



**Round Mountain Water and Sanitation**  
**Board Meeting via Conference call or Video**  
**July 2, 2020 – 2:00 p.m.**

Call to Order at 2:03 p.m.

Roll Call: Charles Bogle, Randy Wilhelm, Steve Lasswell, Greg Smith, Peter Ewing were Board Members attending. RMWSD Staff: Dave Schneider, Peggy Quint, Courtney Cole. Guests: Tracy Ballard, The Valley Beat and Dave Fitzpatrick.

Pledge of Allegiance

Additions to the July 16, 2020 Board Agenda

**Administrative Reports**

**1. District Operations Manager – Dave Schneider**

- **WWTP Update** – The lagoon odors are improving. There has been 24/7 aeration, added bugs and cycling water. Original order of bugs is being used. It's not perfect, but much better than it was.
- **New WWTP Report from Geo-techs.** They are basing their assumption that 20 ft would saturate, and the building could sink 12 inches. Dave asked the Geo-techs at SGM to look at the cost to support the buildings. There is a good chance that it will be a sizable amount and we would have to go back to USDA and ask for more money. They are looking at a super-sized French drain system to keep the moisture away from the building. 20 feet is extreme, and the soils on our other properties are the same. When we did the boring, the soil did not get moist until after 30 feet. If we have to ask for more money from USDA, it could set the project back up to two years before we could build. Dave doesn't think that we would have the problems that they are suggesting. But we need to look at all of our options.
- **Macy Creek will more than likely be dry next week.** We are close to full storage at Deweese.
- **Lamp Rynearson** – finishing dry-up on the Johnson Ranch continues. Normally, water depth rises in the early summer and drops during the winter. However, it actually rose in February and March. Monitoring will continue for another year to see what "normal" will be. If we can prove that it goes down in the Summer, that would be better for RMWSD because less water is available to the plants above. Next Spring would be the earliest that we could make a determination concerning the dry-up of the last water right. Division II and our rancher neighbors are pressuring us to have our SWSP available to replace depletion from our wells. Division II is satisfied with us using the Smith Well as a source. Dave's design was approved by Lamp Rynearson. We will pump from the Smith well and dump it back into the creek to replace the water taken out. We should have the final "ok" next week. Dave has ordered the pipe and the installation will begin in the next couple of weeks. This will only be in the case that the senior call gets so senior that the calls below us can sweep the creek. We can't book water up the creek when it is dried up. We had about two weeks a few years ago where our decree as written couldn't address depletions. When the Smith well is offline, we may have to curtail irrigation in town so that the Gallery can keep up with demand. If we are unable to meet the demand, we will have to

possibly cut off the irrigation use, (or go odd-even,) bulk water sales for irrigation or bulk water sales for personal use. Water supplied to the County for road maintenance would also be shut off. They are currently pulling from Grape Creek. Division II will let us know when we need to start putting water back into the creek.

- **Gallery Reservoir** – Gracie sent in the grant application. The grant agency wants letters of support from the Town of Westcliffe, the Town of Silver Cliff, and the County. Dave is on the Agenda for both board meetings in town. He will present them with letters for them to sign. He will work on getting one from the County.
- **Diligence Decree** – This decree is an exchange decree that allows water stored in the Pueblo Reservoir to be booked upstream into Deweese for our use. It is a good decree to have because we will have water to use if we need it. This is a virtual transfer of water. It is like a Line of Credit for water.
- **Iconergy** – the test meters are in. Dashboard software is quite useful to catch leaks, high usage, etc. When we get that information, we can contact the customer and alert them. Three of the ten meters probably have leaks. Conference call next week with DOLA and Carl Hurst asking for \$500K for this project. A conference call with the State Revolving fund is scheduled at the end of July. They would supply the loan portion of this project. Their engineers received preliminary engineering on the Smith Well. Charles suggested that at least one of the board members participate in those conference calls.
- **Extensions** – Incline is 90-95% finished and testing is complete. Fox Run has sent us their Letter of Credit. We are waiting on the final blueprints. Greg Quinones has received the Tech Specs. Blueprints have been sent to Dave. He needs to come in and sign a contract. Clareth Project is at a standstill.
- **John Johnston Situation** – John claims we owe him \$20k for a sewer tap because he has been paying for two sewer taps but only one has been installed. Dave has researched through the paperwork. It appears that in 1975 one tap set was given to service the office in the front and the house in the back. At that time, there were five lines are going into the hand dug cistern. In 1978, the owner purchased a sewer tap for the rentals in the back. That was supposed to be a separate system. Dave thinks that when the owner and RMWSD realized how much it was going to cost to replumb the entire property, they decided to make a manifold of the five lines and stick them into one line. RMWSD owes him a sewer tap install. We will pay for the sewer tap install, but not the \$20K. If John still has an issue, Dave will invite him to get on the next agenda.

