

GREATER RAMSEY WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
May 5, 2022

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Jay Klemetsrud, Paul Becker, Gilbert Black, David Hovendick,
Allen Johnson

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Les Windjue

OTHERS PRESENT: Nels Halgren, Sally Herda, Lonnie Lacina – GRWD; Doug Mohr

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by President Hovendick at the District office.

Minutes from the April 7, 2022 regular meeting were reviewed. Motion by Becker, seconded by Johnson to approve the minutes. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Manager report

- **Board member reinstatement** – No applications were filed to fill out the unexpired term (2023) of the vacant seat in Ward 2. Doug Mohr was present at the meeting and stated he was willing to fill out the remainder of the term. Motion by Black, seconded by Klemetsrud to reinstate Doug Mohr to the board of directors. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. Mohr was resealed on the board at this time. There was general discussion on how to encourage members to serve on the board.
- **Project development, SWC water plan applications** – Prior to the water treatment plant filter evaluation, the project application to the State Water Commission listed estimated cost of \$4.7 million. Upon completion of the filter evaluation, the application was updated to include WTP and wellfield capacity improvements and optimization via addition of a new 1,000 gpm well, and improvements to existing chemical feed and filter treatment procedures. The additional components from the WTP increased costs by \$1.1 million. A map of the proposed improvements in the Ramsey north area were reviewed and discussed. The application also includes storage and capacity upgrades to the Crary booster station to allow GRWD to meet peak day demands as well as redundancy to meet needs of both the north and south portions of the system. The application deadline was April 21 for project to be listed for the June 7 SWC meeting. The application was submitted with statement that GRWD had previously de-obligated funds and design engineering costs were less than the amount the District had previously turned back to the State. Devils Lake submitted an application for a booster station in the 23-25 biennium.
- **City of Pekin – water system transfer discussion** – Pekin has approached the District inquiring if GRWD would take over their distribution system and provide individual metered service to the town. GRWD has not completed a full evaluation of their system, but has looked at their point of delivery and how to utilize some of their system. Pekin has a pump house, clear well and pressure tank. The meters are self-read and would need to be converted to a radio-based system. Pekin is eligible for CDBG funding and may also be able to obtain American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that could be used to update their metering. Overall, Pekin doesn't seem to have too many issues with their infrastructure. Motion by Becker, seconded by Johnson to send a written proposal to Pekin to accept their water distribution system with Pekin's users to become standard users of the District and with Pekin's system to meet District's specifications. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.
- **Treatment plant evaluation update** – Halgren reported on the treatment plant evaluation that was done April 12. The backwash operation was observed and a number of samples taken throughout the process. A double backwash was subsequently

completed as recommended and not much change was evident from the samples taken at the end of each. The evaluation indicated that the permanganate was likely being overfed and the operators are working to reduce this some, currently down approximately 12%. The plan for operation of the plant prior to the summer peak demand includes going longer between backwashing cycles, continue to double backwash to further clean the filters, then push the plant to 1200 gpm prior to increased peak demand.

- **Bulk contract discussion – Glenfield and Kensal** – Both contracts are nearing the end of their initial term and the directors discussed renewal terms. Glenfield had initially opted to pay their costs up front and have not been had a monthly base rate during the contract term. Usage from demand to a daily total was discussed, along with new contract term. Motion by Mohr, seconded by Klemetsrud to set Glenfield’s monthly base rate to \$350, water use at \$5/1000 gallons with any rate adjustments to be made in a manner consistent with other users and the COSA basis, and to renew the contract for a 5-year term. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Kensal’s contract renewal was also discussed. Kensal’s current base rate is \$800 and the COSA recommendations for rate renewal were reviewed. Motion by Becker, seconded by Mohr to set the monthly base rate at \$1,000, water use at \$5/1000 gallons, with rate adjustments to be made in a manner consistent with other users and the COSA basis, and to renew the contract for a 5-year term. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

- **Stutsman rural water hookup discussion – NE¼ 3-144-67** – Halgren reviewed this connection made by Stutsman Rural Water to GRWD line. The initial intention was to get water to the user as quickly as possible due to well issues, then for Stutsman to run a line to serve this user. SRWD never ran this line, but charges this user the monthly bill. GRWD does not receive a base rate for this connection and only receives payment for the usage annually. Usage at this connection is minimal. There is no formal agreement for serving this location. In late winter, GRWD was tracking water loss in the Carrington system and had contacted SRWD to check out this location and obtain a meter reading - no response was received. GRWD at one time had made the request to SRWD to pay off the nongrant portion for this connection and provide service as a standard user. Request was denied by SRWD. Discussion was held on other services served by GRWD and SRWD on both sides of Highway 200 (District line). No action was taken.
- **Ramsey County ARPA** – Ramsey County has received \$2.2 million ARPA funds and is accepting funding requests from government entities, non-profits, and charitable organizations. Priority will be given to those projects having matching funding as well as those that will have a positive impact on the most people in the Lake Region for the longest duration of time. The directors indicated the District should apply for funding and Halgren will come up with a list of projects and costs for the next meeting.

Office manager report

- **Accounts Payable** – Motion by Klemetsrud, seconded by Mohr to authorize payment of the April bills. **All directors voted aye and motion carried.**

	<u>WATER</u>	<u>SEWER</u>
TOTALS	96,281.21	14,196.32

- **Financial report-** Financial report for April was reviewed. Motion by Mohr, seconded by Johnson to approve the financial report. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.
- **Membership transfer**

- Ackerman Land Co (commercial acres – last transfer) to Dustin Samuelson – Ackerman Commercial Acres, Blk 4, Lot 2
 - Dakota Shores (last transfer) to Russ Moen – Dakota Shores, Blk 3, Lot 1
- Motion to approve membership transfers made by Black, seconded by Klemetsrud.
Motion carried unanimously.

- **Membership terminations for nonpayment**

- Daniel Walton – 144 Chadwick Ave, McHenry
- Orville Holland – 445 81st Ave NE, Grace City
- Wally Johnson – 8330 Highway 2, Devils Lake

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Becker to terminate memberships due to nonpayment. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

- **Other business**

W & W Holdings – Halgren stated he had met with a pump person on a force main system for Emerald Ridge, but the pumps would not meet the specifications required to utilize GRWD’s system. Costs for the sewer plan that was drawn up this past winter have substantially increased.

Next meeting will be held June 9, 2022.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by motion at 10:23 a.m.

Minutes Approved: _____ June 9, 2022 _____

David Hovendick, President _____ (signed) _____

Sally Herda, Office Manager _____ (signed) _____