

GREATER RAMSEY WATER DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING

February 6, 2025

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Paul Becker, Kale Miller, Allen Johnson, Doug Mohr, Gilbert Black, David Hovendick, Missy Abrahamson

OTHERS PRESENT: Lonnie Lacina, Sally Herda, Krista Wold - GRWD; Brian Aafedt – AE₂S

The meeting was called to order at 7:59 a.m. by President Johnson at the District office.

Minutes from the January 9, 2025 regular meeting were reviewed, along with the minutes from the February 4, 2025 reorganizational meeting. Motion by Black, seconded by Miller to approve the minutes from both meetings. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Manager report

- **North system capacity improvement project**

- **AE₂S project update** – Retainage of \$30,000 for the pipeline work continues to be held until Spring and following the well going on-line.

Facility – Shut down of the treatment plant is going well with significant progress being made. Aafedt estimates the contractor is about a week ahead of schedule. It is anticipated that a partial startup will happen this week with the following week set for full startup and commencing operation of the updated facility. The Saunders booster and remote sites will be completed following the plant startup. LTP has finished installation of the new well. April 1, 2025 is completion date of the project and there are no concerns with the contractors not being able to finish by the completion date. A water salesman is being installed at the Saunders booster as a fill station for spray tanks. The salesman can output 600 gpm and is designed so water availability at this site will not adversely affect demand in other areas of the system.

Contingency summary and project budget were reviewed.

- **User expansion project**

- **AE₂S project update** – Bid opening was held January 30 and bid results were reviewed. Karas Construction was low bid. Cleanup has been an issue in the past with Karas, but Aafedt stated AE₂S has a good working relationship with them. Rules and construction requirements were written into the specifications to get ahead of issues experienced from the last project. Bids came in favorably and AE₂S recommends approval of Base Bids 1-3 (User expansion, Highway 19 expansion, Webster connection), Alternate 2 (Webster expansion) and Alternate 3A (South System expansion) for a total bid of \$7,114,306. Due to the advantageous pricing, discussion was held on upsizing the 8” main from the south booster to the south tower thereby alleviating a pinch point in the south system. Lacina recommends approval of a change order to upsize the 8” line to a 12” line between the south booster and the south tower. Motion by Miller, seconded by Abrahamson to award the construction bid to Karas Construction in the amount of \$7,114,306 as recommended contingent upon SWC grant funding. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. Motion by Becker, seconded by Miller to approve Change Order 1, in the amount of \$617,600 to upsize line from 8-in to 12-in in the south system, contingent upon SWC funding. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. Construction funding will be submitted for approval at the February 13 meeting of the State Water Commission. Aafedt stated

there were no concerns expressed at the pre-commission meeting, with construction bid numbers favorable to the estimated numbers previously submitted.

Bid summary and payback estimates were reviewed and discussed. Base rates in general were discussed, along with project payback. Total costs and grant funding were reviewed and consensus of the directors was to move forward to self-fund the expansion project.

AE₂S presented Amendment #1 to Task Order #6 for additional design work along with construction services for the project. Amount of the amendment is \$723,000 with services based on hourly rates. Motion by Black, seconded by Hovendick to approve Amendment #1 to Task Order #6. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. Construction is anticipated to begin mid-June.

February invoices – Motion by Black, seconded by Abrahamson to approve project invoices: AE₂S (\$95,446.37, \$25,718.75), American General #9 (\$249,869.19) and LTP #2 (\$35,044.45) for a total of \$406,078.76. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Master services agreement – Aafedt stated the current agreement expires February 10 and requested the board extend the agreement another 3 years. Motion by Mohr, seconded by Becker to extend the engineering agreement for 3 years. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. Aafedt will bring the agreement to the March meeting.

- **Senate bill** – Lacina discussed two bills currently under consideration by the legislature dealing with territorial lines, and change to the voting process where GRWD's bylaws would be superseded by Century Code.
- **Bill reduction requests** - Two bill reduction requests were presented for consideration. Both locations experienced a water break past the meter resulting in abnormally large water bills. GRWD continues to look for leaks in the system – 6 leaks have been found, three of which were prior to the meter. Several areas have been pressure tested and staff will continue to pressure test lines. Motion by Mohr, seconded by Miller to reduce the Sunwest Retirement Village current usage charge to \$3,000. **Motion carried unanimously**. Motion by Miller, seconded by Mohr to leave the billed usage as is for the Miller Brothers location in Carrington. **Motion carried**.

Office manager report

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

	<u>WATER</u>	<u>SEWER</u>
TOTALS	489,687.91	512,560.97

- **Financial report – December 2024, January 2025** - Final December financial report was reviewed, reflecting amendments approved at the January meeting. January financial report was also reviewed. Motion by Abrahamson, seconded by Miller to approve both financial reports. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. Project reports for the current improvement projects were reviewed.
- **Designation of depositories/authorized check signers** – Motion by Hovendick, seconded by Abrahamson to renew the current depositories and authorized check signers. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

- **2024 Audit** – Audit is in progress at this time.

Membership termination

- John Kaeding – Penn, 314 2nd St - nonpayment

Motion by Hovendick, seconded by Mohr to terminate membership for nonpayment. All directors voted aye and **motion carried.**

Next regular board meeting will be held March 6, 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by motion at 10:03 am.

Minutes Approved: _____ March 6, 2025

Allen Johnson, President _____ (signed)

Sally Herda, Office Manager _____ (signed)