

ROUND MOUNTAIN WATER AND SANITATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

THURSDAY, September 19, 2024

2:00 P.M. – 3rd Street Gallery Building Conference Room

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of the ROUND MOUNTAIN WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT of Westcliffe/Silver Cliff Colorado, will hold a meeting for the purpose of conducting such business as may come before the Board. This meeting is open to the Public.

Call to Order at 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Board Members - Charles Bogle, Randy Wilhelm, Mark Dembosky, and Connie Thompson
Staff – Dave Schneider, Peggy Quint, Carlan Cardenas (via zoom)
Public – Elliott Jackson, Tribune (via zoom)

Pledge of Allegiance led by Steve Lasswell

Public input for those not on the agenda will be limited to 3 minutes

Additions to the October 17, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

1. Resolution regarding Social Media Policy

Administrative Reports

1. Assistant District Manager – Peggy Quint – Report in Board Packet.
Additions to report – Carlan worked hard on the new budget General Ledger accounts and the amounts that were to be allocated. Thank you Carlan! Peggy has applied for a .gov domain. The handout in the packet explains why this is necessary. Streamline offers the district great support and was presented at the SDA Conference. One new tap was sold yesterday. Total of 7 new taps for 2024. Capital improvements total is now \$895,900. Mark Dembosky asked if anything has been done about the You Tube presentation. Dave is researching this. Elliott Jackson may have information on making a You Tube video. Dave asked Elliott to give him a call. Bulk Water customers may have their accounts closed if they have not responded to the correspondence to signing the bulk water legal documents. They will then have to open a new account with the \$35.00 deposit. Steve suggested that we let them know ahead of time.
2. ORC – Steven Koch – Report in Board Packet – Dave stated that the field techs are finishing French Street replacing a 1 ½ irrigation line with a 6-inch water main. Steven participated in the Special Districts Association Conference. He was very intentional and networked with other districts.
3. District Manager – Dave Schneider
 - Well/Meter/Solar Project – 3rd GWUDI (Ground Water Under Direct Influence) test is complete. This was the last one. Sampling will continue through October. The test results were excellent. There is about \$180K left in the SRF. Once we know the CDPHE's decision on the testing, RMWSD could use the funds and modify the scope if it relates to water distribution. We are paying on the loan as if we used the whole amount. Field Techs have a few ideas on what we could use the funds for.
 - Reservoir – McGuire's agreement is approved by Custer County and has been sent to the attorney for quick claim documents to be written. RMWSD will pay \$20k for two acres. This project should be starting in the Spring of 2025. Dave presented a new design which added leak detection, is now a

little wider and not as deep, and riprap on the bottom edge of the tall side along the bluff. Dave does not anticipate any push back on this design, which is the second application submitted. The reservoir will be 100% lined. If the sides should start to break down, a liner can be installed. It will be completely fenced in with a 4-foot-high cattle fence. Dave discussed a floating solar array concept. Iconergy is currently working on a project like this on a small reservoir. DOLA has suggested a potential grant source for reservoir costs that is specifically for small reservoirs. Dave will start the process. The application for \$1.5 million must be submitted by December 15, 2024. The reservoir will give us 150-acre feet of water storage. Dave will be contacting the Geroux once hay season is complete. Dave has a syphon design suggestion where the pipes would be underground all the way to the location that it comes out of the ground and into the reservoir. That way the Geroux will be able to use the land. The reservoir will be 100% lined. We have 355.8-acre feet of storage in Lake DeWeese. This will add another 100-acre feet of storage. The footprint of the reservoir will be about 8 acres. The depth will be 33 feet at the deepest end. Charles stated that he would like the district to check on the nuisance liability insurance. Steve is surprised that our insurance would not require a higher fence. Dave will check into this.

- **WWTP – Draft of 3-way agreement between RMWSD, EPIC and GMS.** Epic will pay the original engineering cost which is just under \$68k. The demonstration application should be back by the end of October from GMS. There will be a detailed design briefing with GMS and the board so that the board members will have what they need to pass on to constituents in the district. Since there are a lot of discussions around town regarding the capacity of the treatment plant, it would be good to have the most current information to share with the community. We will have the ability to service at least double the population.
- **RMWA Convention–** Dave attended and was asked to do a full presentation next year. There is a lot of interest in the concept of Electro Coagulation. Dave took some of the district’s wastewater to run through the process. Although the Shark Tank Presentation did not win, the exposure to the concept was welcomed. CDPHE was in attendance and Dave was able to talk to them about Discharge Limit Variance. The State regulators have added a financial component to the decision process that was not there before. The regulator that is running this is sending the information to Dave. Dave has filled out the paperwork and is waiting for the assessment. This will address the requirements that are financially impossible - like the .02 ppb of arsenic. The State is bumping up to the Federal level that districts are unable to meet the limits. Dave Kurtz and GMS were also at the conference and Dave had the opportunity to talk to them. Denali was also attending.
- **Denali Sludge Removal –** Dave discussed our project, and they are looking for potential land application locations. A potential location is the old Johnson Ranch. Once there is an agreement with the landowner, there would have to be a State approved soil sampling. There is only one person that lives in the vicinity, so there shouldn’t be an issue. We would conduct the desludging in late Spring of 2025 and the cost will be about \$300K to \$350K. Custer County is also looking for a location for land application instead of pumping that they do now. Dave is predicting that it will be 60 days for approval of design – RFP right after that. We can use the next 6 to 9 months to get ready for the project.
- **Solar Array Agreement with Pivot –** Black Hills Energy wants a two-phase process due to the limited amount of infrastructure to be able to take the amount of megawatts that could be produced here. Asking Pivot for 1.5 system on 10 acres then move up the 2.5 system on 15 acres. They would pay us for ten acres instead of 40 acres. The ten acres that we currently use for land app is not a part of the agreement. Once we are done with the Pilot Project, we can offer the rest of the land to Pivot. There is a big solar array being discussed in Silver Cliff. Black Hills Energy has been dragging their feet, but now they are being required to rely more and more on renewable energy.
- **Emerging Technology Class –** Pueblo – CRWA. Dave presented at this class in place of Powell Water.
- **Realtor/Shop/Custer County and the property lines.** Dave met with Wade Pettis regarding the shop property. Custer County is happy with this purchase and the district absorbing the property lines. Seller has decided that dividing the property would be an advantage to selling the house. Dave will meet with Custer County Commissioners to get approval on cleaning up the property lines. We have verbally agreed to \$250K for the property. Randy requested that the purchase be contingent on the results of asbestos testing.
- **New Office –** Dave has worked on the numbers and stated that we can build cheaper than buying the Juleson house. It could be building slab on grade and include the ADA compliance in the design. Charles said that the Emergency Management Staff has asked if RMWSD has property to cut and store firewood. Dave stated that this is a massive liability and is not interested in this idea at all.

