CENTRAL MT REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
Harlowton, MT 59036
January 15, 2025
MEETING MINUTES

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- CMRWA: Sam Klepzig, Zach Tomlinson, Monty Sealey
- Great West Engineering: Bob Church, Amy Deitchler, Cheri Anderson, Susan Hayes
- COP Construction: Josh LeFevre, Eric Smith
- Shawmut-Deadman's Basin Water District: Scott Keller
- Funding Agencies: Greg Kruzich, Rick Duncan, Shelby Welch, Brenda Hoffman, Emily Meick
- Harlowton Board Members: Paul Otten, Jim Kalitowski, Jeff Sell
- Ryegate Board Member:
- Roundup Board Members: David Picchioni, Lon Sibley, Dave Liggett
- Innova: Melissa Carlson
- Public: Debbie Willumson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 18, 2024

- Jeff Sell made a motion to approve the December minutes; Paul Otten seconded; the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND CURRENT BILLS

- Dave Liggett motioned approval to pay bills and pay once reimbursed through agencies. , Paul Otten seconded; the motion passed
- Monty is looking at the operations budget and how to manage it in the interim until Roundup is connected and we have that revenue. Looking at options like using the water user agreement payments from rural users to supplement the current operations budget.

Vendor	Invoice	Category	Amount	Bank	Funding Source
Cody McDonald	Easement	Power Line Easement	$4,693.00	Stock	PH 4 BOR
Sweetgrass Title	10003202024	Title Insurance	$600.00	Stock	PH 3 BOR
Innova	Inv 1164	General Admin	$69.00	1st Sec	General Admin
Urick Law Firm	CMRWA	Land Acq-Title Opinion	$546.00	Stock	PH 4 BOR
Proj & Mgmt	RW024010	Phase II & IV	$6,375.00	Stock	PH 2B & 4 BOR
Proj & Mgmt	RW024010	General Admin	$1,989.28	1st Sec	General Admin
Proj & Mgmt	RW024011	Phase II & IV	$6,000.00	Stock	PH 2B & 4 BOR
Proj & Mgmt	RW024011	General Admin	$2,099.79	1st Sec	General Admin
Mid Rivers		General Admin - Monitoring	$30.35	1st Sec	General Admin
Proj & Mgmt	RW024012	General Admin	$1,590.90	1st Sec	General Admin
Marvin Mauws		Construction – Year 3 Tank Lease	$2,653.02	1st Sec	General Admin
Bart R Bilden	Easement	Phase III	$24,580.00	Stock	BOR
Daniel M Peters	Easement	Phase III	$4,660.00	Stock	BOR
Great West Eng.	Inv 34599	Phase IIB – Const. Mgmt	$67,882.93	Stock	BOR
Great West Eng.	Inv 34602	Phase IIB – Design Tasks	$27,656.16	Stock	BOR
C&C Excavation	Pay App 3	Phase IV – Construction	$1,050,430.71	1st Sec	DNRC
MT Dept. of Rev.	1% Tax 3	Phase IV – Construction	$10,610.41	1st Sec	DNRC
Star Herald	FC216AE8-001	Phase IV – Legal (Bidding)	$1,086.66	Stock	BOR
Bighorn Public Affairs	Inv 1575	Gen Admin	$2,500.00	1st Sec	General Admin
Great West Eng.	Inv 34601	Phase IV – Aquatic Resources	$1,084.50	Stock	BOR
Great West Eng.	Inv 34600	Phase III & IIIA – Aquatic Resources	$2,976.97	Stock	BOR
Great West Eng.	Inv 34604	Phase IV & Well 5	$73,453.96	Stock	BOR
Great West Eng.	Inv 34603	Phase III – Design Tasks	$39,292.18	Stock	BOR
COP Construction	Pay App 13	Phase IIC – Construction	$1,010,901.36	1st Sec	SRF
MT Dept. of Rev.	1% Tax 13	Phase IIC – Construction	$10,211.12	1st Sec	SRF
Montana Group		Operations	$4,000	1st Sec	N/A
		Total Bills	$2,357,973.30		

O & M REPORT Sam Klepzig

- The leak on phase one was fixed with the assistance of C&C. A fusion saddle failed.
- We got training for new meter reading equipment and software yesterday.
- Pipestone replaced Oka Road and East Red Hill Rd. valves.
- Bac-t testing passed and has been submitted.

AUDIT

- Monty does not have the revised audit, he expects to have it soon
- Monty will review and submit it.

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES UPDATE Bob Church

- Chuck Denowh – State Lobbyist
  - January 21st meeting at the Capital
    - Dave will testify for the project
    - Chuck Denowh has been contacted as well and is trying to set up a meeting with members
  - Legislative Meet & Greet
    - Jan 23 (upstairs at the Union), Mac D organizes the event. Bob spoke to her and said we would sponsor the event (approximately $500)
    - Looking for a Board member to go to this event. Bob and Amy will both be there.

- Bighorn Public Affairs

  Monty – Jennifer has been to the offices of Daines, Sheehy, and Downing. She knows the staff in all three offices and is going to all offices to keep them informed about the project.

