CENTRAL MT REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
Harlowton, MT 59036
Sept. 11, 2024
MINUTES

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

IN ATTENDANCE: James Kalitowski, Chairman; Paul Otten, Harlowton; Dave Picchioni, V. Chairman; Dave Liggett, Sec./Treas.; Bob Church, Great West Eng.; Lon Sibley, Roundup; Peter Hofer, Martinisdale Colony; Sam Klepzig, O&M Manager; Monty Sealey, Proj. & Mgmt Services; On-line-Scott Keller, Shawmut/Deadman's Basin; Shelby Welch, RD; Greg Kruzich, BOR; Matt Smith, Stahley Eng.; Rick Duncan, DNRC; Debbie Willumson; Nina Denny, DNRC.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2024, MINUTES: Lon Sibley moved to approve the Minutes from September 11, 2024, seconded by Dave Liggett; motions carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND CURRENT BILLS: Sec./Treasurer Liggett reported a beginning bank balance in 1st Security Bank of $(104,953) with deposits of $244,264. Total invoices to be paid was $529,530, leaving and ending bank balance of ($390,219). The reported beginning bank balance at Stockman bank was ($2,707,291) with deposits totaling $2,900,000. Invoices to be paid totaled $1,729,091, leaving a bank balance of ($1,536,382).

The list of bills to be paid included: Great West Eng. Inv. 33313 for $15,238.60; Great West Eng. Inv. 33312 for $1,903.00; Great West Eng. Inv. 33311 for $12,356.23; Great West Eng. Inv. 33309 for $29,382.60; Great West Eng. Inv. 33307 for $12,741.60; Great West Eng. Inv. 33306 for $2,508.22; Great West Eng. Inv. 33305 for $8,731.19; Great West Eng. Inv. 33310 for $109,708.61; Great West Eng. Inv. 33319 for $985.07; C&C Excavation Pay App #16 for $203,327.34; MT Dept of Rev 1% Tax 16 for $$2,053.81; Mid Rivers Telephone Acct. 0500 for $30.15; Big Horn Public Affairs Inv. 1542 for $2,500.00; S "N" Weeds, LLC Inv. 156,157, 160 for $2,513.92; COP Construction Pay App # 10 for $311,363.91; MT Dept of Rev. 1% Tax 10 for $3,145.09; Proj. & Mgmt Inv. RW24008 for $2,025.00; Proj & Mgmt Inv. RW 24008 for $7,062.20; COP Construction Pay App # 13 for $70,6212,58; MY Dept of Rev 1% Tax 13 for $713.35; Hydro Resources Pay Well 4 for $830,500.00 plus Well 5 for $614,117.41; MT Dept of Rev well 4&5 for $14,592.10; Roundup Record Trib for $417.26; Innov Inv. 1105 for $63.00, for a total of $2,258,601.24.

It was noted that $5,000.00 had been transferred from the 1st Security Bank Account to the O&M Account. Dave Liggett moved to accept the report and pay the bills upon receipt of the funds; seconded by Dave Picchioni; motion carried.

Monty Sealey reported about the bank balances and payments from the O&M Report from Tanya Lanter. September claims totaled $20,641.90 plus Bond payment #6 for $10,597.00

to RD, and a 1st Security bank loan payment of $5,000.00 (balance of $72,205.10); with a ending bank balance of $28,578.63.

AUDIT: There was a short discussion about the audit; that it will hopefully be complete in October.

ROUNDUP WATER RATE HEARINGS: It was noted that Roundup was preparing for water rate hearings to increase their rates to include CMRWA rates. The hearings should conclude by the end of October.

ASSISTANT O & M MANAGER: Sam Klepzig reported we had received 22 applications for the Assistant position. The hiring committee had pared them down to 5. They intend to interview 2 or 3 applicants. The applicants included two good fairly, local candidates. The interviews shall be conducted with a recommendation to approve at the next Board Meeting.

O & M REPORT: Sam Klepzig reported the Bacterial tests came back good. He hopes to start filling the tank near Rothiemay Monday or Tuesday. Sam thinks Mike Neally will be here then. They are working on the Oka RD vault near the tank. Pictures have been sent to the Pipestone people. Another service for Mark Gaugler was installed . The meter should be in before they begin charging the main.

It was also noted that as the fiber was being installed, they cut a water line; it has been fixed. Dave Picchioni inquired about how new services, etc. were available for billing. Sam reports them to Tanya.

Chairman Kalitowski appointed Jeff Sell, Lon Sibley; Bob Church and Allen Davis to the Wage & Salary Committee. They are to meet and look-into the possibility for PERS for Sam and the new assistant position. They also look at performance issues and potential wage rates because we are near a one-year anniversary for the O&M position. They will report to the Board at the next meeting.

