**CENTRAL MT REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY**
**Harlowton, MT 59036**
**September 10, 2025**
**MEETING MINUTES**

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- CMRWA: Sam Klepzig, Monty Sealey
- Great West Engineering: Amy Deitchler, Bob Church, Cheri Anderson, Susan Hayes
- Shawmut-Deadman's Basin Water District: Scott Keller
- Funding Agencies: Greg Kruzich, Sandie Koenig, Shelby Welch, Anna Miller,
- MMCWD: Warren Hanson, Debby McCandless, Mike McCandless
- Sunset Colony:
- Harlowton Board Members: Jim Kalitowski, Paul Otten, Jeff Sell
- Ryegate Board Member: Allen Davis
- Roundup Board Members: Dave Liggett, Lon Sibley
- Stahly: Matt Smith
- Innova:
- Dorsey Whitney: Dan Semmens

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM August 13, 2025.

- **Motion** to approve the August minutes by Allen, motion seconded by Dave L., motion carried.

## TREASURER'S REPORT AND CURRENT BILLS

- **Motion** to approve the bills to pay by Dave L., motion seconded by Allen, motion carried.

| Invoices | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Vendor** | **Invoice** | **Category** | **Amount** | **Bank** | **Funding Source** |
| Great West Engineering | 37044 | PH II - Construction Management & RPR | $18,810.60 | 1st Sec | SRF - 2C |
| Great West Engineering | 37046 | PH III & IIIA - Aquatic/Cultural Resources | $9,141.09 | Stock | BOR - III |
| Great West Engineering | 37045 | PH IV - Connecting Infrastructure Engineering | $80,745.51 | Stock | BOR - IV |
| Great West Engineering | 37047 | PH III - Design Tasks | $37,616.23 | Stock | BOR - III |
| Great West Engineering | 37049 | Judith Basin Monitoring: Data Acquisition | $650.00 | 1st Sec | General Admin |
| C&C Excavation | Pay App 11 | PH IV - Construction | $480,691.54 | 1st Sec | RW-24-086 |
| MT Gross Receipts Tax | 1% Tax 11 | PH IV - Construction | $4,855.47 | 1st Sec | RW-24-086 |
| COP Construction | Pay App 15 | PH IIB - Construction | $9,900.00 | Stock | BOR - IIB |
| MT Gross Receipts Tax | 1% Tax 15 | PH IIB - Construction | $100.00 | Stock | BOR - IIB |
| Innova | 1359 | Accounting | $335.50 | 1st Sec | General Admin |
| Bighorn Public Affairs | 1644 | General Administration | $2,500.00 | 1st Sec | General Admin |
| Harmon | | PH III - Powerline Easement | $42,500.00 | Stock | BOR - III |
| Bangert | | PH III - Powerline Easement | $7,000.00 | Stock | BOR - III |
| Bangert | | PH III - Vault & Pipeline Easement | $5,000.00 | Stock | BOR - III |
| Solberg | | PH III - Powerline Easement | $7,000.00 | Stock | BOR - III |
| COP Construction | Pay App 1 | PH IV - Connecting Infrastructure Construction | $1,070,463.18 | 1st Sec/Stock | WRF-26602: $50,001 WRF-26601: $50,001 BOR: $970,461.18 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MT Gross Receipts Tax | 1% Tax 1 | PH IV - Connecting Infrastructure Construction | $10,812.76 | Stock | BOR - IV |
| Roundup Record | 6133 | Legal Notice Advertising | $354.75 | Stock | BOR - III |
| Project & Management | RW025008A | Administration | $1,657.27 | 1st Sec | General Admin |
| Project & Management | RW02508 | Project Admin/Coordination | $6,075.00 | Stock | BOR - III & IV |
| Sierra Highway Safety | 10906 | Construction Supplies | $3,698.02 | 1st Sec | SRF - IIC |
| Midrivers Comm. | 8740500 | Water Monitoring | $22.98 | 1st Sec | General Admin |
| Stoican Construction | 1524-315 | Construction | $70,500.00 | Stock | BOR - II Well 4 |
| | | **Total Invoices** | **$1,870,429.90** | | |

