CENTRAL MT REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
Harlowton, MT 59036
May 8, 2024
MINUTES

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Chairman Kalitowski called the meeting to order and asked all in attendance to introduce themselves.

IN ATTENDANCE: Lon Sibley, Roundup; Dave Liggett, Roundup, Connie Roussan, Melstone, by Proxy; Jim Kalitowski, Harlowton; Allen Davis, Ryegate; Paul Otten, Harlowton; Scott, Shawmut/Deadman's Basin; Marie Nopper, Shawmut/Deadman's Basin; Peter Hofer, Springwater Colony; Sam Klepzig, O&M Manager; Dave Ponte, MMCWD-Roundup; Bob Church, Great West Engineering; Monty Sealey, Project & Mgmt Services; Amy Deitchler, Great West Engineering; On-line: Susan Hayes, Great West Engineering; Greg Kruzich, BOR; Shelby Welch, RD; Matt Smithe, Stahley Engineering; Debbie Williumson; Rick Duncan, MT DNRC; Nina Denny, MT DNRC.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 10, 2024: Dave Liggett moved to accept the Minutes from April 10 as sent out; seconded by Paul Otten; motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND CURRENT BILLS: Dave Liggett gave the Treasurer's Report and presented current bills to be paid. The reported opening bank balance at 1st Security Bank was $162,477 with deposits of $72,707 and checks of $4,718.00; leaving a balance of $230,466.00.

The reported opening bank balance at Stockman Bank was($3,272,440) with deposits of $3,450,000; invoices totaling $3,307,136.00 leaving a bank balance of (3,130,180.00).

Current bills presented were as follows: Big Horn Public Affairs Inv. # 1515 for $2,500.00; Mid Rivers Telephone Acct # 8740500 for $20.95; West Wind Web Inv 5070 for $22.00; Project & Mgmt Services Inv RW024004 for $2,175.00; Project & Mgmt Services Inv RW024004 for $ 7,265.49; Half Moon Ranch Trust, powerline easement for $18,560.61; Hochmuth Ranch, Inv. Powerline easement for $9,545.45; Great West Eng Inv. # 32133 for $4,690.65; Great West Eng Inv. # 32134 for $3,863.60; Great West Eng Inv. # 32135 for $67,975.92; Great West Eng Inv. # 32136 for $2,335.28;Great West Eng Inv. # 32137 for $223,909.59; Great West Eng Inv. # 32138 for $477.00; Great West Eng Inv. # 32139 for $11,534.40; Hydro Resources Pay App #4 for $1,019,934.63; MT Dept of Rev 1% Tax 4 for $10,302.37; COP Construction Pay App #9 for $780,616.51; MT Dept of Rev 1% Tax 9 for $7,885.02; COP Construction Pay App #6 for $194,711.70 & $382.341.53; MT Dept of Rev 1% Tax for 6 for $5,831.85; C&C Excavation Pay App #12 for $549,503.58; MT Dept of Rev 1% Tax 12 for $5,550.54; for a total of $3,311,853.67. Dave Liggett moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills as presented upon receipt of the reimbursement funds; seconded by Lon Sibley; motion carried.

Monty Sealey read the written report from Tanya Lanter for the O&M account. April Water bills totaled $ 28,906.87. The reported bank balance was $27,782.78. Lon Sibley moved to accept the report; seconded by Dave Liggett; motion carried.

MULTIPLE USER SERVICE LINES: Bob Church reported that there is a need for change in our regulations for multiple customer service lines. We were trying to allow a single meter for multiple users when possible. DEQ has made an interpretation that technically if more than one user is on a single hook-up it constitutes a main. Therefore, the design of that line and inspections have to be done by a licensed engineer with approval from DEQ. Bob thought the cost to do the design, review etc., would be $5,000.00 each or less. There could be 2 o3 multiple lines on PH IV. There was doubt about this being right, however, we may be stuck with it. Dave Liggett moved to have CMRWA accept those Engineering costs; seconded by Allen Davis; motion carried.

PHASE III-CMRWA COMMITMENT LETTER: There was discussion about the need for a commitment letter from CMRWA to Shawmut/Deadman's Basin to be included in the Emerging Contaminants funding request. Dave Liggett moved to sign such a letter; seconded by Pau Otten; motion carried.

