

ROCKWOOD WATER P.U.D.
MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD
15, APRIL 2003
Rockwood Water Boardroom

Board members present: Sandra Ramaker, Larry Dixon, Herb Brown, Stephen McElroy.

Staff present: Harvey Barnes, District Manager (DM); Mike Baker, District Superintendent (DS); Chris Shaw, Administrative Secretary (AS).

Guests present: Jeanne Orcutt, Steve Moncaster.

President **Sandra Ramaker** called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Herb Brown moved to approve the agenda. Larry Dixon seconded the motion. The motion was approved; none opposed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Larry Dixon moved to approve the consent agenda. Herb Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved; none opposed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sandra Ramaker asked for public comment. No comments were made.

Larry Dixon moved to approve the minutes. Herb Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved; none opposed.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Sandra Ramaker asked for public comment. No comments were made.

Sandra Ramaker asked what the hit and run repairs were for. **DM Barnes** replied for a fire hydrant.

Larry Dixon referred to page 8 and asked if the steel plates were rented or purchased. **DM Barnes** explained that several steel plates were rented to park the drilling rig on to abandon the old well. **Dixon** then asked about road plate repair. **DM Barnes** explained that the repairs were for District owned road plates.

Herb Brown moved to approve the bills. Stephen McElroy seconded the motion. The motion was approved; none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON AGENDA ITEMS

Sandra Ramaker asked for public comment. No comments were made.

DISCUSSION ON GOALS FOR THE DISTRICT

DM Barnes explained that Herb Brown requested this agenda item and a short report. He referred to the handout outlining District goals and read through the report. Goals include cash flow management, capital improvements, large special projects (the Cascade well and the Clackamas River Water supply line), partnerships for alternate water sources, planning to meet regulatory

requirements, and human resource management. The District is currently attempting to extend its water rights and complete a vulnerability study. Upcoming planning projects include completion of a water management plan, conservation plan and disaster recovery plan, as well as revision of the District's master plan.

Discussion followed regarding regulatory requirements for water rights extensions, groundwater and surface water issues, pipe replacement, and the CRW project

Sandra Ramaker asked for public comment. No comments were made.

Herb Brown commented that the report was well prepared.

EASTSIDE SUPPLY AGENCY DISCUSSION

DM Barnes stated that some time ago the Board suggested seeking partnerships with other agencies for the CRW pipeline project. He reported that a meeting was held with managers from Sunrise Water Authority, Powell Valley Road Water District (PVRWD), the City of Gresham, and Clackamas River Water (CRW). He noted that there does seem to be some interest in the project.

DM Barnes asked the Board if it wants to pursue partnerships not only for the CRW transmission line but other supplies of water as well. He outlined the benefits of partnering and asked for Board direction.

Herb Brown expressed support for pursuing partnerships. **Larry Dixon** asked about PVRWD's involvement as it will be taken over by the City of Portland. **DM Barnes** replied that he's not sure what its involvement will be.

Sandra Ramaker stated she would like to have more information.

Ramaker asked for public comment. **Jeanne Orcutt** commented that she doesn't want to see too much money spent on this project until more is known. She added that PVRWD is going to be taken over by Portland, the District has a current water supply, and she doesn't see where Gresham will have the money for the project. **Ms. Orcutt** asked what water rights you can get on the Clackamas River. **DM Barnes** replied that the District owns 6 million gallons per day. **Ms. Orcutt** asked about water rights for the whole east side in the future. **DM Barnes** replied that it probably will not be more than 75 MGD; 90 MGD has been applied for.

Ms. Orcutt asked what happens if the dams are taken out. **DM Barnes** replied that there would be less storage, but noted that he doesn't think the dams will be removed as it's a difficult process. **Ms. Orcutt** asked if PVRWD is in a position to sell any of its wells.

DM Barnes replied to Ms. Orcutt's comments on the money issue and stated that the water managers all agree that they have the information needed from existing studies. They just need to determine the level of interest among potential partners.

Ms. Orcutt commented that we should see who all has water rights on the Bull Run water supply. She added that if Portland doesn't have all the water rights, there might be an opportunity to get together and build a conduit down from the Bull Run.

DM Barnes stated that he would bring back additional information. **Herb Brown** commented that a study about gaining partnerships shouldn't require much money.

