

**ROCKWOOD WATER P.U.D.**  
**MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD**  
**OCTOBER 24, 2007**  
**Rockwood Water Boardroom**

---

---

**Board members present:** Sandra Ramaker, Herb Brown, Larry Dixon, Don McCarthy

**Staff present:** Harvey Barnes, District Manager (DM); Mike Baker, District Superintendent (DS); Kerry Aden, Administrative Secretary (AS)

**Guests present:** Fran Hyson, Andy Crocker, Jay Breen, Barbara Woodside, Tim Hudson

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

**Stephen McElroy** requested **President Ramaker** read the following statement into the minutes:

To the President, fellow Board members, Mr. Barnes, and the patrons of  
Rockwood Water PUD

Greetings:

I would like to start this letter by apologizing for not attending this meeting and reading it in person. I am in Eastern Oregon elk hunting and unable to attend.

For the past six years and ten months I have had the honor and pleasure of serving on this board of directors.

During my time on the board, I have tried my best to make sure that the views of the patrons of Rockwood Water P.U.D were represented and heard. I have had the privilege of meeting and getting to know some of the finest folks in this community.

I will never forget what I have learned from what I refer to as the "founding fathers" of this P.U.D.

Herb and Pat Brown, Fran Hyson, and Jean Orcutt are a well of knowledge that I have taught me a lot. Although General Manager Harvey Barnes and I haven't always seen eye to eye, I feel that he is a good ole boy and has provided a lot of help with understanding the operations of this P.U.D., water production, and the budgeting process. The employees at Rockwood, are top of the line! I want to thank them for all of their hard work.

Because of circumstances in my private life, I am relocating to another part of the state. The Policy Manual, and the state laws are clear. A person has to be a resident of the P.U.D., and must have lived in the district for two years to serve on this board. I am spending more time in my new home of Pendleton than I am here. Therefor I no longer consider myself a resident of this district. Having said that, I am resigning from my position of Director representing sub district 3, effective the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2007.

I will be leaving with a lot of fond memories of the people and experiences that I have had while serving on this board.

Thank you for the opportunity that you have given to me.

Sincerely  
Stephen D. McElroy

#### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**President Ramaker** asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda.

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

#### **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

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

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Don McCarthy** moved to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2007 regular meeting. **Herb Brown** seconded the motion. **The motion was approved; none opposed.**

#### **APPROVAL OF THE BILLS**

**Don McCarthy** inquired about Page 8, Line 9 Reimburse for Dirty Water. **DM Barnes** explained there was a main line break. **Don McCarthy** asked if the District was doing a lot of flushing. **DS Baker** replied, yes. **DM Barnes** stated the turbidity is high coming off the Bull Run system; we've been running 50/50 with groundwater for the last three weeks to cut turbidity.

**Larry Dixon** asked about Page 7, Line 2, Radio Repairs. **DM Barnes** replied it was for our base radio repair. **Larry Dixon** inquired about Page 7, Lines 43 through 46 camera-related items. **DM Barnes** explained those were for a new digital camera and accessories. **Mr. Dixon** asked about Page 10, Line 4, Pocket Colormeter. **DS Baker** answered it is for measuring chlorine residuals, the other one failed.

**Sandra Ramaker** inquired about Page 8, Line 28, JD2 Forklift Repair. **DS Baker** replied it's for reinforcement of the bucket on the John Deer and skid plates, reinforcement, and an edge for the new forklift.

**Don McCarthy** moved to approve the bills. **Larry Dixon** seconded the motion. **The motion was approved; none opposed, Herb Brown** voted yes with the comment the bills include wage increases in which he voted against because he thought they should be increased over time, and the benefits should also have been examined.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**Fran Hyson** stated the wage increase issue should have been tabled and mentioned other items the Board passed this year she felt the Board should not have passed.

**Jay Breen** commented he is an employee of the District and also lives in the District. He agrees with the Board's decision to bring the employee's wages up to meet the present economy climate.

**Herb Brown** commented when he considered his vote against the wage increase, he took into account between 18% and 20% of the District's rate payers are on Social Security and are at or below the poverty level.

### **141st STREET RESERVOIR AND PUMP STATION - CM/CG PROJECT**

**DM Barnes** stated the District would like to build a new pump station at the 141st Street reservoir in the Glendoveer pump zone. It is 40 years old and undersized for the growth in that area, and the reservoir needs to be seismically upgraded. **Mr. Barnes** stated he would like to handle the project as a construction manager/general contractor (CM/CG) project.

**Herb Brown made a motion to do a CM/CG project for 141st Street reservoir and pump station. Don McCarthy seconded the motion. The motion was approved; none opposed.**

### **BOARD MEMBER RESIGNATION**

**DM Barnes** explained the process to fill Stephen McElroy's term on the Board of Directors ending December 31, 2008. The position will be advertised and is planned for the January or February agenda.

### **PROJECT UPDATE**

**DM Barnes** stated we did well during peak season. We are updating the telemetry system and looking at some security issues. Things are good.

