

ROUND MOUNTAIN WATER AND SANITATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, April 21, 2022 - 2:00 P.M. - 3rd Street Gallery Building Conference Room

Call to Order at 2:01 p.m.

Roll Call: Charles Bogle, Peter Ewing, Greg Smith, Steve Lasswell

Staff in attendance: Dave Schneider, District Manager, Peggy Quint, District Business Manager, Laura Ippolito, Office Assistant via zoom

Guests: Connie Thompson, Jack Thompson, Antonio Huerta, Senator John Hickenlooper's Office, Dr. Clifford Brown, Public Health Agency

Randy Wilhelm was absent

Pledge of Allegiance led by Steve Lasswell

Additions to the May 19, 2022, Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

- 1. Excuse Randy Wilhelm from April 21, 2022, meeting**
- 2. Elections of Officers; at this time, we have Charles Bogle as Chairman, Steve Lasswell as Vice-chair, Randy Wilhelm as Treasurer, Peter Ewing as Secretary, Connie Thompson as member.**
- 3. Report on the Action 22 Meeting - Dave Schneider, Steve Lasswell, and Charles Bogle**

Administrative Reports

- 1. District Business Manager - Peggy Quint - report was attached to board packet**
 - a. Charles pointed out that Caselle was waiving the \$12K charge to go to "Real time"**
 - b. Peter Ewing thanked Greg Smith for assisting with the website and for his service to Round Mountain**
 - c. Dave Schneider encouraged everyone to check out the website and see the improvements**
- 2. ORC - Steven Koch - sent via email to board members prior to the meeting**
 - a. Field Techs are building an inventory area in a loft in the shop building. They are doing a wonderful job constructing the area and organizing the inventory.**
 - b. Steve Lasswell wanted to get clarification on the mention of being shorthanded to handle backflow prevention. The Sanitary Survey made it clear that there are backflow prevention violations that need to be addressed in a timely manner. Field Techs will continue to work on this. We do not have the money to hire someone just for that task. Backflow prevention is in place to protect our water distribution system and is our responsibility to monitor.**
 - i. Backflow prevention certification is required for inspections. Steven is our only certified employee to take on the task.**

- ii. We are required by CDPHE to have backflow prevention and to enforce the use of them but cannot charge our customers. The customers will have to pay for their own testing. It is a conflict of interest to use RMWSD staff to do the testing. There is no one in town that does the testing. Dave calls them “unfunded mandates”. FOG (fats, oils, and grease) is also another enforcement issue for staff to address. Distribution testing and raw water testing are a priority. Since 2015, all new taps have a double-check valve on the meter to protect the water source.
- c. The Gallery well is our only operating well at this time, an extra pump has been purchased to have a backup pump on hand.

3. District Operations Manager – Dave Schneider

a. Well/Meter Replacement Project

- i. A handful of meters need to be tweaked because activation didn’t take place when they were installed. We also want the new meters to be rebooted to add the temperature monitor to the meter. This will save us from replacing frozen meters.
- ii. Fencing for well is in, Solar frames are in, and solar panel installation will begin April 22, 2022.
- iii. Treatment building for well – Treatment techniques are almost an agreed upon design and this part of the project should be complete by late Summer to early Fall.

b. Energy performance project – Projected loan payment will be about \$6400/month. There is a \$4000/month increase in revenue since the new meters have been installed. With the savings of about \$2000/month due to the solar panel installation, we are very close to making our monthly payment. This is a \$2.1 million project that was funded due to the Energy performance program. Dave updated those in attendance about how we found out about this program.

c. Johnson Ranch dry-up – property was bought in 2000. There are 5 separate water rights, and four of them have been dried up. The last rights are being dried up. Dave will have a meeting with Jerry Livengood, Water Commissioner, next week, to discuss the final dry up. Once this is complete and have access to necessary location, the property can be split up into four 80-acre parcels. By early Summer, property should be ready to put on the market. Dave recommends that the district use the funds we receive (after paying off loan) be used for the reservoir project.

d. Reservoir Project

- i. Two agreements being discussed with Upper Ark; cost sharing and cost of selling what we can’t use.

e. WWTP

- i. Concept design from Powell Water’s engineer with cost estimates. Dave sent this off to CDPHE for review. A meeting with CDPHE is next week along with the

engineer to start covering all that needs to be addressed to complete the design. **CDPHE is only meeting virtually.**

ii. Two phases

- 1. First phase – Pilot (demo) project required by CDPHE including the greenhouse, 45 x 40 with the EC unit needed with infrastructure to run the first 2 ponds and finish out with liners at a cost of about \$1.25 million. This will take care of our current demand. 50K gallons a day is our current demand.**
- 2. Second Phase – three lagoons then rehabbed and put online for about \$1.5 million. We currently process about 70K gallons per day and could eventually treat 140K gallons per day. This would cover the growth in our district, which is platted in the district. Dave is sure that in about 5 years, DeWeese residents will be knocking on our doors to have us treat their wastewater. Micro algae will be grown in the greenhouse. They are voracious eaters and oxygenate the ponds. They are put at the bottom and oxygenate as they come to the top of the cell. In Hydro, OK, they only run the compressor just to keep “it” up and flowing. This alga is cultured in Estes Park, so it is a high-altitude algae. This is such an affordable, effective solution for rural Colorado. Almost every rural Colorado district already has a lagoon system that can be used. A \$3 million plant (with about \$120K to operate) will not shut down our community as opposed to the \$15 million to build and \$480K in operation costs.**

There is a DOLA \$1 million grant on the first plant that may be available to use on *this* project. Senator Bennet’s office has been contacted regarding our financial challenges as well.

