

GREATER RAMSEY WATER DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING

October 8, 2019

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Doug Mohr, Jay Klemetsrud, Les Windjue, Paul
Becker, David Hovendick, Gilbert Black

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Allen Johnson

OTHERS PRESENT: Nels Halgren, Sally Herda – GRWD; Merri Mooridian, GDCD &
Shawn Gaddie, AE2S Nexus – RRVWSP conference call

The meeting was called to order at 7:55 a.m. by President Mohr at the District office.

Minutes from the September 5, 2019 regular meeting were reviewed. Motion by Black, seconded by Windjue to approve minutes. All directors voted aye and **motion carried.**

Manager Report

- **City of Crary – proposal update** – Halgren had sent a letter to Crary with a proposal for water service to the City and then attended the September City meeting. The Crary council sent a survey out to their residents and have only received three back with mixed results. No word has been received from their meeting of October 7, 2019 regarding the proposal.
- **City of Glenfield – meter calibration**– Usage from the existing 2 inch meter at Glenfield had seemed too low, so the register was switched out and usage was noted to have significantly changed through the SCADA monitoring. When on site to verify if the meter was working properly, it was found that SCADA was over reporting the usage. The SCADA operates through programming and is properly programmed. In checking the register, it appears that the meter itself is registering properly. Staff will keep an eye on the meter and work with SCADA programming to ensure both means of recording the usage is accurate. Glenfield’s contract allows for adjustments for unbilled usage.

Also discussed is significant loss numbers occurring in the south area of the system. Current loss is 23% and staff are looking for a leak of approximately 40 gpm. They are currently honing in on an area where they believe it may be located. With all the recent precipitation, there is water sitting everywhere, impeding efforts to find the leak.

- **City of Tolna – new contract discussion** – Letter was sent to Tolna regarding contract renewal. Halgren has started writing the new contract. Some of the points under discussion include a possible change where the point of delivery is determined. GRWD may take over some of the line leaving the treatment plant that is currently Tolna’s responsibility to maintain. A changeover of this line would allow GRWD to utilize the line for additional hookups in this area. Tolna’s council meets tonight and Halgren will plan to meet with them in November.
- **Advanced Engineering conference call – RRVWSP** – Merri Mooridian and Shawn Gaddie joined the meeting via conference call to update the directors on the status of the Red River Valley Water Supply Plan. The past legislative session outcome decreased their funding to a 75% grant and also declined to offer a long term, low interest rate loan for the 25% local cost share. The committee is working for a legislative change, but has moved ahead to determine costs and affordability. The components built into the project include the main line as well as the branch line to bring water to the District. If market rate funding is required for the project at the 75/25 ratio, estimated costs of \$289,000 per year would be required. The purpose of this conference call is to determine if the projected market rate financing would be considered unaffordable. Also discussed in the

conference call was GRWD’s participation in the Northeast master plan study and the impact this would have in the RRFWSP. There would likely be some hybridizing to bring together both groups to secure a long term water supply to the area. Construction costs would be payable as the project is built. There would also be maintenance and renewal costs associated with the system. More firm numbers are being developed and the purpose of this conversation was for general information and to ask about affordability. The directors indicated that they feel the moving forward with market rate financing would not be affordable to the District. There is an upcoming advisory meeting scheduled for October 15 and more information should be available at that time.

- **Camp Grafton South range/tower discussion** – Halgren was contacted by Clark Johnson in regards to expansion in the Camp Grafton south area. Their updated weapons range would have a 2 mile ricochet zone with the south tower being located within that area. Johnson had estimated that there would be a 1 in 1,000,000 chance of being affected and any damages that might occur would be fixed by them. A map of the area was reviewed and the directors have no issue with their proposed expansion.
- **Oswalds Bay/Tolna/Pekin project – SWC approval discussion** – A memorandum from the SWC to the Governor was reviewed. The memorandum recommended approval of the project at a 65% grant for funding all the locations. GRWD’s application included three areas including the Tolna area, Forde Township area by Pekin and the Oswalds Bay area, the combination of which is more money than covered on a 75% grant basis. GRWD is eligible to receive \$1.3 million according to the funding formula that was agreed upon by all systems requesting funding in this biennium. Halgren contacted the SWC to request 75% up to the full grant award with GRWD to provide local cost share of the amount over the grant award. The dollar amount was what had been agreed upon when the bucket of funding had been allocated. The percentage amount will be changed on the fly at the SWC to be held October 10. Halgren plans to attend this meeting.
- **Ackerman Valley – Lots 5-9, Block 4 – new campground request** – GRWD had previously given permission on the north side of the road for the designated camper lots. Two meter pits were put in to provide water to those lots. Ackerman is currently adding 11 additional spaces on Lots 5-9, Block 4 of Ackerman Valley and is asking to use the existing meter pits to provide water service to those spaces. Halgren stated the total base rate being paid at the two meter pits meet the criteria of other campgrounds on the system. Motion by Windjue, seconded by Becker to approve the use of Lots 5-9, Block 4, Ackerman Valley to be used as camper lots using the two existing meter pits as the monthly base rates meet the criteria comparable to other campgrounds. All directors voted aye and **motion carried.**
- **Summer excavation report** – Halgren reported on the work completed by the District since purchasing the excavator this year. It has been used on both the water and sewer systems to make repairs, replace stat rods and repair curb stops, manhole work and to replace septic tank. It has been a good investment for the District with over 100 hours put on the machine. Halgren was directed to check into trades each year and if affordable, to work into the budget for the upcoming budget year.

Office Manager Report

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

	<u>WATER</u>	<u>SEWER</u>
TOTALS	83,216.55	15,022.87

- **Financial report** – Office manager’s report was reviewed. Financial report was reviewed for the month of September representing 75% of the year’s operation to date. Motion to approve the financial report was made by Windjue, seconded by Black. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**. GRWD is still purchasing water from the City of Devils Lake. Fall water line flushing will be done soon.
- **2018 audit – August approval** – The audit was reviewed and approved at the August 8, 2019 meeting, but was inadvertently omitted from the minutes. Motion by Black, seconded by Hovendick to amend the August 8, 2019 meeting minutes to reflect discussion, findings and approval of the 2018 audit. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Membership Transfer

- Merlin Helten – from Eagles Nest, Blk 1, Lot 5 to Wold Subdivision, Lot 3 – Motion by Becker, seconded by Hovendick to approve the membership transfer. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

Membership Termination

- Brandon Kanowske – 202 Main St, Webster – nonpayment. Motion by Hovendick, seconded by Windjue to terminate membership due to nonpayment. All directors voted aye and **motion carried**.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by motion.

Minutes Approved: _____ November 7, 2019 _____

Doug Mohr, President _____ (signed) _____

Sally Herda, Office Manager _____ (signed) _____