CENTRAL MT REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
Harlowton, MT 59036
May 14, 2025
MEETING MINUTES

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- CMRWA: Sam Klepzig, Zach Tomlinson, Monty Sealey
- Great West Engineering: Amy Deitchler, Cheri Anderson, Bob Church, Susan Hayes
- Shawmut-Deadman's Basin Water District: Scott Keller
- Funding Agencies: Rick Duncan, Anna Miller, Shelby Welch, Greg Kruzich, Sandie Koenig
- MMCWD: Warren Hansen, Tom Harsh
- Sunset Colony: Eli Wifp
- Harlowton Board Members: Jim Kalitowski, Jeff Sell
- Ryegate Board Member: Allen Davis
- Roundup Board Members: Lon Sibley, Dave Liggett
- Stahly:
- Innova:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM April 9, 2025.

- Motion to approve by Lon, the April minutes, seconded by Jeff and passed

TREASURER'S REPORT AND CURRENT BILLS

- Motion to pay the bills by Dave L., seconded by Allen, and motion passed

Invoices					
Vendor	Invoice	Category	Amount	Bank	Funding Source
Great West Eng.	36002	Phase IV – Design	$9,862.60	Stock	BOR
Great West Eng.	36003	Phase III & IIIA – Aquatic & Cultural Resource	$3,457.50	Stock	BOR
Great West Eng.	36004	Data Acquisition & Database Updating	$2,855.25	1st Sec	General Admin
Great West Eng.	36005	Phase II – Construction Mgmt & RPR	$73,601.66	1st Sec	SRF
Great West Eng.	36006	Phase IV & V Connecting Infrastructure	$31,975.42	Stock	BOR
Great West Eng.	36007	Phase III – Design	$58,405.75	Stock	BOR
COP Construction	Pay App 17	Phase IIC – Construction	$15,357.61	1st Sec	SRF
MT Gross Receipts	1% Tax 17	Phase IIC – Construction	$155.13	1st Sec	SRF
Urick Law Firm, PLLC	Statement	Phase III - Legal	$210.00	Stock	BOR
Northwestern Energy	3402184418	Sunset Colony Vault Service Connection	$5,933.00	Stock	BOR
Trailer Sales	3135	Utility Bed	$10,950.00	1ST Sec	RW-24-088
HurcoTechnologies	7063	Valve Exerciser	$12,310.00	1ST Sec	RW-24-088/Admin
C&C Excavation	Pay App 7	Phase IV – Construction	$722,039.25	Stock	BOR
MT Gross Receipts	1% Tax 7	Phase IV – Construction	$7,293.33	Stock	BOR
Mid Rivers	8740500	Internet for Water Monitoring	$30.35	1ST Sec	General Admin
Westwind Web	5542	Posting Minutes	$60.00	1ST Sec	General Admin
Montana Group LTD	1764	Legislative Assistance – State	$4,000.00	1ST Sec	O&M Account
Bighorn Public Affairs	1604	Legislative Assistance - Federal	$2,500.00	1ST Sec	General Admin
Innova LLC	1275	Accounting	$494.00	Stock	BOR
Cody McDonald	Lease	Wells 2 & 3	$10,500.00	1ST Sec	General Admin
Cody McDonald	Lease	Phase IV - Wells 4 & 5	$10,500.00	Stock	BOR
Project & Mgmt Serv	RW025004	Phase IV & III - Admin and Coordination	$5,775.00	Stock	BOR
Project & Mgmt Serv	RW025004A	Administration	$2,094.33	1ST Sec	General Admin
		Total Invoices	$990,420.18		

O & M REPORT

- Monty – finally able to pay the bill from operations, FIB balance owed is $39,000 but will hopefully pay off by July
- Roundup is now being billed for the base amount

- Monty intends to get the same auditor under contract. Seeking authorization from the board to hire the auditor back on board. The audit was $10,500.
    - Motion to use the same auditor by Lon, seconded by Jeff, motion passed.
- Update from Sam Klepzig
    - Sam has worked with Townsend Controls to put together a cost for a change we'd like to do that costs $13,000 and what that does is it gives us an outlet outside of our vault, if we have to shut all the power down in all, we can still be watered and it also gives another warning for if the sump is running – it will come through on the SCADA.
        - This is considered a project enhancement.
            - BOR noted that their funds cannot be used for anything that will be done for Phase 1 as they were not involved in that phase of the project. That will need to be separated out.
        - Motion to pay for this by Dave L., motion seconded by Jeff, motion passed.
    - Starlink – Would like the board to pay the monthly fee $160/month. If the contractor didn't have Starlink they would not have water to Roundup right now. Operators will buy the equipment but asking the board to pay the monthly bill.
        - Equipment is around $600 the board would like to buy the equipment and pay the monthly bill
        - Motion to pay for Starlink by Lon, motion seconded by Jeff, motion passed.
    - Valve exerciser – $12,000, Utility Box $10,359
        - Motion to pay for valve exerciser and utility box by Jeff, motion seconded by Dave L., motion passed.

