

ROUND MOUNTAIN WATER AND SANITATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

THURSDAY, March 20, 2025

**2:00 P.M. – 3rd Street Gallery Building Conference Room
In-person or via zoom**

Call to Order at 2:03 p.m. by Steve Lasswell

Roll Call: Steve Lasswell, Randy Wilhelm, Connie Thompson, Peggy Quint, Dave Schneider via zoom, Stefanie Sere, KLZR, Elliott Jackson, Wet Mountain Tribune.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Steve Lasswell

Additions to the April 17, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

- 1. Excuse Charles Bogle and Mark Dembosky**
- 2. Resolution 2025-6 Regarding Overtime compensation**

Administrative Report

- 1. Business Office Manager – Peggy Quint – Report in Board Packet.**
- 2. Field Operations Manager – Steven Koch - Report in Packet**

Dave updated the board regarding the major service line replacement on S,3rd Street. It was just below a storm drain that the Town of Westcliffe put over the line. The project took four days. Great job Field Techs! The booster station has had an issue. The booster station runs off two electric pumps and one big diesel pump. The electrical pumps have been running for seven to eight years and are starting to show their age. They are being rebuilt. There are a bit of flecks off of the old cast iron pipes coming from uphill. A sand trap is being installed to catch it. One of the pumps is being repaired under warranty. The new shop is really coming together. Stop by and see their progress. A washing machine is still needed. Randy asked if the budget for the new shop was still being observed. Dave stated that it was. He is being updated weekly on their spending. It is just under \$10K at this time but does not include the new doors that will cost around \$8K.

- 3. General Manager – Dave Schneider**

Well/Meter Project – everything is up and operational. Dave is working on closing the loan and the project completion documents. Peggy asked if the May 1st payment due will reflect the adjustment. The finalization should be completed by then, but if not, the payment can be made and put towards the balance.

Wastewater Treatment Plant – We received the approval letter from CDPHE. There are several conditions, including having the plant up and running in 180 days. It will be tight, but possible. Now that we have received the letter, GMS (engineers) have been asked to complete the bidding documents. Hopefully, with the completion of the dredging the lagoons, the bidding process will begin by the end of May. With bids taking around 45 days, construction will begin this Summer

and the actual Pilot Study will begin in late Fall. An unexpected challenge has come up. The dredging application was put in by Denali. The new owners of the Johnson Ranch have been interested in land application of the sludge. Significant soil testing has been done for the last 3 months. On March 6th, the application was sent to the state. The planning and zoning official received a copy as well. Planning and Zoning staff took concerns to Bill Canda. Mr. Canda called Dave. A meeting with the commissioners and the planning and zoning committee was held to discuss an update on the de-sludging and land application process. Dave met with them last week and talked about their concerns. They requested that RMWSD team up with the BOCC and set up a county-wide public informational meeting for Thursday, April 27th at 5:00 p.m. at Lange Hall. The Denali reps said they can be there to answer questions and address concerns. Dave has been in contact with both papers. The district is very transparent with this project. The biggest concern is Forever Chemicals (PFAS). There are around 12000 of those type of chemicals. Last April we did a test on PFOA and PFAS. There are a handful of those 12000 constituents in our sludge. Talking to Denali, they are not to a point of significant amount to be considered toxic by state definition. The Feds have put a drinking water limit of around .7/ppt which is difficult to test due to false reports because even a sharpie being used to write on the container can cause a false positive. EPA has not set any limits or parameters on discharge. Along with that, they have not prohibited the continued use and production of these forever chemicals. There is around \$15 billion worth of legal judgements against the producers, but they have not been shut down. A few years ago, a PFAS test was done on our water that was paid for by the EPA and our water was at a no detect level. The PFAS in our sludge comes mostly from washing machines. It's literally in everything from carpet, car seats to water repellent fibers, to name a few. Trying to be intellectually honest about the actual health concerns about forever chemicals is still hard to define because EPA is still trying to define it. The PFAS that was found in the sludge in the amounts that was found should not be an issue. Elliott Jackson requested clarification of PFAS and PFOA. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of chemicals known as "forever chemicals" due to their persistence in the environment and human bodies, potentially leading to various health problems and environmental contamination. These substances were created at the end of WWII for rain gear and Teflon. Most of the time in chemistry long chain molecules are not real stable, but this molecule is super stable and structurally really tight and nothing sticks to it. It is very unique. Electro coagulation is one of the only treatments that actually destroys that chemical bond and de-chains that molecule into its essential building blocks and those building blocks by themselves become inert and can be used as lawn fertilizer because the damaging molecule itself has been destroyed. Dave is hoping this doesn't become an issue that could delay the project. It will cost just under \$300K to complete the desludging if we can find a location for the land application in the valley. If we have to take 1.2 million gallons of sludge down the hill, it could cost over \$1 million for the project. The possible land application site is 320 acres. We are only able to use 149 state approved acres. The rest of the land has a water table that is too high. The land is so flat that there is little chance of torrential runoff as would be in steeper partials. There are no irrigation possibilities on that property. Taking flood irrigation off the table means that it will not be swept into the creek and has the best chance of being absorbed into the ground. Dave has been invited to participate in a podcast on Red County – Blue Nation to help educate the public about this process. There doesn't seem to be anything that will hold up State approval. Legally CDPHE doesn't require PFAS testing as a part of their approval process because there is no limit for them to have to enforce. EPA has not set discharge limits on the forever chemicals.