**Monty**: The First Security Bank money $741,000 in the hole is because I haven't received any reimbursements yet.

**O & M REPORT**

- Monty Report on O&M Account
  - July claims or $46,922, total expenditures of $87,482 August water payments $110,039.
  - Which was the total revenue, our ending bank balance $120,885.36.
  - NW Pipe has charged $15,000 for service techs and parts for the Well 3 issue
  - Six of the dehumidifiers will get paid out of the grant funds for Phase 2. The other two dehumidiferes are being paid for out of O&M budget for Phase 1. Total bill is $19,600.
  - **Motion** to approve paying for humidifiers by Lon S., motion seconded by Allen D., motion carried.
- Fergus Electric
  -
- Well 3
  - **Sam:** As of this morning, we were hoping that the ground at Well 3 was in this 50 foot above ground power extension that they spliced in and they put 600 Volt wire in instead of 2300 Volt wire. This was tested and determined that the ground in in the well not above ground in the splice as we were hoping. So we've got we've got some decisions on how to proceed.
  - **Bob**: We were hoping that this ground was in that splice piece and found out today it wasn't, it's down in the well. So what could the ground be? Well, it could be one of three things. It could be the cable from the top of the well down to the pump. It could be the motor seal. It could be the motor itself. The pump has been running with just two legs, so that's why we've been able to keep using it, but we can't find out which of those three it is without pulling the pump out of the well. We don't want to take that well offline right now because the water use is still high. There will be a several week lead time to get a cable, motor and seal. The bad news is that the quote that we got from Central Drilling to order a motor, seal and a cable pull the pump assembly, put it back together and drop it the pipe is right around $250,000. The motor itself cost $50,000. Do we order it now before we pull the pump? Because there's a chance it's not the motor. So Central's checking into whether if we pull the pump and it's not the motor can we return the motor? We can also keep it as a spare, but there's some drawbacks to that. They may just charge us a restock fee where we have to pay a percentage of the cost of the motor because we ordered it and didn't use it. Central's checking into that with Baker Hughes. There's been a lot of issues that have been discovered with the way Baker Hughes set up the pump and programming. There's some programming bugs that Sam's had Techs up from Baker Hughes multiple times to deal with. This last Baker Hughes tech was the most knowledgeable expert Sam and Zach have seen, and he made some comments about some of the stuff with the filter wasn't programmed correctly. So there's that issue too. Then just to add complication to the issues, we're getting a lot of transient power spikes from Fergus Electric. If we had the other two wells online, I think there would be more time to consider other alternatives. My recommendation to the board is to go forward with pulling the pump, ordering the motor, the seal and the cable and then contracting with Central Drilling. to get the work done. The difficulty is on the financial side because you guys don't have $250,000 in your plan to address this. I left a message with Sandie at SRF and I'm not expecting her to answer her right during this phone call, but I'll be talking to her. We have contingency in the well four and phase four projectst, quite a lot more than 250,000. What I'd like to do is propose to the MT SRF that we update the budget and use the portion of our project contingency to cover the cost of this repair.
  - **Monty**: We have two more pumps and going into the other two wells. Why is it that we have to be six months out of warranty before this stuff shows up? Is that how it's going to work on the other wells too?
  - **Susan**: A well pump often lasts way, way longer than that. And I mean Baker Hughes is a reputable brand. They make huge pumps for oil and gas as well as water. It's really unfortunate that this is

occurring. We still have things to figure out as to why it happened. But I would say generally speaking, when we put in a well pump we estimate they last anywhere from 15 to 30 years.
    - **Monty**: Is there a time of day that the power spikes are happening?
    - **Sam:** I would say that's 90% of it is in that time frame but that's not priority usage right now. But it's about 6:00 in the morning until about 9:30 in the morning. That's when the most spikes happen and then I'll get a few sporadically.
    - **Monty:** So, are you getting an effect on our system from those spikes? We're not pumping until 10:00 in the morning. Why do we care if the power is dirty before that? We need to find out, obviously. But if that's not what's causing us the problem, because we're not pumping during that time, it might not be causing that problem at 10:00 in the morning. But that's when it is. It's in the morning when the spikes happen.
    - **Sam:** But because the electric demand period in the morning will start in the fall. Right now it's just the evening one now. *(Pumping does happen in the morning right now as the electric demand period blackout is only in the evening, 6-9pm. Pumping can currently happen in the morning, including 6-9am, that changes October 1.)*
    - **Susan:** Looking at those things that we can control by when we're using our equipment, we can control it. We're also looking at adding power quality monitors at each of the wells, much more sophisticated ones than we have right now. With a good data logger if there are fluctuations in the incoming voltage the well can be taken offline and if it persists for any period of time, we have backup generators that can be utilized during these periods.
    - **Motion** to approve new pump/motor/cable purchase and install as needed by Central Drilling as an emergency project by Jeff Sell, motion seconded by Dave L., motion carried (unanimous).

