

GREATER RAMSEY WATER DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING

March 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 8:02 a.m. by President Johnson at the District office.

Minutes from the February 6, 2025 regular meeting were reviewed. Motion by Black, seconded by Mohr to approve the minutes. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Manager report

- **Pickup build** – Build date for the pickup is March 24. A truck may be available on the lot in a week and Lacina may look at it.
- **Excavator** – The excavator should be in the end of March under the trade-in program the District has been utilizing.
- **North system capacity improvement project**
 - **AE₂S project update** – Well #4 is online, completing the pipeline portion of the project. Change order #3 for Swanberg Construction was presented for approval as final true-up of construction costs of the project. The change order reduces the contract to Swanberg by \$265,714.64 for a total contract price of \$3,556,017.36. Final pay application and final completion acceptance were also presented for approval. Motion by Hovendick, seconded by Becker to approve Change order #3 and to authorize the President to sign the final inspection and acceptance for Swanberg Construction, Inc. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. Swanberg's final pay estimate releases retainage, with contract paid in full.

Facility – The water treatment plant went online February 11 and has been operating since that time. The plant updates have been completed, the instrumentation and controls (SCADA) have been implemented at the treatment plant with the North tower, Carrington, Glenfield and sewer system to be switched over. Internal work at the Saunders Booster is installed for the most part and should be close to startup in the next month. A tour of the updated facilities may be organized for the directors to have an on-hand view of the work completed. Aafedt estimated the Saunders booster is approximately 80% complete with contractor's completion estimated around May 1. Delays experienced were out of the contractor's control.

The new well is yielding approximately 900 gpm and water quality is better than well #1. The updated plant has the ability to separate the filters, providing more flexibility, particularly during times of high demand. The updated chemical feed system will automatically adjust as needed.

A meter and data log radio will be installed at the water hydrant at Saunders for bulk water purchase. Cameras will be installed at the location, a 3-in meter with backflow protection will measure the usage with the data log to assist in calculating water sales.

There have been some small additions made to the facility change order which will be rolled into a formal change order in the near future.

Project budget was reviewed.

- **User expansion project**

- **AE₂S project update** – Funding for the expansion was secured through the State Water Commission and includes the upsized line approved with Change Order #1. Motion to proceed was made by Abrahamson, seconded by Black. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. Motion by Mohr, seconded by Abrahamson to approve Amendment II to the Agreement for Cost-Share Reimbursement from the State Water Commission for project grant funding. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Construction is on track for summer start. The plan as of this date is to start with the larger pipe near the airport and Webster areas. Karas plans to have subcontractors on the project for some of the connections. GRWD has requested a listing of the subcontractors. Easements on the project are approximately 80% complete. Base rate for the new users was discussed, as well as the recent COSA presentation. Motion by Mohr, seconded by Miller to set the monthly base rate to \$60 for users connected through the expansion project. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

The waitlisted applicants were reviewed. One is not feasible as it is located at the end of a small line and in a low-pressure area. Aafedt estimates the construction cost of the remaining waitlisted requests to be approximately \$20,000 per user and could be used within the contingencies of the project. AE₂S will contact Karas on these connections.

Following bid and state funding, a project budget has been developed and was reviewed.

March invoices – Motion by Becker, seconded by Hovendick to approve project invoices: AE₂S (\$92,120.50, 66,567.41), Swanberg #9 (\$34,61.36), American General #10 (\$159,018.88) and John's Refrigeration #10 (\$221,754.46) for a total of \$574,072.61. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Master services agreement – Aafedt presented the agreement for GRWD's signature that was approved at the February meeting.

USFCR/SAM funding – There was discussion on a long-term regionalization effort to consider and study future supply, storage capacity and needs to sustain the area's water requirements. The aquifer has dropped 20 feet over the last 50 years and the area where GRWD and Devils Lake have their permits is fully allocated. GRWD, the City of Devils Lake and NRWD are looking to explore funding options for strategic planning to attain long-term viability. NRWD struggled with water needs when the City of Devils Lake's water supply was recently down due to a major water break. An untapped aquifer west of Devils Lake could possibly be developed as a secondary supply. Water quality is not as good but it is abundant. There may be SAM funding available for this purpose. The board indicated moving forward to explore funding options.

Office manager report

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

TOTALS

WATER
667,096.98

SEWER
11,717.74

- **Financial report** – February financial report was reviewed. Motion by Abrahamson, seconded by Miller to approve the financial report. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. Project reports for the current improvement projects were reviewed.
- **Pledging** – Pledging report through December 31, 2024 was reviewed. Motion by Becker, seconded by Hovendick to approve the report. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Next regular board meeting will be held April 3, 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by motion at 9:29 am.

Minutes Approved: _____ April 3, 2025 _____

Allen Johnson, President _____ (signed) _____

Sally Herda, Office Manager _____ (signed) _____