

ROUND MOUNTAIN WATER AND SANITATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

THURSDAY, April 18, 2024

2:00 P.M. – 3rd Street Gallery Building Conference Room

Call to Order at 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Charles Bogle, Steve Lasswell, Randy Wilhelm, Connie Thompson, and Mark Dembosky
Dave Schneider, Peggy Quint, Steven Koch and Carlan Cardenas (via zoom)
Public: Talia Goldson (via zoom) and Adi (via zoom)

Pledge of Allegiance led by Steve Lasswell

Public input for those not on the agenda will be limited to 3 minutes. There were no public comments.

Additions to the May 16, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

1. Resolution approving amendment to Personnel Manual (5.9) addressing evaluations.
2. Resolution approving new evaluation forms.

*Steve Lasswell will not be in town for the May 16, 2024, Meeting

Administrative Reports

1. Assistant District Manager – Peggy Quint – Report was included in the Board Packet. Peggy did want to highlight that Audit preparation has begun! Communication with Fromm and Company will be weekly so that the audit can be completed earlier than in past years. Peggy also wanted to point out that 480 customers have signed up for Express Bill Pay. This is almost half of our active customers both within the district and bulk water customers! Dave wanted to highlight the website form that is for customers to submit a form for a visual inspection of LCRR. Peggy was able to put this letter and form on the website in a short time due to Streamline website!
2. ORC – Steven Koch – Report was in the Board Packet – Steven’s highlight was that the field techs are busy. We have not sold any new taps so far this year. A few new taps are on hold because they need an excavation permit. Trucks are being worked on under the new Maintenance Contract with Boss Pro.
3. District Manager – Dave Schneider
 - Well/Meter Project Backup generator is installed and operating. Sampling began the first week of April and will run through October. Well has been consistent. Temperature and conductivity are tested.
 - Solar array – has been fixed and working great!
 - Reservoir – Dave is working with Silver Cliff and Dan McGuire to purchase land to the south. Silver Cliff owns a 16-foot strip of land. The fencing on our property line is correct. Mr. McGuire stated that he will check with his children to see if they are interested in selling us 100 X 940 feet (2+ acres) more to the south. Roughly \$5K - \$8K an acre or \$16K - \$17K total. That will give us 159-acre feet in the reservoir. Kit Shy has been asked to help clean up the paperwork for the properties with a legal document on the section. Mr. Shy said that we do not need to go to the county for approval since it is a boundary dispute. Dave has asked Silver Cliff to Quit Claim that strip of land to Mr. McGuire. The Valley’s pond problems will be addressed and put into categories by Division II of Water Resources in Pueblo; Ponds will either be drained, be adjudicated by the owners, or multiple pond owners apply for a single augmentation decree. Dave would recommend that Mr. McGuire participate in the latter because he has three ponds. Rachel Zancanella, Lead Engineer, Division II of Water Resources, is addressing these illegal ponds. She is a rule keeper but flexible. She is also working on Futile Calls, which are semi legal – illegal calls. RMWSD has one of the most senior rights on Macey Creek. However, we have one of the lowest headgates on the creek. If the junior users take water before it gets to our headgate, it significantly lengthens the time before the water is available. Water has come

down to our headgate (earlier than normal) so he put a call on the creek which holds the junior rights holders off.

