CENTRAL MT REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
Harlowton, MT 59036
February 12, 2025
MEETING MINUTES

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- CMRWA: Sam Klepzig, Zach Tomlinson, Monty Sealey
- Great West Engineering: Bob Church, Amy Deitchler, Cheri Anderson, Susan Hayes, Kasia Little
- Shawmut-Deadman's Basin Water District: Scott Keller
- Funding Agencies: Anna Miller, Rick Duncan, Greg Kruzich, Brenda Huffman, Sandie Koenig, Shelby Welch
- MMCWD: David Ponte
- Sunset Colony: Eli Wipf, Mike Kleinsasser
- Harlowton Board Members: Jim Kalitowski, Paul Otten
- Ryegate Board Member: Allen Davis
- Roundup Board Members: Dave Picchioni, Lon Sibley, Dave Liggett
- Public: Debbie Willumson, Jerry Wood, Edward Grime

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 15, 2025.

- Made a motion to approve the January minutes; Dave Ligget made the motion, Dave Picchioni seconded; the motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND CURRENT BILLS

- Federal funding freeze is affecting multiple phases of the project.
- Jennifer suggests the board write a letter to the delegations.
- DNRC money is not federal money, it comes from the coal trust of Montana. DNRC and SRF Loans will be used to pay bills as shown on Plan B
- Motion by Lave Ligget to pay bills as money is available, Alan seconded, motion passed

Plan A – Funding Scenario (with BOR funding)					
Vendor	**Invoice**	**Category**	**Amount**	**Bank**	**Funding Source**
Sage Grouse Stewardship Acct	Additional Payment	Phase IV - Construction	$72,263.10	Stock	BOR
Great West Eng.	34914	Phase II – Construction Mgmt.	$151,763.99	1st Sec	SRF
Great West Eng.	34916	Phase III – Design	$53,903.63	Stock	BOR
Great West Eng.	33624	Phase III – Land Acq. Asst.	$5,713.33	Stock	BOR
Great West Eng.	34912	Data Acquisition & Database Updates 2024	$3,014.01	1st Sec	General Admin
Great West Eng.	34915	Phase III & IIIA – Aquatic Inventory	$10,253.40	Stock	BOR
Great West Eng.	34917	Phase IV & V – Engineering	$64,374.50	Stock	BOR
Great West Eng.	34913	Phase IV – Design	$7,254.50	Stock	BOR
C&C Excavation	Pay App 4	Phase IV – Construction	$502,236.77	Stock	BOR
MT Dept. of Rev.	1% Tax 4	Phase IV - Construction	$5,073.10	Stock	BOR
COP Construction	Pay App 14	Phase IIC - Construction	$39,542.38	1st Sec	SRF
MT Dept. of Rev.	1% Tax 14	Phase IIC - Construction	$399.42	1st Sec	SRF
Bighorn Public Affairs	1582	General Administration	$2,500.00	1st Sec	General Admin
Innova	1204	General Administration	$1,301.50	1st Sec	General Admin
MT Group LTD	1686	Legal Assistance	$4,000.00	1st Sec	General Admin
Douglas Wilson	200270	Audit	$10,500.00	1st Sec	General Admin
Mid Rivers Telephone	8740500	General Administration	$30.15	1st Sec	General Admin
DNRC Trust Land Mgmt.	SULS25000981	License	$200.00	1st Sec	General Admin
Project & Mgmt	RW025001	Project Administration	$5,925.00	Stock	BOR
Project & Mgmt	RW025001A	General Administration	$1,455.50	1st Sec	General Admin
		Total Invoices	$941,704.28		

