

**GREATER RAMSEY WATER DISTRICT  
SPECIAL MEETING**

May 20, 2009

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Paul Becker, Doug Mohr, Jay Klemetsrud, Avis Lowe, Cindy Brown, Kerwin Borgen

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Les Windjue

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Nels Halgren, Sally Burkle – GRWD; Renee Chmiel – WDAZ TV, See attached listing for public informational meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm. by President Becker at the Greater Ramsey Water District office. The directors, Halgren & Chmiel toured the Lakewood area to view first hand the effect the rising lake is having upon the utility system.

Following a tour of the flooded Lakewood area and applicable infrastructure, the directors met at the GWRD office to discuss steps to protect the sewer system. Halgren stated Manhole # 28 must be moved, as most of the Lakewood sewer goes through this location. Elevation at this manhole is 1451.4, current lake elevation is 1450. Funding programs were discussed that might provide assistance to accomplish the rerouting of the manhole. FEMA's hazard mitigation grant program takes about a year to obtain. North Central Planning Council has had some programs in the past the District has used. The Corps of Engineers' 594 program provides a 75/25 grant for work.

The septic tank that had previously been overtaken by lake water has a muni ball in place which is the only thing holding the water back and steps need to be taken for a more permanent solution.

A review of work done in 2005 in the Peterson Subdivision area was reviewed and the District had passed a motion at that time to try to keep homes in service that have a 1460 or higher elevation. Precedence has been set at the 1460 elevation line with determination made on a case by case basis as each situation is unique.

A map of the area was reviewed that showed elevations of the manhole in jeopardy and possible rerouting areas. The plan that has been developed is to utilize the identified lift station, keep the new line on high ground and tie back in at the Bible Camp.

Home owners will be encouraged to file claims under their flood insurance policy and they may not be aware they could be eligible to file claims at this time. Residents will also be encouraged to register for individual assistance with FEMA because of the declared disaster.

Halgren will have the reroute area surveyed, then obtain cost estimates for the reroute work.

The District will take steps to save what can be saved to protect the system and will manage vulnerable areas until no longer able to do so effectively.

**Public Informational Meeting – Basement meeting room at Ramsey County Courthouse.**

Becker welcomed all members present and assured them the District would not be cutting anyone's sewer in the next day or two. A listing of the members present is attached to these minutes.

Halgren reported to the members the sewer system has been experiencing high flows into the system due to infiltration as well as more line that has gone under the lake with the new lake levels. A map of the area was provided to those in attendance that listed elevations of a vulnerable manhole that is used to handle most of the sewer from Lakewood. The 1460 elevation line was also indicated on the map and users were informed those above the 1460 elevation should be fine once rerouting work is completed. The District is doing some things to correct some of the areas below 1460, but need to work with users on an individual basis to help keep service in place as long as possible. Users were encouraged to file flood insurance claims and to register for individual assistance with FEMA. Most of the sewer flows through the Lakewood area flow through the jeopardized manhole and once the reroute is completed, the south portion of Lakewood should be fine.

Users were encouraged to inform the District on their insurance status and plans so efforts and resources can be coordinated most effectively.

Issues with running conduits through the proposed dikes were discussed. There will be many users on the wet side of the dike and the District may not be able to run lines through the dike, potentially impacting these users.

GRWD's policy for home elevations below 1460 was reviewed and will be handled on a case by case basis.

Acorn Ridge area was discussed. With the dam proposal, the COE states they will not allow conduit through the dam to maintain the integrity of the structure.

Al McKay, Lake Region District Health Unit discussed various options that might be available to users should sewer service fail. McKay assured residents everything would be done that they can to keep people in their homes. Options could include placement of as much drainfield as possible with a holding tank at the end, cut back water usage, use of holding tanks, etc.

The board reiterated the District will make changes to get the system out of the dike's way and to keep providing service in vulnerable areas until GRWD is no longer able to manage the system in those areas.

Rocky Point areas is being monitored. The Eagle Bend area has some issued involved with the width of the dike and there are a lot of unknowns at this point.

Time was allowed for the members to ask questions.

Meeting was declared adjourned by President Becker.

Minutes Approved: June 4, 2009

Paul Becker, President     (Signed)

Sally Burkle, Office Manager     (Signed)