

# GREATER RAMSEY WATER DISTRICT

## REGULAR MEETING

September 4, 2025

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

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Missy Abrahamson, Kale Miller, Doug Mohr

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Lonnie Lacina, Sally Herda, Krista Wold - GRWD; Brian Aafedt, Ashley Goetzfried – AE<sub>2</sub>S

The meeting was called to order at 8 a.m. by Johnson at the District office.

Minutes from the August 7, 2025 regular meeting were reviewed. Motion by Becker, seconded by Hovendick to approve the minutes. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

### Manager report

- **Chris Dahlen tank replacement** – Dahlen is building a new house and needed septic tank moved and service reconnected. Lacina instructed them if the existing tank is in poor shape, the District would pay for the new tank. Following inspection, it was determined the tank needed to be replaced.
- **Jason Topp, T-T Ranch – reduction request** – A water leak past the meter in the pasture tap of Topp's service resulted in a current water bill of \$3,754.15 and also includes some usage in the next billing cycle. Topp has requested a bill reduction. Lacina checked previous usage on the service account and determined a \$900 credit would be appropriate to cover the gallons involved in the break. Motion by Becker, seconded by Black to authorize a \$900 credit on the account. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.
- **Stump Lake bore crossing** – Previous discussions identifying this location as critical infrastructure in bringing water to the north system were reviewed. An ARV located near the bore was recently dug out because it was leaking. Two of the ten bolts were missing and others disintegrating where they touched the soil. Subsequent pressure testing through the bore area has not shown pressure loss. The coupling in the ARV that failed is the same style that is under the lake. Over time, these couplings tend to fail and with no redundancy in the main line to the north system, this creates a vulnerability. The failed coupling was on-hand for the directors to view. The contractor for the expansion project is willing to install a new bore line of approximately 1300 feet to replace the original 275 foot bore that is completely under the lake which has encompassed a much larger area because of the rise of Devils Lake. The contractor has agreed to the line bore at a cost of \$175 per foot. Motion by Becker, seconded by Hovendick to continue work on the Stump Lake bore crossing and to add the bore in the expansion project utilizing contingency funding and funds saved from the airport line reroute. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.
- **North system capacity improvement project**
  - **AE<sub>2</sub>S project update** - Over the holiday weekend, a 6" bore under a highway failed. Breidenbach is in the process of running a new line as this was installed under the project and is under warranty.
  - Construction progress** – Final punch list items include seeding at the Saunders booster and delivery of O&M manuals. Painting at the treatment plant is in progress and should be completed in 2-3 weeks.

**Extra additions discussion** – Change order #5, \$12,578 to American General was presented for true up and mostly includes the addition of dehumidifiers for the WTP, along with miscellaneous small items. Motion by Hovendick, seconded by Black to

approve Change Order #5 in the amount of \$12,578 to American General Contractors. All directors voted and **motion carried.**

WTP generator expansion – Funding request to reallocate project funding to include a generator sufficient to meet needs in events of electrical outages or controlled service will need to wait until the January/February 2026 SWC meetings. Aafedt stated the request does not appear to be an issue, but will affect the timeline for inclusion in the project. In December, the change order will be finalized and funding request submitted. If approved at the January and February meetings of the SWC pre-commission and commission meetings, the generator would be installed in Fall, 2026.

Pay application #13 - \$126,836.06 from American General Contracting was presented for approval and includes completed tuck pointing work at the plant. (\$127,000 to completion, \$102,000 retainage). No pay application from John's Refrigeration for the month. (\$46,000 retainage)

Budget and contingency funding were reviewed and discussed. The well repair was completed and cost substantially less than initially thought. This cost was handled outside the project as an operational cost.

- **User expansion project**

- **AE2S project update** – Refund request for Dave Short was presented due to Mr. Short passing away, property sold and new owner has declined water service. Motion by Black, seconded by Hovendick to approve the refund of \$1,950 to Dave Short's estate. All directors voted aye and **motion carried.**

Cordell Schroeder line – This service was originally in the high-cost category with a cost-buydown of \$10,800 paid by Schroeder. An additional sign-up has been received on the line, bringing the cost per user within project criteria. Motion by Becker, seconded by Black to return \$10,800 to Cordell Schroeder due to an additional sign-up on the line. All directors voted aye and **motion carried.**

Reimbursement of \$19,892.16 is forthcoming from NRWD for the non-grant portion for 3 customers connected to their system under the project.

Goetzfried updated the directors on progress of the project. Work in the north system is nearly complete and work is in progress in the south system. Karas is mobilizing on the south system 12" line and is planning to get it online this year. To date 46 users have been turned over and more are currently in the bac-t testing phase. The Webster Booster is online and in production, making a difference in pressure for the outlying users. Pay application #4 in the amount of \$857,370.20 to Karas Construction was presented and recommended for approval.

Contingencies and project budget were reviewed.

Invoices – Motion by Hovendick, seconded by Black to approve project invoices: AE2S (\$31,051.21, \$80,954.22), American General #13 (\$126,836.06) and Karas Construction #3 (\$857,370.20) for a total of \$1,096,211.69. All directors voted aye and **motion carried.**

Other discussion – Securing a location at the junction of ND Highway 20/15 was discussed as an ideal location for future reservoir. It would be located at the end of the 12" bore. Several site options were reviewed and Lacina was given the go ahead

to contact the owner to pursue acquisition of the 2.5-acre option. Elevation and location would make the reservoir ideal for meeting growing and future water needs in the south area of the system.

Once complete, a tour of the water treatment plant and Saunders booster will be scheduled for the directors.

### **Office manager report**

- **Accounts Payable** – Motion by Black, seconded by Becker to authorize payment of the August bills. **All directors voted aye and motion carried.**

	<u>WATER</u>	<u>SEWER</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,210,229.04</b>	<b>16,532.95</b>

- **Financial report** – August financial report was reviewed. Motion by Becker, seconded by Hovendick to approve the financial report. All directors voted aye and **motion carried.** Project reports for the current improvement projects were reviewed, along with monthly cash requirements for the projects.
- **2024 audit** – 2024 audit draft was sent to the directors and reviewed briefly. Herda will continue to review prior to final audit report.

### **Other business**

- **Pekin – decommissioning** – The current clearwell and metering system in place for the town of Pekin was discussed. Following installation and placement into service of the 12” line in the south area under the expansion project, the pressure sustaining valve located in the south booster can be removed and placed in a meter pit that feeds the line going into Pekin. The meter for Pekin would also be moved to this location and the existing facility can be decommissioned.
- **Crary booster station** – With the Saunders booster station in full operation, Lacina inquired if there would be any need to keep the Crary booster operational. The booster has not been used since February. Aafedt stated there would be no real value in keeping the station operational. Lacina will work on options for sale of pumps.

Next regular board meeting will be held October 9, 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by motion at 9:58 am.

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ August 7, 2025

Allen Johnson, President \_\_\_\_\_ (signed)

Sally Herda, Office Manager \_\_\_\_\_ (signed)