Plan B – Funding Scenario (without BOR funding)					
Vendor	Invoice	Category	Amount	Bank	Funding Source
Sage Grouse Stewardship Acct	Additional Payment	Phase IV - Construction	$72,263.10	1st Sec	DNRC: RW-24-086
Great West Eng.	34914	Phase II – Construction Mgmt.	$151,763.99	1st Sec	SRF
Great West Eng.	34916	Phase III – Design	$53,903.63	*Pending*	
Great West Eng.	33624	Phase III – Land Acq. Asst.	$5,713.33	*Pending*	
Great West Eng.	34912	Data Acquisition & Database Updates 2024	$3,014.01	1st Sec	General Admin
Great West Eng.	34915	Phase III & IIIA – Aquatic Inventory	$10,253.40	*Pending*	
Great West Eng.	34917	Phase IV & V – Engineering	$64,374.50	1st Sec	DNRC: RW-23-081A
Great West Eng.	34913	Phase IV – Design	$7,254.50	1st Sec	DNRC: RW-23-081A
C&C Excavation	Pay App 4	Phase IV – Construction	$502,236.77	1st Sec	DNRC: RW-24-086
MT Dept. of Rev.	1% Tax 4	Phase IV - Construction	$5,073.10	1st Sec	DNRC: RW-24-086
COP Construction	Pay App 14	Phase IIC - Construction	$39,542.38	1st Sec	SRF
MT Dept. of Rev.	1% Tax 14	Phase IIC - Construction	$399.42	1st Sec	SRF
Bighorn Public Affairs	1582	General Administration	$2,500.00	1st Sec	General Admin
Innova	1204	General Administration	$1,301.50	1st Sec	General Admin
MT Group LTD	1686	Legal Assistance	$4,000.00	1st Sec	General Admin
Douglas Wilson	200270	Audit	$10,500.00	1st Sec	General Admin
Mid Rivers Telephone	8740500	General Administration	$30.15	1st Sec	General Admin
DNRC Trust Land Mgmt.	SULS25000981	License	$200.00	1st Sec	General Admin
Project & Mgmt	RW025001	Project Administration	$5,925.00	*Pending*	
Project & Mgmt	RW025001A	General Administration	$1,455.50	1st Sec	General Admin
		Total Invoices	$941,704.28		

JENNIFER JOHNSON- Bighorn Public Affairs

- Met with MT delegation last week.
- Daines said to not get too worried and he believes the funding will be ok for the project.
- Deputy secretary of the Interior still has to be confirmed by the Senate (end of Feb/March)
- Lots of leadership transitions taking place right now, so it's taking more time
- A lot of the federally contracted money is Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding, and that and IRA funding has been targeted by the Trump administration for review.
- Jennifer is drafting a letter today for everyone to edit, sign and get back to her for delivery to congress.

O & M REPORT – Sam Klepzig

- Bac-T tests came back good. Getting batteries into Judith Gap tank.
- Signed up for Rural Water conference.
- Solar company wants to use 50,000 gal a month of water, could be a good source of money. He will check with them to get more details.
- Bills in January $60,770 and revenue of $49,167.20

AUDIT

- Monty will forward the audit to anyone that would like to look at it. He will send it out this week.

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES UPDATE Bob Church

- Dave P testified at the long range planning committee in favor of the House Bill 11 to legislature about our project and our request for funding with the next legislature.
- Met with lobbyists from some of the other projects too. All went pretty well.

PHASE II-TO ROUNDUP-STATUS – Susan Hayes, Bob Church

- Schedule Update
  - Phase 2A is complete, Phase 2B is mostly completed
  - 2C has been shut down this week. Waiting on electrical panels.
  - Pressure testing is being redone, re-chlorination needs to be done
  - Amy spoke with Eric and they are planning on using the schedule they sent last month.
  - Monies for COP are in the SRF loan for 2C. There is money to pay them to get the 2C project online and get Roundup connected. They are still projecting April for connection of Roundup.

PH III TO BROADVIEW-STATUS Susan Hayes, Bob Church

- Midway through design process
- Plan on submitting to DEQ in late March and finalizing by end of April
- Bidding after that as long as federal funds are available
- Finished Geotechnical, waiting on report
- All easements are in hand except for one. Monty has ordered title insurance for some of these. Payments for the easements will come from either the federal government or State.
- Federal dollars were being used for this phase. With federal freeze, no money in hand right now for this phase.
- DNRC said the Authority will get a $2.2 M grant. Bob requested the contract be put together for the March meeting, in order to keep funds coming for the project.

- Sage Grouse – agreement to pay Stewardship Acct. prior to start of construction
  - $35,215.11 will need to be paid once design is complete and construction has been awarded, but before construction starts.

