore we can conduct business.
5	The first thing I'd like to do is
6	entertain a motion well, before we do that, I
7	would like to ask that, if at all possible, if you
8	wish to address the meeting, that you come to this
9	microphone up here and speak into it. We are video
10	recording this meeting. There will be a full
11	transcript of every word that's said produced just
12	as there is in every one of our membership meetings.
13	And when you come up to speak, would you
14	please state your name, and whether you are a member
15	or not, and then state your business.
16	That having been said, we will move to the
17	approval of the agenda. And I will accept a motion
18	for the approval of the agenda.
19	MS. GARCIA: I make a motion to approve
20	the agenda.
21	MR. MELTON: Your name?
22	MS. GARCIA: Dianne Garcia.
23	MR. MELTON: Dianne
24	MS. GARCIA: Garcia.
25	MR. MELTON: Garcia. Dianne Garcia

1	MR. BUTLER: Second.
2	MR. MELTON: moves we approve the
3	agenda, second by Mr. Oscar Vasquez Butler.
4	Now, I would like to be able to conduct
5	this meeting utilizing a show of hands. Is there
6	could I have a show of hands as to who is in favor
7	of the passage of the agenda?
8	Those opposed?
9	Looks like it's pretty much unanimous. I
10	see no one opposed.
11	Okay. I actually got ahead of myself with
12	the introductions and acknowledgments. But okay, I
13	can't read.
14	The next item on the agenda is approval of
15	the minutes of the 27th of January, 2016, annual
16	membership meeting. I will now entertain a motion
17	to approve those minutes.
18	Sandy?
19	MS. TATUM: I'm Sandy Tatum. I move to
20	approve the minutes of the January 27th annual
21	meeting.
22	MR. MELTON: Do I hear a second?
23	MR. GEERY: I second it. Floyd Geery.
24	MR. MELTON: I have a motion by Sandy
25	Tatum, a second by Floyd Geery to approve the
1	

minutes of the January 27, 2016, annual membership 1 2 meeting. Is there any discussion? 3 4 There being none, we will move to vote by a show of hands. Could I see all in favor? 5 6 All opposed? 7 I see one opposed. No, you weren't voting 8 opposed, sir. I see no opposed. Motion carries 9 unanimously. 10 We have two items of new business. The 11 first is the approval of the second amended 12 resolution for the 2016 -- Resolution 2016-03, the 13 Open Meetings Act. The -- this Act requires us to 14 pass a resolution each year which defines what we 15 define as our minimum notice to our membership for 16 not only membership meetings but for regular, 17 special, and emergency meetings of the board of 18 directors. And basically we pass it every year. Ιt 19 hasn't changed significantly. 20 MS. HORTON: Just the dates of the meeting 21 change. 22 MR. MELTON: Right. It hasn't changed 23 significantly for several years. There is one change in this particular resolution in that the 24 board discussed and decided that we need to change 25

- 1 the regular -- the days of the regular board
- 2 meetings from the second and fourth Tuesday of every
- 3 month to the first and third Thursday primarily to
- 4 avoid a conflict with meetings of the Dona Ana
- 5 County Board of Commissioners. And sometimes we
- 6 have business that particularly our legal counsel
- 7 and our executive director, at times members of the
- 8 board, need to conduct with the County.
- 9 Do I hear a motion to adopt that
- 10 resolution?
- 11 MS. SHUMATE: I make a motion.
- MR. MELTON: Yes, ma'am, your name?
- MS. SHUMATE: My name is Melba Shumate.
- MR. MELTON: Melba Shumate?
- MS. SHUMATE: Yes.
- MR. MELTON: I have a motion by Melba
- 17 Shumate to adopt the Resolution 2016-03 Open
- 18 Meetings Act.
- 19 Do I hear a second?
- 20 MR. JOHNSON: I'm Mike Johnson. I second
- 21 it.
- MR. MELTON: I have a second by Mike
- 23 Johnson to second -- or I have a second from Mike
- 24 Johnson.
- 25 Is there any discussion?