- **WWTP – GMS will have an agreement draft by the end of the week. Dave met with Randi Snead, DOLA, and she is excited to partner with RMWSD. We have applied for a \$400k grant with DOLA. Dave and Randi will team up and present a power point presentation to the DOLA Board in June in Montrose, CO. EPIC, the potential engineering grant company, is looking forward to hearing from GMS to get going on the pilot plant project. The lagoon sludge has been sampled. It was sent off for inspection. The next thing is to find potential ground to surface. If that is found, then ground samples will need to be collected. This will allow how much sludge that we can do per acre. It will be taken out of the pond and spread on some rancher's acreage. As soon as the agreement is completed, our attorney will look it over and then the demonstration application can be started. Dave thought he had overestimated the amount of sludge in the ponds. That means the cost to remove it will be less. It costs about .26 per gallon to remove.**
- **Bulk Water – customers have complained that they are being shorted on their bulk water. The bulk water has a meter that the water runs through. That sends an electrical signal to the controller unit and that tells it to shut it off. When tested, it was 4% short of what it should be. Once run through the unit, it was about 8 gallons short for every 200 gallons. We were shorting them about 4 gallons every 100 gallons. Dave has a call in to Brian at Elemec to see what he suggests. Initially, we will see if the time can be changed to correct the difference. If this does not work, we have a quote for a new unit without the meter. Dave would like an ultrasonic meter. Peggy has talked to them about connecting via cloud. We have a quote for cloud hosting of \$1100.00, which is \$400 less than what we pay now for support. Dave will update the board regarding the outcome of the adjustments. The new machine is \$11,050.00 to replace. The old machine has been running for almost 10 years and the parts for the machine are not available. The accuracy of the machine is checked regularly. Dave will see what he can do to get it as close as possible, then we can look at replacing it.**
- **The field techs are falling behind on projects and would like to hire someone for the Summer of 2024. This would be a full-time, temporary position. No benefits would be offered. The board agreed that someone should be hired as soon as possible. Next year's budget will need to reflect this need for 2025.**
- **DeWeese is still getting bids for the repair of the discharge pipes. Dave will contact them to see if there will be that expense this year. The estimated cost for our portion will be about \$10k.**
- **Using the new Smith Well has caused a dramatic decrease in the need for augmentation water and we have only used 50 acre/feet over the winter months. We only have 50 acre/feet of storage available in DeWeese. We do not have anywhere else to store the surplus water. Dave is talking to Upper Ark and BLM to see where there might be possibilities to lease that water. We do not have storage in the Pueblo Reservoir. We have decrees that we could use to shepherd water down to Pueblo. We could purchase some storage rights in Pueblo but leasing it to someone else would be more beneficial.**

Consent Agenda

- 1. Approval of the Minutes of the March 21, 2024, Regular Board Meeting**
- 2. Approval of the Minutes of the March 29, 2024, Regular Board Meeting**
- 3. Financial Report and Approval of Checks for March 2024**

Motion to approve Consent Agenda was made by Randy Wilhelm and seconded by Mark Dembosky. Motion carried with a 5-0 Vote.

New Business

- 1. Consideration of a salary increase for Sterling Hinson – Steven Koch, ORC, reported that Sterling has been doing a great job! He has taken on Backflow Prevention, streamlined inventory, is now a D-1 in Wastewater Certification and D-2 in Water. Motion to increase Sterling's hourly wage from \$29.70 to \$32.00 was made by Mark Dembosky, seconded by Randy Wilhelm. Motion carried with a 5-0 Vote.**

OLD BUSINESS

3. Resolution approving amendment to Personnel Manual (5.9) addressing evaluations. – Tabled
4. Resolution approving new evaluation forms. - Tabled
5. Steve Lasswell and Connie Thompson – suggestions and recommendations regarding personnel

***Adjourn Regular Session - Motion and Second required for Executive Session**

The motion to move to Executive Session at 3:14 p.m. was made by Connie Thompson and seconded by Steve Lasswell. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Review results and recommendation - Connie Thompson & Steve Lasswell
Executive Session: §24-6-402 (4) (f), C.R.S. Personnel Matters
Peggy Quint, Assistant District Manager.

***Adjourn Executive Session and return to Regular Session at 4:22 p.m.**

OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED at 4:23 p.m.

6. Discussion of recommendations and considerations of suggestions regarding personnel by Connie Thompson and Steve Lasswell – after discussion and clarification, Connie Thompson made a motion to increase Peggy Quint's salary to \$87,547.20/year which is 80% of Dave Schneider's salary, effective immediately. The motion was seconded by Randy Wilhelm. Motion carried with a 5-0 Vote.

Dave has been asked to attend the Stakeholder's meetings at the upper level of CDPHE. This will require 1 to 2 days away from the office per month to attend the meetings. Dave would represent the smaller wastewater systems to the state of Colorado and CEDPHE. Dave is very interested in participating in these meetings with board approval. This will be on paid time with mileage reimbursement. The board has given Dave their full support.

Steve Lasswell will not be in town for the May meeting. He will not be within service range and will not be attending via zoom.

Adjourn at 4:50 p.m.