MIDDLE MUSSELSHELL WATER DISTRICT: Dave Ponte, Chairman of MMCWD asked that because the updated PER sent to them by link is so long, could they get a printed copy of the PER. Great West Will provide it to them.

Ponte stated they had talked to Stahley Engineering; they plan to move forward. He mentioned the opposition to the district idea and that they now have a website. They will post all e-mails they have access to on the website. Ponte also stated they are moving forward with a court case to define the ROW and easement needs for the district. He believes that could cost them up to $20,000 and 6- month's. They are now fundraising to finance such action.

WELL #4-STATUS: Bob Church described the activities surrounding Well #4. He noted that a week ago they were losing circulation. They would continue to drill when they get control of the hole. He asked if they could trip into the hole and airlift water out to get a idea of the amount of flow. They started yesterday and so far, it appears they were lifting between 1,000 and 1,400 gpm. After that they decided not to drill deeper until we get more reliable information from an actual pump test. We do have the budget for an acid frac job should it be deemed necessary after the pump test is completed. They will soon move over to Well #5.

PHASE I TO HARLOWTON-STATUS: C & C Excavation has received the meter pits that were missing and should be starting installation soon. We should then be able close out Phase I with RD.

Paul Otten asked if Harlowton was getting overcharged for water because of the meter issue. The warranty for the meter does not expire until this fall. Sam noted that he had been adjusting the water quantity down in favor of the Town of Harlowton. (1=million gallons per month).

PHASE II A,B,C TO ROUNDUP-STATUS: Phase I A by C & C Excavation has all pipe, structures, etc., installed and pressure tested. They should be starting on the tank near Rotheimay early next month.

COP Construction reports for PH II B that all pipe is in; they are working on bores, hook-ups, etc. They also report that for PH II C they are laying out everything for bore-company, so all can be done at once. Pipe is being installed within 5 miles of Roundup.

PH IV TO MELSTONE-STATUS: It was reported that preliminary design sheets are nearly ready to go to DEQ. The Project Manual is being drafted. The Sage Grouse Permit is in place. All private easements are in hand; being worked for Title Insurance. The State Easement has been approved by staff, but it is not here yet. It appears that a mid-June bid date is possible with a mid-July bid opening.

PHASE III & III A, B-STATUS: Bob Church noted they are working on alignments for PH III. They are also working on Cultural and Aquatic environmental reviews. When those are completed they will begin putting easement packages together. All funds are in place except the State funds we have applied for. A meeting notice was sent to the Lavina area for the evening of June 12. Construction will begin at the earliest summer of 2025.

For PH III A some environmental has been done. Can move forward when completed.

For PH III B Allen Davis talked about the discussions they have had related to the Emerging Contaminants program. It is possible that the Ryegate portion could be paid 100% from that program. Davis noted the estimated cost when Ryegate was originally in was $2.9 million; then they opted out. Then it was thought the water line would come through Hedgesville. The new estimate from Deadman's Basin to Ryegate is estimated at $3-3,5 million. It is not obvious how much of that increase is because of time.

PHASE V TO HOBSON-STATUS: Bob Church talked with Garth French, Hobson's Engineer, about six weeks ago. He is working with Hobson. There still is no correspondence from Hobson. Bob has been contacted by a private person interested in the route to Hobson. He is talking about a proposed subdivision; that may be interested in water.

O & M REPORT: Sam Klepzig noted we had suffered a power outage at the Judith Gap tank site. He had to route around that site. Sam stated we may need more batteries at the last layer for sustaining control longer. He also noted the meter is working for Harlowton.

Sam stated the eventual need for a Valve Exerciser for proper maintenance.

Sam stated it is probably time to start considering hiring the second person for O & M at the Roundup/Melstone end of the project. A Committee was appointed by the Chairman. including Sam Klepzig, Lon Sibley, Allen Davis, and Jeff Sell. They will have a report for the next meeting.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT-RD: Shelby Welch reminded that she wanted a copy of FY 2022 Audit. Monty Sealey will send one to her.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION-BOR: Greg Kruzich had no comments for the meeting.

MT DNRC: There were no comments from Rick Duncan or Nina Denny.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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Monty L. Sealey, Project Administrator Date