There being no discussion, we will move to 1 2 In this case I am going to ask if anyone --3 before we vote if anyone has an objection to a show 4 of hands as opposed to us utilizing one of the red or yellow ballots. If you would -- if someone --5 anyone wishes for us to vote by ballot, we will. 6 7 Otherwise, we will waive that requirement, and we'll vote by show of hands. 8 There being no objection, we will vote by 9 10 show of hands. All in favor? 11 All opposed? 12 I see no opposition. Motion carries 13 unanimously. 14 The next item of business is the approval 15 of USDA RD Form -- that's Rural Development Form --1942-8, Resolution of Members or Stockholders for 16 17 the Radium Springs Water System Improvement Project. 18 And I would like to say a few words as to what this improvement project is in that this is a 19 This is to accept a grant of -- in excess of 20 grant. 21 \$3.1 million and also to commit ourselves, the 22 Association, to approximately an 800 --23 MS. HORTON: \$800,000. 24 MR. MELTON: -- \$800,000 loan with a 25 40-year lifetime on it to improve the water system

- 1 in the Radium Springs/Fort Selden area.
- 2 The things that are included in this are
- 3 the replacement of all 2- and 4-inch mains with at
- 4 least 6-inch mains; the improvement of fire
- 5 protection by the installation of approximately 50
- 6 fire hydrants; the installation of an 8-inch, I
- 7 believe, fill line from our well field, which is
- 8 down behind the old water company building, up to
- 9 our tanks which one is the Soldier tank and the
- 10 other is across the road, the Indian tank; and a new
- 11 booster station which hopefully will help our
- 12 pressure a little bit.
- That having been said, I will now
- 14 entertain a motion for approval of the Resolution of
- 15 Members or Stockholders to approve USDA Rural
- 16 Development Form 1492-8.
- 17 MR. HENRY: I have a question before we do
- 18 that.
- 19 MR. MELTON: Yes, sir.
- MR. HENRY: James Henry, member. I have
- 21 two questions about this.
- MR. MELTON: Okay. Could we hold the
- 23 questions until after I get a motion and a second?
- 24 And then we'll have discussion on it. Fair enough?
- MR. HENRY: Okav.

1	A MEMBER: I'll make a motion.
2	A MEMBER: And I second it.
3	MR. MELTON: I have a motion, and I have a
4	second.
5	Is there any discussion?
6	A MEMBER: So we're taking a vote?
7	MS. HORTON: No.
8	MR. MELTON: No. You don't have I
9	asked for a discussion. After we have discussion,
10	then we will vote. That's what I'm saying. We will
11	have discussion, and it will be before we vote.
12	Okay?
13	Sir, please. I'm sorry.
14	MR. HENRY: That's all right. I thought
15	that was fine. Anyway, we're about to start the
16	vote.
17	MR. MELTON: No.
18	MR. HENRY: James Henry. I have two
19	questions about this. The first is on this RD Form.
20	How come it does not specify anywhere the location
21	at Radium Springs of where the work is and what this
22	loan is for? And the second question is is this
23	going to cause an increase in our rates?
24	MS. HORTON: It's part of the application
25	package; so it gets turned in along with the
1	

- 1 application as a whole. Not all the forms have it,
- 2 but the agenda does.
- 3 MR. MELTON: The location is included in
- 4 the application package that is forwarded to Rural
- 5 Development, and it comes -- the loan or the grant
- 6 comes back to us specifically for this numbered
- 7 project which is tied to that location.
- 8 Insofar as the question concerning an
- 9 increase in rates, we have concluded -- we have
- 10 reasonably concluded a rate study. The board
- 11 received copies of it in our last board meeting. We
- 12 have not had an opportunity to take any sort of
- 13 action on it. And so the rates, you know, will not
- 14 be affected by this proposal.
- 15 What happens with the rates -- or what
- 16 happens with the rates because of the fact that --
- 17 as a mutual domestic, we have to remain in the
- 18 black. We cannot operate the system in the red.
- 19 And so what happens to us is if we do not keep our
- 20 rates at a level -- and you figure Dona Ana Mutual
- 21 has not had a rate increase since 2008.
- I have looked personally at the new rates,
- 23 and some -- depending upon your consumption, some
- 24 will go up, some will go down. I can't comment
- 25 further because I haven't completed my action, and

the board definitely has not completed theirs. 1 But 2 there is no -- there is no connection, per se, 3 between this approval and a rate increase. 4 Does that answer your question, sir? 5 MR. HENRY: Yes. 6 MR. MELTON: Thank you. 7 Yes, ma'am? MS. LUJAN: Eva Lujan, member, Dona Ana 8 9 I have the minutes of June 30, 2010, where Village. 10 Mr. Forbes stated "personally do not see any 11 problems or major expenses immediately or in the future involved in maintaining the system, " which is 12 13 the Fort Selden letter associated --14 MR. MELTON: Who said this? 15 MS. LUJAN: Mr. Forbes. And I have it in 16 the minutes. I'm not fabricating it. 17 MS. HORTON: He was our previous 18 operations manager. 19 MR. MELTON: Okay. 20 A MEMBER: In what year? 21 MS. LUJAN: 2010. 22 MR. MELTON: Well, let me point out that we're not just looking at -- first of all, we have a 23 woefully underserved area in that a lot of our mains 24

