

GREATER RAMSEY WATER DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING

November 9, 2023

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Paul Becker, David Hovendick, Gilbert Black, Les Windjue, Missy Abrahamson, Doug Mohr

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Allen Johnson

OTHERS PRESENT: Lonnie Lacina, Sally Herda - GRWD; Geoff Slick, Brian Aafedt – AE₂S; Jeremy Schuler – NRWD manager

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m. by President Black at the District office.

Minutes from the October 5, 2023 regular meeting were reviewed. Motion by Hovendick, seconded by Abrahamson to approve the minutes. All directors voted aye and **motion carried.**

Manager report

- **North system capacity improvement project**
 - **AE₂S project update** – The new 16” transmission line has passed pressure and bacterial testing and has been placed into service. A map of the project was reviewed with areas marked as completed and others stretches that are mostly done. Final cleanup will be completed in spring, along with the last tie-ins. New line south of Highway 2 will be completed in spring. With placement of the new line, some air has been noticed and is working its way through the system. Slick reported the wellfield work will get done this year. Additional areas of crop damage have been identified and are being processed. The GIS work by AE₂S is complete and will be fine tuned as issues come up. Invoices for October include AE₂S (\$21,667.51), Nodak for Saunders booster (\$95,000), Swanberg for construction (\$279,013.27), Ramsey County Recorder for easement recording (\$400), and crop damage #2 (\$6,612.43) for a total of \$401,693.21. Motion by Windjue, seconded by Hovendick to approve project costs for October. All directors voted aye and **motion carried.**
 - **Agreement for cost share reimbursement** – SWC funding was approved for facility construction and project awarded to John’s Refrigeration (\$1,756,374) and American General Contractors (4,120,000). Preconstruction meeting was held November 1. This meeting begins the process for work on the project. Drilling well 1.5 has started and Slick thinks the well casing may be in. Motion by Mohr, seconded by Becker to authorize the President to sign the State Water Commission additional cost share agreement for this phase of the project. All directors voted aye and **motion carried.**
 - **User expansion** – A total of 205 have indicated interest in the project. Results of the water sampling conducted earlier were reviewed with 12 of the 15 having contaminants that either exceed the arsenic and/or nitrate levels, or over the limit for lifetime health advisory for manganese – an emerging contaminant. These locations and all interested users’ locations were interpolated on the state’s ground water chemistry maps. The findings from the sampling correlate with the State mapping from their test wells and AE₂S estimates that 80% of these users would be over the manganese limit based on their location with the State’s mapping of their test wells. The high percentage of manganese levels may put the District in a good position to secure 90% grant funding. Estimated time frame for determining if this project should proceed is May or June, 2024. It was mentioned that the well testing results should be shared with the owners.

- **Jeremy Schuler, NRWD** – Schuler, manager of NRWD met with the board to continue discussion of a rate study he has been working on and the fairest way to allocate applicable costs to his users. The updated spread sheets were reviewed. The total cost of water to GRWD was unchanged with the updated information. There was discussion of water usage and demand in general. Cost of purchasing water was discussed with option of adding a “demand” charge during peak times when the demand for water exceeds allowed flow allocation. Another option of changing the connection point for delivery of water to the Webster booster station was discussed. Lacina will work with Schuler for calculation of water purchase.
- **Budget committee** – Budget committee to develop the 2024 budget will include Windjue, Abrahamson and Hovendick. Committee will meet Monday November 13 at 9 a.m.
- **LS Law Group** – Lacina reported that the District needs to go through the process to establish rules and regulations for operation of the rural sewer system.
- **Septic tank pumping** – There has been a push to get the septic tanks pumped this fall. Derek Elverud has started a tank pumping business, has submitted paperwork to the District and was given a list of tanks to get pumped. Elshaug has also been pumping tanks. Pumping concerns were brought to the attention of the board and Lacina will check into the matter.
- **Scoobys subdivision** – Some parcels adjacent to Scoobys subdivision have been listed for auction. Lacina, Becker, Mohr and Windjue met on site to view the parcels. There are some elevation concerns with this area. Lacina contacted the auctioneer to inform them of the elevation concerns, water availability and sewer options. The directors discussed cost of buying into the sewer system, the need for fencing at the lagoon and permanent piping to pump water into the lagoon in the fall.

Office manager report

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

	<u>WATER</u>	<u>SEWER</u>
TOTALS	963,171.41	11,747.08

- **Financial report-** October financial report was reviewed and fund balances discussed, along with projected needs of the project over the next six months. Motion by Windjue, seconded by Becker to authorize the president and office manager to invest \$1,000,000 for 6 months to 1 year. All directors voted aye and **motion carried.** Motion to approve the financial report was made by Mohr, seconded by Abrahamson. All directors voted aye and **motion carried.**
- **Boardroom furniture** – Chairs and two 4-foot tables were ordered. Once the tables have arrived, they will be moved around to determine the additional tables needed and configuration for meetings.
- **2024 calendar – annual meeting – December newsletter** - The calendar for 2024 was reviewed. Annual meeting date was set for Tuesday, February 6, 2024. Motion by Becker, seconded by Abrahamson to approve the 2024 calendar. All directors voted aye and **motion carried.** The December newsletter will be sent out in the ND Water magazine this year, instead of with the December bill statement. Deadline for newsletter to the magazine is November 15. Use of the ND Water magazine for the annual meeting notice will provide more time for interested director candidates to be nominated.

Membership termination

- Tanner Lura – 848 62nd St NE, Carrington – house moved off
- Barry Olander – 2508 Prairiewood Ln – nonpayment
Motion by Becker, seconded by Mohr to terminate the memberships. All directors voted aye and **motion carried.**

Next meeting date is scheduled for December 7. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by motion at 10:39 a.m.

Minutes Approved: _____ December 7, 2023 _____

Gilbert Black, President _____ (signed) _____

Sally Herda, Office Manager _____ (signed) _____