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES UPDATE**

- Bighorn Public Affairs
    - Has not received a call back. They have been paid

**PHASE II-TO ROUNDUP-STATUS**

- Punchlist Items
    - Waiting on items to be addressed. Hoping to have that done this month so it can be closed out next month.
- Well 4 Loan Closing
    - Monty has the paperwork $1.7 million.
    - **Motion** to approve closing the loan and authorizing Monty to sign the documents by Jeff, motion seconded by Allen, motion carried.

**PHASE IV TO MELSTONE-STATUS**

- Schedule update
    - Close to Roundup connection, should be done by next week.
    - Halfway to Melstone
- Phase 4 Loan Closing
    - **Motion** to approve bond anticipation note and authorizing Monty to sign the documents by Lon, motion seconded by Dave L., motion carried.

**PH III TO BROADVIEW-STATUS**

- DEQ Comments
    - Susan is working through the comments. Nothing out of the ordinary
- State, MDT and Town easements
    - 3 final comments are being worked through with MDT
    - Lavina and Broadview should have the encroachment permits on next month's agenda
    - Golden Valley also needs to review the encroachment but Susan has not heard back
- BNSF Permit
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- Fergus Electric – Middle Rd PRV and Lavina Tank
    - Payments approved for power line extensions. Monty will not send checks until he has the signed easements.
    - Harmon approved the easement
    - Lehfeldt does not want to grant a power easement so we are working with Fergus to put a portion of the Lavina tank electrical service in the County Road right of way
- NWE – Broadview booster pump, Broadview meter pit
- Eagle Survey

- Schedule Update
  - Going out to bid end of the month
  - Open bids in October and recommendation to award
- Meeting with Broadview Council
  - **Bob**: The Mayor asked me to go to their Council meeting because they had some questions. Monty and I attended their meeting last night and answered their questions. Monty asked if they were rethinking connecting to the regional system and the council unanimously said they're not rethinking connecting to the regional system.

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

- Environmental and Cultural Work
  - Environmental work is All done
  - Cultural - Brian was going to start it and hope to be done by end of the month
- Grant Application for $2.3M to DNRC has been submitted
  - Kasia took our application and got it on the DNRC's Submittable program. That application is now in the DNRC's court. We've started initiating a little bit of the design work on 3A.
- Initiated Design Work
  - Started to do design work

**PHASE III B-TO RYEGATE-STATUS**

- **Matt**: waiting for easement document on the north side of the tank. Also waiting for environmental items.

**WELLS 4 & 5 SYSTEM CONNECTION-STATUS**

- Schedule update
  - Going well, pipe is getting laid in the ground

**MIDDLE MUSSELSHELL DISTRICT**

- **Matt:** We have a new route that crosses some private property. We've had an initial conversation with that private property owner and he's willing to give us an easement. I need a little bit of information on where the actual connection point's going to be. Amy, I don't know that I ever I got kind of a line drawn on a map, but I I've got a little more surveying to do because of that realignment and I need to get a legal description so I can get an easement from that. Amy said she would get Matt the coordinates of the connection point and have a stake put there so Stahly could survey it.

**PHASE V TO HOBSON-STATUS**

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**BOR**

- **Greg:** Nothing

**DNRC**

**RD**

**UPCOMING MEETING DATES**

- October 8, 2025

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Central Montana Regional Water Authority
September 10, 2025
Roundup, MT 59072

| Name | Address | Representing | E-mail/Telephone |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jim Kalitowski | | Harlo | |
| Dave Liggett | | Roundup | |
| Jeff Sell | | Harlowton | |
| Lon Sibley | | Roundup | |
| Allen Davis | | Ryegate | |
| Online Cheri Anderson | | Great West | |
| Greg Kruzich | | BOR | |
| Scott Keller | | Shawmut Developments | |
| Matt Smith | | Stahely | |
| Shelby Welch | | BD | |
| Sandie Koenig | | SRF | |
| Anna Miller | | DNRC | |

Central Montana Regional Water Authority
September 10, 2025
Roundup, MT 59072

| Name | Address | Representing | E-mail/Telephone |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bob Church | | Crank Cust | |
| Mike McCandless | | | |
| Debby McCandless | | | |
| Warren Harrison | | MMCWD | |
| Amy Deitcher | | GWE | |
| Susan Hayes | | GWE | |
| Paul Otten | | Harlo | |