are 2-inch lines or 4-inch lines. We have problems

25

- with pressure. And I can't speak to what his basis
 was. But the system has been evaluated. We cannot
- 3 support fire suppression with what we have.
- 4 And I personally live here, and I
- 5 personally would like to have fire suppression. I
- 6 think that -- I think that just about everybody else
- 7 sitting in this room that lives up here would like
- 8 that too.
- 9 Does that answer your question?
- 10 Anyone else?
- 11 Yes, Sandy.
- 12 MS. TATUM: Sandy Tatum, member. I'm
- 13 hearing some questions from some other people too.
- 14 Few of us have been members of an Association where
- 15 we get to vote.
- So the question is what the application
- 17 process with the board and company officers was like
- in order to get a grant. Because some people think
- 19 that this large amount of money would be free
- 20 flowing and don't understand the specific
- 21 designation and plan development that you process.
- 22 And they also are wondering if new
- 23 subscribers will experience a reduction in cost of
- 24 coming online as opposed to before, if this will
- 25 address some of that cost.

1	MR. MELTON: Okay. In a mutual domestic,
2	all members are charged the same for the same
3	services. And there will continue to be a
4	new-connection fee that is associated with
5	connecting new to the system whether this system is
6	upgraded or not. There will be periodic there
7	has there's going to have to be periodic
8	adjustments in the rates.
9	The rates will most probably remain in a
10	tiered status because that is one of the few ways
11	that we, as a mutual domestic, can encourage
12	conservation of water. And we are short on water in
13	this entire Southwest United States. So as good
14	stewards of our environment, we do the only thing we
15	can to encourage conservation of water.
16	Does that answer your questions, Sandy?
17	MS. TATUM: Uh-huh.
18	MR. MELTON: Okay.
19	Mr. Hayhoe, did you have something?
20	MR. HAYHOE: Yes. I'm Jim Hayhoe, and I
21	just wanted to say that, while I'm not a resident of
22	Radium Springs or Fort Selden, I'm very much in
23	support of this project if it connects our project.
24	I would like to carry on the theme from
25	the last couple of annual meetings, and that is the

- 1 subject of fire suppression. Now that Radium
- 2 Springs/Fort Selden is going to be getting up to 50
- 3 fire hydrants, I'm very hopeful that this is going
- 4 to be enough impetus that also will include two
- 5 volunteer fire departments, that we're going to do
- 6 something about creating new policy for maintenance
- 7 and operation of those fire hydrants. Thank you.
- 8 MR. MELTON: Thank you. And if you will
- 9 bring that back to a regular board meeting, sir, we
- 10 will try to address it rather than with the entirety
- of the membership because it can get to be a real
- 12 bucket of worms.
- 13 Anything further before we vote?
- 14 Yes, sir, Mr. Butler.
- 15 MR. BUTLER: I'm Oscar Vasquez Butler. I
- 16 also approve of this. I think that the community
- 17 has to realize how difficult it is to get grants.
- 18 And I know I've been working for this community as
- 19 well as others to get grants. And as tight as money
- 20 is in the state and the federal government, this is
- 21 an excellent grant program.
- 22 More importantly, that we're going to put
- 23 in fire hydrants. And I think what the community
- 24 has to realize is that right now they may be paying
- 25 a high fire insurance rate. With fire hydrants,

- 1 they will get a lower fire insurance policy. So
- 2 even if there was an offset of anything to a rate
- 3 increase, it would be that they would get a reduced
- 4 fire insurance rate on their insurance policy. I
- 5 totally approve of this. Thank you.
- 6 MR. MELTON: Thank you very much,
- 7 Mr. Butler.
- 8 Anyone else like to address this?
- In that case, we will move to vote. I
- 10 will call for a show of hands in favor?
- 11 A show of hands opposed?
- I see one, two, three in opposition.
- 13 Could we get a couple of our staff to come through?
- 14 I'm going to ask those folks who were in favor to
- 15 please raise their hand and remain so until our
- 16 staff can count them.
- In an attempt to shorten this as much as
- 18 possible, I would like to personally thank one, two,
- 19 three, four, five, six people from up here in the
- 20 Radium Springs area for assisting us in notifying
- 21 our membership of this upcoming meeting. And those
- 22 people are Joanne Sevenberger [sic] --
- 23 Did I butcher that too badly?
- MS. SEVENBERGEN: Not too bad. It's
- 25 Sevenbergen.