CDPHE is supporting us on this project because they know our position. Certification is also required to run a wastewater plant.

We are getting the preliminary engineering from Powell Water at no cost.

Dave is participating in the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum in Salida on the 28th and 29th. Let Dave know if you want to go. He is also participating in the Colorado Rural Water Association Conference in May in Loveland. He is teaming up with Powell Water to display the Electro Coagulation process. There is a great article in the Colorado Rural Water publication. It can be shared after it has been put in the magazine.

Consent Agenda

1. **Approval of the Minutes of the March 17, 2022, Regular Board Meeting**
2. **Financial Report and Approval of Checks for March 2022**
Motion by Greg Smith, second by Steve Lasswell, motion passed 4-0

Randy requested that the board is aware of the difference in the cash flow is due to a check that had not cleared yet and the \$185K that is available for capital improvements. Peggy can send the latest water/sewer tap purchase list with the notation of what taps have been installed.

Also, there was a customer that was severely delinquent that Peggy was sure they could qualify for the ARPA funds. The customer did apply and the account was paid in full prior to the deadline for applications.

New Business

1. **Greg Smith contacted CDPHE to see what they could do for us to equip us to test wastewater for any prevalent diseases and asked them about a CDPHE/RMWSO Partnership addressing this. CDPHE would be more than happy to assist RMWSO. Dave will confirm. There needs to be clarification on the transporting and the testing and what is needed for sampling. If RMWSO has to pay for this, Dave would be reluctant to participate. Charles suggested that the representative from Hickenlooper's office check and see what funding would be available to fund this. Dr. Brown stated that this process has been successful. Many that test themselves for COVID, simply stay home and do not report it. If we had the testing of wastewater to determine what is actually happening. He also would like lead testing in our community - especially in the schools. (We have no lead in our service lines in the district) CDPHE just recently bumped us from a yearly lead/copper testing to a 3-year testing. He is applying for grant money to do lead testing. Perhaps both tests could be done at the same time and use the courier system.**
2. **Action 22 Housing on April 29, 2022 - Charles Bogle wanted the BOD and staff to know that there is an Action 22 Summit on April 29th Charles Bogle will be presenting at the Summit and will be representing RMWSO.**

Old Business

1. **ORC Wage Proposal - Steven was given the ORC position about 7 months ago. Dave is more than impressed with the way he handled the transition. Steven took on Sanitary Survey and did an amazing job. Dave proposed a \$2/hour wage increase to \$28/hour. This**

is a well-deserved performance increase over and above certification. He has truly taken on the responsibilities of Operator of Responsible Charge.

Motion to approve the wage increase was made by Greg Smith and seconded by Steve Lasswell. Motion passed 4-0. This will be effective May 1, 2022.

2. Final Personnel Manual Approval – Dave will make the changes that have been brought to his attention. Tabled for May 19, 2022, BOD meeting
3. Public Relations needs – Charles moved to end of meeting for an executive session
4. Board decision on charging minimum fees starting 90 days after the purchase of taps – Policy states that monthly billing on new taps purchased whether they are in use or not, will begin 90 days after the purchase of the tap. Greg requested that the By-Laws and tap costs be put on the website. It was confirmed that they are already on the website.

Motion was made at 4:02 p.m. by Steve Lasswell, with a second by Peter Ewing for the board to go into executive session. Motion carried 3-0 (Greg Smith excused himself from the session and did not vote because it was involving a competitor in the media arena) §24-6-402(4)(e) C.R.S. for determining positions related to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiations.

Executive session closed at 4:56 p.m. and Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Adjourn

Final comments: A meeting took place between RMWSD, Roger Camper and Steve Lasswell regarding the installation of temporary vaults in Silver Cliff to be used in the interim until the moratorium is lifted. This would allow building to continue in Silver Cliff. This decision would make Silver Cliff completely responsible for the installation, and removal, as well as all maintenance or overflow situations. Dave stated that with a 1000-gallon tank, two people in the house would fill it up in a month. Dave also inquired as to what will happen if the property owner can't afford have the tank removed and the permanent lines installed? A member of the board asked if it was legal to transport contents from a tank across the county lines. Dave confirmed that it is legal.

Thank you, Greg Smith, for your years of service to the Round Mountain Water and Sanitation Board of Directors! We appreciate you!