

ROCKWOOD WATER P.U.D.
MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD
August 24, 2005
Rockwood Water Boardroom

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

Staff present: Harvey Barnes, District Manager (DM); Michael Baker, District Superintendent (DS); Sabrina Walyer, Administrative Secretary (AS)

Guests present: Fran Hyson, Pat Brown

President **Sandra Ramaker** called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Don McCarthy mentioned that Stephen McElroy's last name had been incorrectly spelled as McCarthy. **AS Walyer** noted the correction. **Fran Hyson** remarked that on page 3, she was misquoted, and she had not said that employee attendance at meetings would intimidate the public, but rather that the *employees* might feel intimidated to voice their opinions for fear of retaliation. **Hyson** also asked **DM Barnes** about the specific date that the water rights were signed back to CRW. **DM Barnes** responded that the date is in the information that he mailed to her (Hyson) regarding the contract details, and the date corresponded with CRW's July 14th board meeting at which time the contract was approved.

Herb Brown moved to approve the July 27th minutes as amended. Don McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion was approved; none opposed.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

Fran Hyson referred to a bill for Legal Services and inquired as to what that expense was for. **DM Barnes** replied that we had consulted with Cable, Huston, Benedict, et al, on general legal issues. **Hyson** also asked about the cost of Herb Brown's attendance at the July 14th CRW meeting. **DM Barnes** assured Hyson that it was approved by the board that Brown be a liaison for the CRW negotiation.

Herb Brown asked about the bill for PERS and whether the amount reflects the recent rate increase. **DM Barnes** confirmed that yes, it does include the rate increase. **Larry Dixon** inquired about the high cost of the hats and shirts for the field crew. **Dixon** also referred to the expense for parts for RW5. **DM Barnes** explained that the amount is for the RW5 driver tires, and that there is also a bill for 8 tires purchased for RW6.

President Ramaker asked about the bill for maintenance for the manager's office. **DM Barnes** replied that there had been a leak from the sprinkler system that needed repair.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Fran Hyson clarified that at the July 27th board meeting she understood that the board had approved two separate studies: a wage study and a salary study. **Hyson** concluded that both studies will come up with the same result, so there is no need to spend money on both studies. Regarding the AWWA Conference, **Hyson** said in previous years only a couple of members would attend the conference, whereas now all members of the board attend, and as a result there is a greater expense to the district.

Hyson then asked if the issue over a board member's conflict of interest had arisen during discussions about proceeding with a salary study. **DM Barnes** answered that neither he nor the board had found any reason to believe that approving or disapproving of a study would result in such a conflict.

Further questioning RWPUD's purchase of CRW capacity, **Hyson** inquired why the contract was approved if we would not need it for at least another 25 years. **DM Barnes** reiterated that at the time of the purchase, the district did not foresee that the wells would produce as much water as they have, and so he considered alternative sources. **Hyson** remarked that she, Jeanne [Orcutt], and other district patrons were alienated and shafted in the decision to purchase the CRW capacity in 2000. **Hyson** explained that the people have the right to approve or disapprove of their water being blended. In the future, **Hyson** stated that she may move forward with a petition which would give the district patrons the right to vote on such decisions. **President Ramaker** added that there was only one of the present board members in office at the time of that vote.

DISTRICT HISTORY PROJECT

DM Barnes said that several files and historic information had been found here at the office. **Barnes** mentioned that Larry Dixon had a great idea regarding how to go about the project. **Dixon** explained that he thought that printing historical information in the district newsletter would be more effective than printing a book. **Dixon** commented that it would be less expensive, and it would be a continuous feature of the newsletter, rather than a book that might only be looked at once. **Herb Brown** and **President Ramaker** agreed that it would be a good idea.

Fran Hyson asked what from date the newsletter would begin. **DS Baker** said that he had found a lot of information from the 1940's and 1950's. **Herb Brown** added that the district started in 1925. **President Ramaker** stated that the board seemed to agree with the plan of doing the newsletter, and asked if a motion was needed. **DM Barnes** replied no, it is a general consensus that more information should be gathered.

PROJECT UPDATE

DS Baker remarked that everything is running on schedule with the 192nd job, and that they might run a few days into September upon completion. **DM Barnes** mentioned that the 30 inch transmission main to Belle Vista is about to get started. **Barnes** also explained that all of the bids were rejected for the rebuilding of the pump house; he added that he is considering a CMGC (Construction Manager General Contractor) approach, meaning RWPUD would buy the parts and hire a general contractor to build it.

Regarding detected leaks, **DM Barnes** said that before repairs we had 18% lost water, and over the last two months since the repairs lost water was reduced to 5.28 %.

DS Baker added that after our engineer is on-staff, we will begin working on the rest of 197th. **DM Barnes** also explained that the reason we are bidding it out is because it is a nasty job, and very time consuming.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

DM Barnes said that he believes we have found funding for the restoration of our wetland property across 185th and north of the Columbia slough. According to **DM Barnes**, there is a mitigation project in the works and a committee interested in developing the land that borders ours; it appears they are willing to pay for RWPUD's property to be restored as well.

DM Barnes remarked that we are still looking for a new meter reader, and that we are expecting a new receptionist to start at the end of the month.

Larry Dixon asked if we should consider putting a new tank on the property. **DM Barnes** replied no, that we don't need any more storage at this point. **Barnes** continued by saying that the pump station renovations will allow a flow of 9000 gallons a minute, and the current static levels are such that there is no degradation in supply.

Stephen McElroy asked how the well project is going in the city of Gresham behind the fire station. **DM Barnes** replied that they have not yet started on the well, but are working on getting the transmission pipeline built.

President Ramaker thanked Stephen McElroy for his letter which he presented to the district. **Ramaker** continued by mentioning the August 10th Regional Consortium meeting, and asked DM Barnes how the conservative usage of water will effect our revenue. **Barnes** answered that we will be fine long-term, but we are not seeing the peak that we saw last year. **President Ramaker** also commended Chris Shaw's two-year service to the RWPC Committee, and noted her accomplishments as chairperson.

ADJOURNMENT

Herb Brown moved to adjourn the meeting. **Larry Dixon** seconded the motion. **The motion was approved; none opposed.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Secretary