	Special Membership Meeting on 04/21/2010 1 age 17
1	MR. MELTON: Thank you.
2	Mike Johnson, Ethel Dial, Sandy Tatum,
3	Carol Standridge, and BJ Manning. These people were
4	an unbelievable assistance.
5	Have we got it now?
6	MS. HORTON: Yes.
7	MR. MELTON: I'd like to give them a hand.
8	(Applause.)
9	Okay. We should have this concluded in
10	just a moment.
11	We'll need to know how many total voted?
12	MS. HORTON: No, how many opposed. We
13	need to know how many opposed.
14	MR. MELTON: Three.
15	MS. HORTON: Have them raise their hand
16	again.
17	MR. MELTON: Okay. Now opposed again one
18	last time. So we've got 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
19	MS HORTON: 5 opposed

- MS. HORTON: 5 opposed.
- MR. MELTON: Okay.
- MS. HORTON: So I've got 50 for and 5
- 22 opposed.
- MR. MELTON: Okay. We have 54 total here?
- MS. HORTON: No. We have 55 total. So
- 25 that's 50 people that voted in favor and 5 opposed.

- 1 MR. MELTON: Okay. We have 50 -- we have
- 2 55 total people. 50 voted for, 5 voted against.
- 3 Motion carries.
- 4 (Applause.)
- 5 And the final item on the agenda is public
- 6 input.
- 7 Do we have anyone here who would like to
- 8 address the membership, the board, or whatnot? I
- 9 will caution you that your time will be limited to
- 10 three minutes, and we will ask that we not go
- 11 through repetitive actions.
- 12 Sandy?
- MS. TATUM: Excuse me. Will you be
- 14 announcing about tomorrow?
- MR. MELTON: I was going to get there.
- MS. TATUM: Oh, okay. I'm pushing you.
- 17 That's wonderful.
- 18 MR. MELTON: There being no one who wishes
- 19 to have any input, I would like to invite everyone
- 20 here to be in this building tomorrow morning at
- 21 9:00 a.m. We will be accepting the grant from USDA.
- 22 We have an individual from USDA Washington, D.C. who
- 23 will be here. We will be breaking ground for the
- 24 project.
- 25 And we in Radium Springs have been

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selected to represent the USDA in their National
 1
 2
     Earth Day celebration.
 3
               (Applause.)
 4
               So we would like to ask all of you to come
     out and join us.
 5
 6
               Being no further business, I will
 7
     entertain a motion to adjourn.
               MR. BUTLER: I make a motion.
 8
               MR. MELTON: I have a motion from
 9
10
     Mr. Butler to adjourn.
11
               Do I have a second?
12
               MR. HAYHOE: I second it.
13
               MR. MELTON: All in favor?
14
                         (All say aye.)
15
               MR. MELTON: All opposed?
16
                         (No response.)
17
               MR. MELTON: Motion carries unanimously.
18
     All right.
19
            (The proceedings concluded at 7:34 p.m.)
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21
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1	DONA ANA MUTUAL DOMESTIC WATER CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
2	SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
3	
4	
5	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
6	I, CYNTHIA GONZALEZ, RPR, NM CCR 59, TX
7	CSR 8467, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that I did, in
8	stenographic shorthand, transcribe the audiotaped
9	proceedings set forth herein, and the foregoing
10	pages are a true and correct transcription to the
11	best of my ability. The tape was of fair quality.
12	I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither employed by
13	nor related to nor contracted with (unless excepted
14	by the rules) any of the parties or attorneys in
15	this matter, and that I have no interest whatsoever
16	in the final disposition of this matter.
17	
18	
19	
20	Cynthia Gonzalez
21	CYNTHIA GONZALEZ, RPR
22	NM CCR 59, TX CSR 8467 License Expires: 12/31/2016
23	Huseby, Inc. 1230 West Morehead Street
24	Charlotte, NC 28208
25	

DONA ANA MUTUAL DOMESTIC WATER CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION Special Membership Meeting on 04/21/2016 Index: \$3.1..area

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DONA ANA MUTUAL DOMESTIC WATER CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION Special Membership Meeting on 04/21/2016 Index: ground..maintaining

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