GRESHAM PRIVILEGE TAX UPDATE AND OPTIONS

DM Barnes reported that a 5% privilege tax was passed. He reported that a lot of people attended the Gresham Council meeting. He noted that the vote was 3-2 and indicated that the District's attorney is looking at the fee to determine if it was passed legally.

DM Barnes explained the issue of a franchise fee being passed on to a PUD. Another issue is Gresham's charging for the use of street rights of way for streets it does not own. **DM Barnes** stated that the District has 60 days from the date the fee passed to file a writ of review. He commented that our options will be considered, but at some point we will have to look at letting the issue go.

Sandra Ramaker asked the cost of checking our options. **DM Barnes** replied that it's minimal and will only take a few hours of our attorney's time. Even if the fee was passed unlawfully, the best we could hope for is to force them to change the name of it. Statute does allow a municipality to charge a PUD privilege tax up to 5% of revenue in the city. He noted that we did accomplish informing our customers and providing them an opportunity to express their comments.

Herb Brown commented that several people testified and complimented Jeanne Orcutt, DM Barnes and Sandra Ramaker on their speaking points.

Sandra Ramaker asked for public comment. **Jeanne Orcutt** commented that our attorney should educate Gresham on the difference between a privilege tax and a franchise fee. She added that the next time Gresham asks for something, the District shouldn't so readily provide it.

WELL PROJECT UPDATE

DM Barnes reported that the well project is going very well. It's looking like we could see two to three million gallons per day from the well. The pump test hasn't been completed yet, but early indications for productivity are looking good based on the drawdown. He noted that it could be difficult getting all the water out of the ground with that casing; we may want to look at developing another well in the area utilizing the same aquifer. He noted that there is still a lot of development ahead.

Larry Dixon asked if the tank in back is big enough to do the blend without any problems. **DM Barnes** replied yes and explained the process.

Sandra Ramaker asked for public comment.

Jeanne Orcutt stated she would have liked to see this project undertaken sooner. She asked if there is any possibility that water could be drawn from the Columbia River. **DM Barnes** replied that he can't guarantee that the Columbia River won't influence it, but the hydrologists believe that with the depth of the aquifer and the water moving from the southeast, there is no connection.

CLEVELAND RESERVOIR DEMOLITION UPDATE

DM Barnes reported that the elevated tank no longer exists. The District is currently going through the permitting process with the City of Gresham for roofing the structure that remains.

Sandra Ramaker asked for public comment. No comments were made.

Larry Dixon asked about the pump at the base of the structure. **DM Barnes** explained that we are saving the bottom twenty feet of the reservoir and will put a roof over it. The pump station will be rebuilt sometime in the future.

Herb Brown expressed agreement with Ms. Orcutt's earlier comments about starting the well project sooner.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

DM Barnes reported that AS Shaw has been very active on the Youth Education Subcommittee of the Regional Water Providers Consortium Conservation Committee. He announced that two of the Youth Education Subcommittee's projects will be receiving awards at the AWWA Pacific NW Conference in Boise and added that Sandra Ramaker will be accepting the awards on behalf of the Consortium.

DS Baker referred to the goals for the District and stated that due to DM Barnes' management and the Board's direction a lot of progress has been made.

Herb Brown replied that it's good to hear that from the Superintendent and agreed with his comments on management. He outlined items discussed at the Water Resources Committee meeting he attended including a possible bill or rule allowing water rights trading on the market.

Brown also reported on discussions at the Centennial Community Meeting and PVRWD meeting. He commented on the possibility of a treatment plant on Lusted Hill and the treatment options being considered.

AS Shaw indicated that she has not received biographies from all Board members and added that she would like to start updating the Board web page soon. She announced that the National Drinking Water Week student event is scheduled for May 8th here at the District office; five classes have signed up so far. She invited Board members to attend.

Sandra Ramaker announced that this Thursday is the subsection meeting at Powell Valley Road Water District (PVRWD) and includes tapping team competition. **DM Barnes** displayed the tapping team t-shirts provided by PVRWD. **Ramaker** added that she hopes that District employees will become more active in tapping. She noted that tomorrow we will be recognizing an employee for 25 years of service. Another two employees are also coming up on 25 years with the District.

ADJOURNMENT

Herb Brown moved that the meeting be adjourned. Larry Dixon seconded the motion. The motion was approved; none opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Secretary