**Larry Dixon** requested an update on Grant Butte. **DM Barnes** stated we are looking at plans from the engineer. We will advertise for bids next month. We hope to award the bid shortly after the first of the year. In the spring we will demolish the reservoir. Discussion ensued.

**DS Baker** stated we are working on the 148th and Division master meter booster pump. **Don McCarthy** asked if the master meter would be moved by the church or were they putting a bigger vault in. **DS Baker** replied the 10" double check will be pulled out, and a pump and check valve will be put in to satisfy Portland's backflow requirements without changing the vault.

### **FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**DM Barnes** stated we are very productive and very efficient at what we do, and things are going well for us.

**Sandra Ramaker** recognized two people who came in late and asked if they wanted to address the Board.

**Barbara Woodside** stated she read the *Gresham Outlook* article about the pay raises and had some questions. She asked how Rockwood Water compared to the City of Portland. **DM Barnes** responded size-wise we don't, but the PUD law says we have to compare ourselves to the largest city in the District, for pay and benefits, which is Portland. **Ms. Woodside** asked if **DM Barnes** thought the wage increase was deserved. **DM Barnes** replied, yes. We were not complying with Chapter 261.345 of the Oregon Statutes stating we have to pay comparable with

the City of Portland. **DM Barnes** explained we had a third-party company do a wage study comparison, and they provided the recommendations. **Ms. Woodside** asked what the overall impact would be on water rates. **DM Barnes** stated unless he sees something really, really bad happen between now and July, there will not be a rate adjustment in July. Rates have not been raised since July 2003. **Ms. Woodside** asked why the Board decided to do the study at this time. **DM Barnes** replied our union contract expires in June, so the timing was good. **Ms. Woodside** asked what governs a PUD. **DM Barnes** stated we are a specific entity under Chapter 261 of the Oregon Statutes. **Ms. Woodside** asked who wrote that law. **DM Barnes** replied the Oregon State Legislature. **Herb Brown** stated the law was created in 1931. Discussion ensued about the wording of ORS 261.345. **Ms. Woodside** stated she has always been happy with Rockwood Water PUD and seriously has problems with the City of Portland and would hate to see Rockwood going down the same road as far as fees go. **Sandra Ramaker** stated the wage study was for all employees, not just union and management. The study was also asked for by **Don McCarthy** two years ago after the last union contract was negotiated. The Board asked **DM Barnes** to do the study. **Don McCarthy** stated he asked for the study because while he was employed with Powell Valley Water District, they did the same kind of study comparing their wages to Portland's, and he knew Rockwood's employees were not being paid the same as Powell Valley's or the City of Portland's employees.

**Tim Hudson** stated less than a couple of weeks ago, he went to change his aquarium water and noticed the water coming out of the tap was muddy. He had the water in a clean white bucket and brought it to the District office to complain. He spoke to an employee who assured him it was the turbidity from Bull Run causing the mud. **Mr. Hudson** mentioned the *Water Quality Report* and talked about Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTUs) and federal standards. He asked why after several days the turbidity in the water in the bucket didn't settle to the bottom and if you could see five NTUs of turbidity. **DM Barnes** explained there were several issues surrounding his water discoloration. There was a main break in the proximity of his neighborhood the night before. Also, the City of Portland started doing meter tests at 182nd Street and Division that morning affecting the water in his neighborhood. In addition, the fall color from the Bull Run reservoir would discolor the water, and in that case, the water would not clear up. **Mr. Barnes** stated we still have turbidity issues, but we are blending the Bull Run water with groundwater. **Tim Hudson** asked if the water was tested close to the source or close to the delivery point. **DM Barnes** answered it is tested at the head works at Bull Run. **Mr. Hudson** asked if there were screens on the conduit to filter out debris. **DM Barnes** replied, yes, but leaves and small pieces of wood still go through. **Mr. Hudson** asked what would be the size of the mesh on the screens. **DS Baker** replied it would take out the large particulates such as pine needles. **Tim Hudson** asked if it would be less than 1/8 of an inch. **DS Baker** answered, probably. Discussion took place regarding filtration methods. **Tim Hudson** stated when he received his bill, the billing cycle was 50 days instead of a 60-day cycle. **DM Barnes** explained it varies from period to period because the Meter Readers at any given zone read between 1,000 to 1,500 meters, so the cycle will vary depending on the amount of reads. **Mr. Hudson** stated he was satisfied with the answers he received this evening. **Larry Dixon** asked if we had a main break at 162nd about the same time as the one in **Mr. Hudson's** neighborhood. **DM Barnes** said yes, there were two or three of them all together.

**Sandra Ramaker** thanked **AS Aden** for the new policy manuals. **Ms. Ramaker** stated she believed the Board as a whole asked for the wage study and there was nothing they could do to

change it. Nobody asked to have more time for it. It was an honest and fair study. She voted on it as a whole package for everybody and still thinks it was the right thing to do.

**President Ramaker** reminded everyone the next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 28, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

---

Secretary