WATER SERVICE HOOK-UP CHARGES: Bob Church explained that he had been contacted by a reallor with property on Emory RD about four connections. Because all pipe is in for PH II B, etc., with the exception of cleanup, the work is complete and COP wants to close out the section. Because of this Bob and Monty agreed this should be a post construction install. Because of that new customers must pay the actual cost of such installations. C&C will quote a price to the realtor. There needs to be a clarification about how to define pre and post cost for new hook-ups. The clarification language will be brought back to the Board for final approval at the next meeting.

A proposed regulation change about how to deal with fill stations will be returned for final approval at the next Board Meeting.

LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANCE-NEXT LEGISLATURE: Monty Sealey had talked to Chuck Denowh about availability to help us with the upcoming legislature. He said is willing. Dave Liggett moved to sign an agreement for his services; seconded by Dave Picchioni; motion carried. Monty will make the arrangements.

WAIVER OF AMERICAN MADE: Monty noted that Jennifer Johnson had sent a message about a waiver being granted for some products not available from US manufacturers. Greg Kruzich cautioned us to make sure that waiver is not project specific. He thinks we may need to get our own waiver if needed.

PHASE II A,B,C-STATUS: For PH IIA most pipe and accessories are in. They are water-proofing the tank today. They will fill it to about 5' and begin backfilling; hopefully to be done when COP needs water

PH IIB is mostly completed. A substantial completion letter is being offered. It should be the next portion on-line-next month.

PH IIC still needs some pipeline to installed near the Roundup Tank plus the tank hook-up. We are missing 3 vaults; all of which are expected during the month of October. Then a Substantial Completion letter can be issued; getting water to Roundup.

PH II WATER WELLS: Bob Church handed out the key parameters for Well #5. He thinks Well #4 is similar to well #5. Overall, we have good results and lots of water. Bob also presented Change Order #4 which we moved back on to Well #4 at a cost of $609,000. The cost of the wells went up to 7.7 million dollars because of the move. Currently reclamation of both well sites is being done. Dave Picchioni asked how that is being paid; from savings on other things and the contingency fund. Part of these costs are coming from PH IV funds. The next portion is pipe and accessories from the wells to the control buildings. We hope to use PH II funds for Well #4 and PH IV funds for Well #5 mostly from contingencies. Dave Picchioni moved to approve Change Order #4; seconded by Dave Liggett; motion carried.

PH IV TO MELSTONE: PH IV is ready to go to construction. That should happen when the pipe for PH IV arrives; maybe by mid-October. Dave Picchioni asked which end they would start on because he wants to discuss the timing through his land. That is not clear, though we will make sure C&C is aware of that need. There also may be the need for an enhanced permit so construction through the Sage Hen Habitat can occur on a timely basis.

PH III, IIIA, IIIB_STATUS: Bob Church reported the 95% of Cultural Resources are completed except in Lavina. Aquatic Resources work is substantially done except on a minor reroute in Golden Valley County and a bit in Yellowstone. We need a state easement near Middle Road on the County ROW. Great West just submitted the needed RR permit. We hope to bid PH III nest Spring or early Summer. All federal funds are available; State funds are still not completely available.

PH IIIA will begin in earnest when design of PH III is complete. PH IIIB to Ryegate; they are looking for funding. We may include their State funding in our work at the next Legislature.

It was noted there is only one more year in the BIL federal funding-to help with PH V. We haven't heard how their efforts for the water system are progressing.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT-RD: There was nothing further from RD.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION-BOR: Greg Kruzich said the BIL request is in. He noted the ASAP would go "black" on Sept 23 and open back up after October1.

MT DNRC: Rick Duncan said they will be meeting with the Long-Range Planning Committee next week. They will work on updating match for each water authority. Rick also reminded us that pay for lobbying activities in the State Legislature cannot be paid using State Funds. Monty Sealey stated he thought he had it figured out how to pay for that assistance.

MT DEQ; Sandy Koenig stated that disbursement requests from our SRF loans should for PH IIA be to her and for PH IIC should be to Rob Ashton.

If PH II B is Substantially complete she will send out close-out documents within the next month PH III SRF funding is anticipated though no app has been submitted to SRF yet. There will also be loan funds for PH IV. Environmental and Site Title documentation needs to be submitted.

We have sent an application to DNRC for PH III. We hope to have the design package in the next two weeks. We are looking for a PH III contract.

OTHER BUSINESS: We have had an application from Mountain View. They are outside our planning area so the pipeline would have to be totally on their dime and would be subject to approval of the CMRWA Board.

Dave Picchioni asked that we begin trying to get other Board Members to start attending and helping with Board activities. Since the project will soon be to Roundup, he would like to go back to spending more time with his business activities. He also mentioned that a presence in Helena from Hobson might be appropriate.

Dave Liggett moved; seconded by Dave Picchioni to adjourn; motion carried.

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Monty L. Sealey, Project Administrator Date