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES UPDATE

- Bighorn Public Affairs
    - Sent Jennifer the press release, she was excited to show the press release in Washington
    - Senator Daines should show the before/after photo to the Senate
- State Legislature
    - HB11 passed the senate and house which has the regional water money in the bill
    - Bill allows $10 M for Regional Water in the next biennium
    - Asking for $2.3 M for phase 3A
    - DNRC recommends getting the application in soon.
    - Motion to approve to allow Jim to sign the application via docusign when it is ready made by Allen, seconded by Dave L., motion passed

PHASE II-TO ROUNDUP-STATUS

- Schedule Update
    - Roundup system is flushed and up and running
    - Getting compliments on the water
    - Some punch list items remaining (electrical and a few random things)
    - Recommending substantial completion at this point.
        - Dave L. moved to recommend substantial completion, 2nd by Lon, motion passed.
    - Labeling in panels, hardwiring, as-builts, seeding are all left
    - Electrical should be done next week
- Ribbon Cutting
    - Would like to do a celebration of some sort
    - Board would like to put something together, would like a weekday event
    - June would be a good time, send a group email to see what schedule works for everyone

PHASE IV TO MELSTONE-STATUS

- Schedule update
    - Installed up to Sunset and working back towards Roundup
    - The vaults at Sunset and Griffith have been set.
    - The pipe is about 7 miles from Roundup.
    - They're in lots of rock hard digging, using a rock hammer, so it's slow going, but we're getting there.
    - They're going to start installing piping in those two vaults within the next week or two.
    - Change Order 3 - for fencing around the vault some of the additional service materials cost increase $17,630
        - Motion to approve Change Order 3 by Allen, seconded by Dave L., motion passed
- Loan closing status/Coverage Report
    - Plenty of Fed and State money in the budget
    - Loan closing in September
- Northwestern Energy Agreement – Sunset Colony vault
    - Bill for power $5,932 agreement to sign

PH III TO BROADVIEW-STATUS

- DNRC grant agreement
  - Should have this in a few weeks
- Jones/Butler Easement
  - Jones accepted offer by the board to sign a duplicate easement
- State, MDT and Town easements
  - Dealing with a few last minutes items to get this over to DEQ
  - Alignment varies quite a bit and want it clarified before it goes to MDT
  - Only 2 reviewers right now at DEQ. Shouldn't take too long once it's submitted.
  - Once approved will get ready to go to bid
  - Waiting for DEQ to do their EA
- Schedule Update
  - Next week will do a final drive through to make sure everything is laid out right
  - Should bid this summer
  - Construction late summer early fall
  - Water to Broadview by 2026

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

- Environmental Work - completed
- Cultural work will be happening this summer (July)
- Will be sending letters to everyone that has property adjacent to the pipe line and ask if any want service
- Design will start once Phase III design is completed
- Water will be delivered by end of 2027

PHASE III B-TO RYEGATE-STATUS

- Try closing on Phase I project work in June
- Start Phase II next month

WELLS 4 & 5 SYSTEM CONNECTION-STATUS

- Schedule update
  - Precast building
    - The schedule is to start in August and that was based on when equipment delivery was going to happen.
    - Cost difference $22,156 for new precast building
    - Motion to pass by Dave L., seconded by Allen, motion passed
  - Generators (CAT)
    - Sam likes CAT, service is better
    - Cost difference $5,470
    - (Same motion as the precast building)

MIDDLE MUSSELSHELL WATER DISTRICT

- Still moving forward with their project, working with the funding agencies on which components are funding eligible, and apparently their engineer has started the process of working on the design and making pretty good progress there.

PHASE V TO HOBSON-STATUS

- Working with reclamation to get that portion of the project federally funded.
- Rick – Is there a count of rural connections before the pipeline gets to Hobson. Bob – Through Phase 3 there are about 180 rural connections. Guessing 3A has another 20, Phase 5 probably 30, Probably 200-250 connections

BOR

DNRC

- Rick – Supervisor has completed review of the 2.6 m grant
- Only comment was with regard to MEPA coordination
- Rick prefers that you not defer the agreement until the June meeting
- Closing out 2025 biennium, working with Kasia to close out grants. Need to spend the ARPA funds this year.
- Need the biennium end report
- Proposals for how administrative grant for 2027 biennium will it be spent

- Motion for Jim to sign DNRC grant agreement made by Jeff, seconded by Allen, passed

SRF

- Sandy – Needs a certification letter for Phase II ASAP
- Phase 3 to Broadview – Sandy needs design report

RD

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UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- June 11, 2025

OTHER BUSINESS

- Fergus Electric said they will not proceed with any construction activity in new locations until initial security deposit of $52,000. dollars is sent to them. Monty has proposed a letter of credit and he is working with bank to forward Fergus letter of credit.
    - Motion to approve letter of credit by Allen, seconded by Lon, motion passed.
- Got word this last two weeks that starting the 19th when we draw money out of the ASAP, we have to do a Justification report, 300 words or less.