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

- Not much is being done on this phase yet. Staff is working on Phase III.
- There is Federal funding for this phase but no other funding sources.
- Not working on this phase until funds are available

PHASE III B-TO RYEGATE-STATUS Allen Davis

- Almost done with PER right now
- Evaluating for point of hook up to tank
- Need easement from a property
- 2027 is the projected date for construction of waterline
- Funding with Emerging Contaminants. Funding has been available to date

PHASE IV TO MELSTONE-STATUS Susan Hayes, Bob Church

- Funding discussion and potential schedule impacts
  - C&C Shut down last week and this week
  - Approximately 11 miles of pipe has been installed
  - Estimate 1 year from now to get Melstone hooked up
  - Million dollar pay request from C&C, has been approved, but it's in DNRC's hand and should be paid soon. Monty has the check ready for C&C.
  - Should be in the account soon to pay C&C
  - C&C has another $500K invoice
  - Once those are paid there is $1.2 M left in state money
  - Bob recommends that the Authority get the bond paperwork done for the $3M loan. Would be able to close on the loan in April and those monies could be used if needed while funding is frozen.

WELLS 4 & 5 SYSTEM CONNECTION-STATUS Susan Hayes, Bob Church

- Bid opening was held January 23, 2025
  - COP is the low bidder
  - No recommendation to award at this time due to funding issues

- Intend to recommend award of the project at the March meeting pending status of funds available
- Bids are good for 60 days. Must be awarded before the 60 days is up.
- Amy spoke with COP and they are aware of the funding issues.
- COP said if it can't be awarded within 60 days that they are willing to extend their bid longer if needed. Unsure on how long they will extend their bid.
- DEQ gave approval to keep Roundup wells for emergency only use until new wells are connected.
- This project will take around 6 months to complete once started

PHASE V TO HOBSON-STATUS

- Nothing new

BOR

- Nothing to add
- Recommends reaching out to elected officials

DNRC Rick Duncan

- Need print and e-copy of audit report
- Payment of $1,610,000 is at fiscal
- Note on the legislative bills, even if the legislature provides us with $10 million of authority, we can't overspend what the interest earnings are going to be unless the legislature allocates additional funds.
- Our projections are something on the order of over something over 7 million in interest in the next two years, out of which also must come the administrative grants.
- When request an amendment on that grant agreement on the on phase four you must have a letter from the chairman to the department.
- Need a copy of Audit

RD

- Need copy of Audit also

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- March 12, 2025

OTHER BUSINESS

CENTRAL MONTANA REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

Water System Improvement Project

Monthly Meeting

February 12, 2025

Sign-In Sheet

Name	Organization	Online	In Person
Dave Liggett	Roundup		✓
Zach Tomlinson	CMRWA		✓
SAM KLEPZIG	CMRWA		✓
Lou Sibley	Roundup		✓
Dave Picchioni	Roundup		✓
Paul Otten	Harlowton		✓
Eli Wipf	Sunset Colony		✓
Mike Weinsasser	Sunset Colony		✓
DAVID PONTE	MMCWD		✓
Bob Church	Great West		✓

CENTRAL MONTANA REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

Water System Improvement Project
Monthly Meeting
February 12, 2025
Sign-In Sheet

Name	Organization	Online	In Person
Susan Hayes	GWE		X
Bob Church	GWE		X
Cheri Anderson	GWE	X	
Debbie Williamson		X	
Rick Duncan	DNRC		X
Anna Miller	DNRC		X
Greg Kruzich	BOR		X
Monty Sealy			X
Brenda Huffman			X
Sandie Koenig	DEQ		X

CENTRAL MONTANA REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
Water System Improvement Project
Monthly Meeting
February 12, 2025
Sign-In Sheet

Name	Organization	Online	In Person
ALLEN DAVIS	RYEGATE		X
Jim KALITOWSKI	HARLO		
Shelby Welch	RD	X	
Kasia Bothman	GWE	X	
Jerry Wood	C+C Excavat	X	
Scott Keller	Shawmut Deadmans	X	
Edward Grime		X	