- **Augmentation** – the creek has flowed all year and continues to flow. We are still getting credit and DeWeese is still full. However, a lot of water went of the dam. Its unfortunate that we did not have any storage for it.

Consent Agenda

1. **Approval of the Minutes of the August 15, 2024, Regular Board Meeting**
2. **Financial Report and Approval of Checks for August 2024**
Motion was made to approve the consent agenda by Connie Thompson and seconded by Randy Wilhelm. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote. Steve requested that acronyms are explained.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **2025 Budget Update and Presentation – Final Presentation is due October 15, 2024 – Public Hearing will be November 21, 2024.** Dave presented the final draft budget with the new General Ledger accounts that have been added to better classify expenses. This budget reflects a 6% increase in water and wastewater rates and a one cent increase in the bulk water rate per gallon. With the potential purchase of the shop building, \$250K for the shop will be used from unallocated funds in the current bank account. The \$20k for the property for the reservoir will also come out of unallocated funds. There are no matching funds obligations in 2025 except for the \$160k for the pilot project 25% match which is in capital improvements. Board members were satisfied with the numbers and agreed that the Public Hearing can be scheduled. This will be in the local papers and the website. Public Hearing will be November 21, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at the 3rd Street Gallery Building. There will be a budget adjustment for the 2024 Budget regarding the Tap Purchases. This will be in December, once the number of taps sold is clearer.
2. **Resolution 2024-9 approving amendment to Personnel Manual (5.9) addressing evaluations.** Dave presented the final copy of the resolution. The change was to add a comment section to the review document. Also, the word “expects” was replaced with “requires” in the paragraph. Connie Thompson moved to approve the resolution with the changes. Mark Dembosky seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

1. **SDA Conference Take aways**

Peggy shared that she attended several breakout sessions that covered Colorado Open Records Act (CORA), Accessibility of Website, Cyber Security, and Record Keeping. She reminded the board members that all correspondence is public record. If personal emails are used, a CORA request would include personal emails and text messages. Professionalism is important. The district CORA policy is current and covers what is necessary. Streamline presented the accessibility requirements for Special Districts. They are very supportive and strive to help us meet those requirements. Cyber Security is always important, and the conference had a lot of information to offer. Colorado Business Systems (CBS), our IT company, is right on top of our security and where we turn if we ever have an issue. Record Keeping is where RMWSD has always excelled! So, overall, RMWSD is in good shape!

Dave said the conference was a great experience. It was good to see familiar faces and meet new participants. Most districts are having issues with employee retainage and the remote challenge. He talked to Iconergy about a floating solar array on the reservoir and/or the lagoons. Dave was glad Steven attended and was happy he was networking during the conference.

Steven was not in attendance at the meeting, but he made comments on his ORC Report about attending the conference. Steven received a CSD Pool Scholarship, so his conference attendance was paid for. Connie apologized for not being able to attend as planned.

2. **CEBT (Colorado Employees Benefit Trust) the district's Health, Dental, Vision, Life, STD and LTD Insurance Approval for 2025. Peggy attended the CEBT Rate Increase breakout session. Health premiums will increase 13.5% and Dental premiums will increase 4%. Vision premiums will remain the same. These increases have been included in the amounts budgeted for 2025. Motion to renew the district's CEBT policy for 2025 was made by Mark Dembosky and seconded by Randy Wilhelm. Motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Social Media Policy Draft for the District – a Social Media Policy will allow us to block posts that do not follow our policy guidelines, including posts that are not pertinent to our district or contain comments that are personal, profane, slanderous, threatening, or harassing. This policy will also state that the General Manager and Business Office Manager will be the only staff to respond to posts on the district Facebook page. A final draft will be written with a resolution to approve the policy to be presented at the October 17, 2024, Regular Board Meeting.**

Adjourn at 4:00 p.m.

