

SIERRA COUNTY WATERWORKS (CALPINE) – DISTRICT #1

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, November 13, 2024

Directors in Attendance: Lindsey Hamilton, Craig Dodson, Bruce Troedson, Brett Hall

Public in Attendance: Marlene Boggs, Ben Edwards, Tim Butler, John Sommerhalder, Chandra Cope

Call to Order: 6:04pm

Special Meeting Minutes of October 21, 2024; Approved as written.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Review backflow requirements, 100 Mountain View Dr;** Marlene Boggs was present to question the need for the annual backflow inspection required by the District's Cross Connection Ordinance. The Ordinance was reviewed, citing specific passages. She presented documents in support of her objections and requested an exemption. It was noted that there are no exemptions in the District's Ordinance. Sierra County Code (CSA) Chapter 8.50; section 8.50.045 deals with possible exemption from requirements for backflow devices on parcels within CSA service District boundary. The code will be reviewed pending final judgement. The question was fielded whether the District could absorb those costs. Further consideration will be granted at her request.
- 2. Discuss request for additional service connection and requirements to parcel #012124025000 for irrigation purposes ; Ben Edwards, owner;** It was noted that parcels, in the past, have not had access to an extra service even when available. If the District were to approve the request, the owner would have to (a) pay for an extra service, monthly (b) pay for the connection (c) install a backflow device and pay for an annual inspection. District Ordinances will be reviewed. Owner did not seem inclined to pursue the issue further.
- 3. Rates;** John Sommerhalder and Chandra Cope were present to question the necessity of current rates. Information shared - (a) Water rate comparisons of other communities. (b) District rate schedules over the past 10 years. (c) Recent expenses which have increased dramatically. (d) Profit and Loss Statement 10-24. (e) The District considers it's financial standing at the end of each fiscal year to determine whether rates will need to be raised according to the schedule. (f) The public can protest future rate increases by gathering signatures.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. HANSFORD CONSULTING/FUNDING APPS PROGRESS & OTHER: Well and Treatment Grant - Terms of Agreement;** A bridge loan, likely RCAC, will need to be secured to cover construction costs, pending reimbursements, usually taking 45-60 days following submission. The State has a fiscal shut down period from April – July. The Agreement was signed by the State on 10-31. Reimbursements for soft costs should be submitted by March. A claim for expenses from June 2021 to the present will be submitted within the 90 day period from the date of signing. The loan application will address the full project amount. The District will only withdraw amounts as needed. RCAC will be contacted for loan fees, reimbursable under the terms of the Grant. Ryan will need to sign off on the loan term findings.

2. **ENGINEER'S REPORT:** The scope of work will be edited to exclude the cost of generators. The installation of transfer switches for future generators will be considered. An electrician will be consulted for estimated requirements. PSREC will be contacted regarding a new service connection for the new well. The updated Engineering Agreement will be submitted to the Board to review/approve at the regular meeting to be held on December 11th. There will be some leeway in the grant, depending on bid amounts received. The cap has been raised to an estimated \$6,000,000. The bid should go out in January/February for construction to begin in spring of 2025. Timing will make it impossible to adhere to the project schedule. Dean will work with Ryan to restructure the Agreement into phases, beginning with the new well construction. Following a consultation with Pat Baird, it was recommended that the District consider alternatives for a more robust SCADA system. XIO, in current use, has been experiencing problems and rates have increased. Dean believes there's justification to include costs in the Grant to replace currently used inputs, as they all have to work together to provide better supervisory control and data acquisition.

3. **WATER OPERATORS REPORT:**

- a. **Upcoming samples;** Routine distribution system Total Coliform, and post filter arsenic samples.
- b. **System Operation;** Operating as designed. The Lead inventory Project was completed before the EPA deadline.
- c. **Usage and Leak Reports;** Distributed. An abnormally high usage amount was noted at one address. The customer has been notified.
- d. **Production;** October 2024 – 832,939 (gal); 3-Year Average – 869,567 (gal); Difference – 4% decrease.

ADMINISTRATIVE/ MAINTENANCE - ACTION AND DISCUSSION:

- 1. **Watering Schedule;** The Board approved suspension of the watering Schedule for the season. The posted schedules will be removed.
- 2. **Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, October 29th meeting follow up;** Meeting was attended by Bruce Troedson and Janet Drummond. A brief overview of items discussed at the meeting were shared with the Board.

BUDGET/ FINANCIAL UPDATE: September; Beginning balance - \$299,655.58, Ending Balance – \$260,327.65.

Invoices approved:

Mountain Water Management and Services Inv #1148	\$1,906.25 a/c #7012
WetLab Inv #24100629	386.00 a/c #7012
Janet Drummond Secretary Duties 10/9/24 – 11/13/24	575.26 a/c #7012
Melody Strong Bookkeeping Inv #193	50.00 a/c #7012
Sierra County Tax Collector ASMT 930-000-014-000 2024	152.84 a/c # 7012

ADJOURNMENT: 8:08 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Drummond, Secretary

Janet Drummond