Reservoir Project – The McGuire property has been titled and paid for and now a part of our property. There are negotiations taking place with McGuire and Geroux. McGuire's is for an outside maintenance easement and the Geroux's is for running the discharge pipe to the creek.

At the Arkansas River Basin Conference, Dave met with the Colorado Water Conservation Board granting agency was there and he discussed with them a creative way to make the discharge pipe installation a separate project. Dave will apply for an additional grant for that \$250K project and possibly receive 50% in grant money. It needs to be submitted by the middle of June. The reservoir project design was submitted for approval and Dave received a reply. Most of the design amendment requests were small, however, they want us to put riprap on the bottom of the west side of the reservoir. After a study with Upper Ark to see if that was legitimate, researching 100, 500 and 1000 year flood situations to see if the water in the valley could actually go that high. Even in the worst scenario, it wouldn't reach the top of the reservoir. They are requiring enough riprap to firm up and protect the bottom foot of the dam. Our engineer has been asked for a reply by the end of two weeks so that the project can keep progressing. The neighbor to the north of the Johnson Ranch wants to move his headgates currently located at his south property line approximately 1/3 of a mile upstream to just below where we discharge back in the creek from our diversion structure. RMWSD does not have a problem with that, but Penrose is objecting because of our initial decree on the ranch. Where our neighbor wants to put his new headgates is in the area that was designated in the decree as a potential reservoir site. They want us to open up our decree to remove those, but Dave is not interested in being involved in any kind of objection. Division II is becoming involved and Dave wants a 100% guarantee that we can do this without having any objections available to our decree if we have to open it up. Dave has talked to the property owner to the north and explained that there will be a cost to do this. Every water decree, unless it has been proven absolute, has to go through a diligence case every 3 to 6 years. Early 2027 is when we will have prove diligence concerning this case. Our attorney recommended to address removing the potential reservoir sites during the next diligence case. We are meeting on Friday with Division II and Bob Krassa to discuss the best and safest way to proceed with this issue.

HS25-2011 – Placing additional restrictions only on Special Districts constricting their ability to set tap fees. Dave has been communicating with other interested parties. The bill hasn't been removed completely but has been "defanged" which means the most onerous parts of the bill have been scuttled. They are hopeful that it does not move out of committee.

Bulk Water Station Update – Peggy and Dave met with a Bulk Water Machine supplier. They are located in Denver rather than Chicago. We are quite sure they can provide us with what we need and they are close by when we need assistance at the same cost.

Dave attended the CRWA Conference with over 1000 attendees. He received an award from CRWA for the work that has been done with our wastewater pilot plant. Steven won the cornhole tournament and he and Jackson competed in a meter competition. They took a meter apart and put it back together. Steven took first place, and Jackson took second and were about a minute or two ahead of everyone else. This is a conference is a great opportunity to get continuing education credits and network with others. Dave did a team presentation in a training session with Powell Water, updating everyone on a pilot study they are doing on water treatment with electric coagulation and RMWSD's wastewater treatment. There was a lot of interest in the EC treatment at the conference.

Dave also attended the Upper Ark Basin Forum. There are a lot of water law and water augmentation issues and some of the continuing challenges and solutions were discussed. Dave appreciates the BOD allowing him to attend, not only for RMWSD, but for the communities we serve.

Dave will be Podcast on Wednesday, March 26th and a Community/Custer County Informational Meeting on the 27th of March at Lange Hall to address the concerns of land application of sludge from the lagoons.

Dave will be speaking at the Liberty Rocks Meeting at Tonys Steak and Tavern on April 15th which is held the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

Consent Agenda

- 1. Approval of the Minutes of the February 2025 Regular Board Meeting and Public Hearing**
- 2. Financial Report for February 2025**
Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Randy Wilhelm and seconded by Connie Thompson. Randy stated that our financial costs for the new shop building will be significant and will affect our midyear budget. Steve stated that this was our most cost-effective and effective way to get a functional shop, Motion carried out with a 3-0 vote.

Old Business

- 1. Resolution 2025-7 DEO Cancelling 2025 Election – there was no one showing interest in being on the board. The election for the district will be cancelled. Randy Wilhelm and Connie Thompson will serve another four-year term. We are grateful for their service. The Motion to approve Resolution 2025-7 was made by Connie Thompson and seconded by Randy Wilhelm. Motion carried with a 3-0 Vote**

New Business

- 1. Resolution 2025-6 Approving a Change in the District Employee Policy Manual – after some discussion, the board agreed to table this resolution as Dave will talk to the district's attorney and get more clarification on the State Laws on overtime.**
- 2. Resolution 2025-5 Approving Sale of District Property to Silver Cliff. Quick Claim property back to Silver Cliff. This is property that Silver Cliff gave to RMWSD, but we don't need it anymore. The mayor of Silver Cliff asked Steve Lasswell if there was any exchange of money for this. There was not any money exchanged for this property. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Connie Thompson and seconded by Randy Wilhelm. Motion carried with a 3-0 vote.**

Adjourn at 3:04 p.m.