PHASE II-TO ROUNDUP-STATUS

- Valve and Vault Failure Phase 2C Bob Church
  - Christmas morning Sam noticed a 120 gal per minute flow heading east with no call for water. He discovered the olive tank valve vault was flooded.
  - COP came and pumped the vault out the day after Christmas and found a saddle in the vault that had failed.
  - The piping in the vault had also deflected significantly.
  - Meeting held with COP, GWE, Pipestone, MM representatives to look at the Olive Tank vault and the East Red Hill Vault.
  - Pulled mechanical valve apart and the valve had failed.
  - Collectively all have been reviewing flow data and pressure data to figure out why it happened. No real answer as to why it happened.
  - COP has been working on ordering new parts to fix the issue
  - COP was very quick to get on-site to take care of this
  - East Red Hill Valve was working well as designed before all this occurred. The upstream pressure was 235 lbs and the downstream pressure was 75 lbs until the day before the leak when the downstream pressure started slowly increasing.

- Schedule Update Eric Smith
  - COP needs time to get things fixed.
  - COP is willing to absorb the cost of fixing the vault but needs time to do so
  - Electrical equipment is 8 weeks lead time
  - COP submitted new schedule with completion slated for April

- Liquidated Damages Discussion Bob Church
  - Bob would like to have the board consider waiving the liquidated damages
  - Bob would like to do a no-cost change order amending the contract time to allow for time to make the repairs.
  - Dave Liggett made a motion to extend the time frame to what is shown on the schedule provided by COP with no damages assessed to COP; Lon Sibley seconded; the motion passed.

PH III TO BROADVIEW-STATUS Susan Hayes

- Mountain View Colony Connection Request
  - Design phase – First round of plans is complete and being reviewed
  - Permitting – Sage Grouse permit – will make a payment to this ($35,215) Make a motion and pay the bill closer to construction. We need to submit more information.
  - Request from Mountain View Colony wants to receive water from the project. They requested 50 gal/min. Improvements cannot be paid for with federal dollars because the Colony is outside the service area.

Design won't allow for 50 gal/min requested by Colony. There is about 20 gal/min or reserve capacity left in the line after growth considerations.
    - Does the board want to serve a customer that is outside of the service area?
    - Water rights are based on the Feasibility Report layout and would need to be looked at in more detail if the board wants to serve this customer.
    - Board is not in favor of serving a customer outside of the planning area at this time
    - Jeff Sell made a motion to wait on any water commitments for users outside the planning area, including Mountain View Colony until the entire planned system is built out. They may reconsider users in the future. Dave Liggett seconded; the motion passed.
  - All easements needed for the project have been obtained except for 2 that have verbally agreed
  - Geotech sub will be drilling for highway crossing, river crossing, railroad crossing, tank foundation and pumphouse foundation last week of January
  - DEQ submittal is expected in March or April
  - Bid – May/June

PH III A-TO SHAWMUT/DEADMAN'S BASIN-STATUS Bob Church

» All federal funds in place
» Testifying in front of the Legislature for State money next week
» Design task order will be coming this summer

PHASE III B-TO RYEGATE-STATUS

» No update – neither Stahly or Town at meeting

PHASE IV TO MELSTONE-STATUS Amy Deitchler

- Amendment to Water User's Agreement with Melstone
  - Putting pipe in currently
  - Will be to the Sunset Colony by end of the day tomorrow
  - There is a change order for pipeline access to put a culvert in, 1/5" services and 2" service, quantity reduction in pouring in cultural areas, and unknown waterlines that had to be crossed/repaired, $37,893.73. Jeff Sell made a motion to approve the change order; Paul Otten seconded; the motion passed.
  - Pipe is fused almost to Roundup
  - Melstone gave incorrect information on service count when the contract was originally signed. Bob now has the correct information on connections. Their base rate decreased because the number of EDUs dropped from 91 EDUs to the actual number of 69. Jeff Sell made a motion to accept the amendment with Melstone; Lon Sibley seconded; the motion passed.

WELLS 4 & 5 SYSTEM CONNECTION-STATUS Susan Hayes

» Installing pumps and infrastructure is out to bid. The bid opening is Jan 23
» Will have a recommendation next month to award

PHASE V TO HOBSON-STATUS

» No update, a few years from funding
» Water model is being done now

BOR Greg Kruzich

» FY25 bill funding announcement should be made today but if not today it should be announced tomorrow.
» Funding should be available for CMRWA and this will complete the federal funding package for the overall project

DNRC Rick Duncan

» Meet and greet is 5:30 pm at the Union
» Rick is trying to get more details
» No news on the bill draft request for restricting state funds paying for lobbying. When there is an update Rick will pass it along.

RD

» None

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- February 12, 2025

OTHER BUSINESS

CMRWA Monthly Meeting 1/15/25

	NAME	ORGANIZATION
	Susan Hayes	GWE
	Amy Deitchler	GWE
	Bob Church	GWE
	Jeff Sell	Harlowton
	Paul Orten	Norlowton.
	Josh LeFevre	COP
	Eric Smith	Cop
	Lon Sibley	Roundup
	Sam Klepzig	CMRWA
	Zach Tomlinson	CMRWA
	Jay Kaltenbach	HARLD
	Dave Liggett	Roundup
	Bob Church	GWE
Online	Cheri Anderson	GWE
	Greg Kruzich	BOK
	Brenda Huffman	BOK
	Debbie Williamson	
	Scott Keller	Deadman's/Shawmut
	Emily Meick	
	Monty Sealey	
	Rick Duncan	DNRC
	Shelby Welch	RD
	Dave Picchioni	Roundup
	Melissa Carlson	Innova