## 2. District Business Manager – Peggy Quint

- **Courtney Cole has given her two-week notice.** Abi Schneider has accepted the open position. The Board agreed that Abi would be a good fit for RMWSD Office staff. She will start on July 16, 2020. She will receive two full days of training before Courtney leaves. We appreciate all that Courtney has done for Round Mountain Water and Sanitation. We all wish her well.
- **Invoice Cloud and Caselle and Freedom** Printing is moving forward. They are projecting going live on August 4<sup>th</sup>. That is coming up fast and Peggy is not sure if it will happen. All entities appear to be state of the art and a great improvement for the district.
- **Peggy is leaving on vacation starting this afternoon and will return on July 13, 2020. She will check her email regularly and will be available for phone calls or texts.**
- **Field Techs built a drainage system at the bulk water station.** This should keep the water from turning into ice during the winter. Big “Thank You” to the guys!
- **Delinquencies continue.** There are not any new situations that were specifically caused by COVID19. Shut offs were originally scheduled for August 1<sup>st</sup> for those delinquencies. Board needs to decide at the next meeting if this will take place. RMWSD continues to work with the customers and welcome communication from them. Policies are followed with letters of notice.

## Old Business

1. **Approval of the May financials** – tabled until this meeting due to corrections that the Treasurer requested. Randy decided the discrepancy was the outstanding checks. Randy Wilhelm made a motion to approve the May Financials. Peter Ewing seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.
2. **Needs Assessment for DeWeese enlargement** – Dave received a document from Upper Ark asking about our needs as far as the DeWeese enlargement. Ideal year at the Johnson Ranch would allow us to store 426-acre feet in some storage location. We have 355.8-acre feet firm yield that we purchased at DeWeese. We are projecting another 100-acre feet at Benoni Jarvis for our interest. Upper Ark is purchasing 50-acre feet of that 100-acre feet storage vessel. So technically, we have enough storage if the Benoni Jarvis is finished to store all augmentation water that we currently have. Dave's struggle is that the cost to purchase the firm yield space... \$20K per acre feet. Dave is hesitant to buy firm space. Lease space would be more affordable IF available. Upper Ark is asking that all the players in DeWeese state what each one wants. If we are building our own reservoir, we should use our money on that instead of increasing our storage. Dave feels that we should give them a realistic number that we can afford, so that they know how to enlarge DeWeese. If there is significant demand, then they will do the enlargement. We are using about 250-acre feet for augmentation water, which is half of what is available. The owner of the land that we are interested in has still not shown an interest in selling to us. There is also a 15-acre chunk of land that may be available. Our portion of the expansion would be about \$600K. Charles suggested that we have a workshop to discuss this topic which would include the Town of Westcliffe, Town of Silver Cliff and Custer County. Charles will contact Christy Doon, Regional Manager for DOLA, and check with DOLA for potential to bring long-term strategy to our long-term thoughts.

## New Business

1. **Juanita Wills – Bunk House Addition.** Customer lives in Silver Cliff that has a residence on a single lot, that also has a small shed that she made into a bedroom for guests. She wants to install a bathroom. We need a stipulation that it is **ONLY** a bathroom for occasional guests. If the board agrees to the stipulation, RMWSD increase her ERU to 1.8. If Dave discovers this has been rented out as a VRBO, we will insist that she put in a water/tap. This idea would have to also comply with Silver Cliff planning and zoning. If the owner is willing to go along with the ERU adjustment, Dave is agreeable. Steve stated that it happens to be a bedroom detached from the house. If it was located inside the house, we would not receive that additional revenue.
2. **Bookkeeper/Office Assistant Vacancy**

Peter requested that we contact him via cell phone or text if there is something that needs to be addressed immediately.

Adjourn at 4:01 p.m.