

Rim Trail Domestic Water Improvement Special District Board Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2021

Held via Zoom.

APPROVED MEETING Minutes REV 1.23.22

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

2. Roll was called – Chairman Bruce Johnson (BJ), Treasurer Ray Tanner (RT), Secretary John Tanner (JT), Vice Chairman Will Regg (WR) were present, Parliamentarian Jeff Manley (JM), and a quorum was established.

New District Manager: Mario Ascoli (MA)

Public: Judy Scott

3. Approval of minutes of prior meeting on June 19, 2021. JT motioned to approve minutes as written, WR seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.

a. RT presented the Treasurer Report: RT has been working with MA to get everything caught up in QuickBooks and we are just about caught up. RT doesn't have everything because there are a few things that still need detailing but the Profit and Loss side thru October we have a Net Income of \$5,466 and on the Balance sheet side of things the Cash number stands at \$70,721. No questions. BJ indicated we will have a meeting this January at that time we will have a complete Treasurer report.

b. BJ introduced MA as the new District Manager. Since the passing of DA, MA has been operating the district with the approval of ADEQ. The reason we need a Level II operator is that we take water out of the creek, and we filter and chlorinate it and DA fulfilled this and at first, ADEQ gave us 30 days to fulfill that position. We did interview 3 different candidates all of which met those requirements. We discussed with ADEQ and they agreed that if MA was working towards getting his Level II, they would work with us and he could continue working as a Level 1, so that's what we agreed to do. Since then, MA worked very hard and got his Level II certification for Water Treatment and Water Distribution. MA has continued to work under the DA agreement and will continue to do that until those need to be renewed and will renegotiate with MA. BJ noted that he had received call from HJ concerned that this meeting had not been properly posted. BJ checked on this and noted that the opaqueness of the protective cover at mailboxes made it difficult to read and the notice had been properly posted. BJ confirmed this with HJ. BJ noted that we should replace the plexiglass so notice and minutes can be clearly observed. BJ and MA will work on getting it replaced.

c. MA proceeded with his report: MA began with thanking everyone on the Board and on the community with all their help on this transition. He is always welcome to anyone's feedback. Currently there is a very small leak up at WT Knob that he will get repaired, and he is working on winterizing everything as the temperature is getting colder, making sure heaters are operating and pipes are properly insulated and taped. MA has really appreciated working with RT and all his input at this time. RT is a wealth of information on going thru everything on the Treasure information. MA has spent some time with BJ and caught up on the items he has been working on as President. MA's goal going forward is to keep improving the system making it the best water systems out there. MA has really appreciated again everyone's help in this transition. WR, speaking on behalf of the Board expressed our condolences again for the loss of his Dad who meant allot to all of us and we really appreciate MA stepping up and sticking with us, noting that we all have the same goal on the water district.

5a. WIFA Loan update: MA has talked to Linsey (with WIFA) and that we are getting back to working on the two remaining projects. One being the replacement of the WTK tank, new tank pad and valve. The 2<sup>nd</sup> one is replacing all the meters with AMR meters. We have 3 bids for the meters and currently 3 bids for the tank and he is getting a 4<sup>th</sup> one. With the complexity of getting a tank up the curvy road on WTK he wants to make sure the installation bid is properly accounted and will talk to each one the contractors and make sure they understand the criteria to complete the tank replacement. On the meter replacements, there is a concern that if property owners do not have 'shut off valve and back-flow preventer' after the meter, we are considering doing that at the same time. WR asked if there is a significant number of meters that are missing the additional valve, MA indicated he doesn't have a complete accounting of them because they are not all located directly after the meter. BJ noted that according to by-laws that the valve is required and we are considering adding it in at time of meter replacement or making sure owner gets it added by their own plumber. RT questioned that at some point some of these units were considered to be 'grandfathered in' and would not be required to install them. Discussion pursued on this topic it was noted that the valve and back flow preventer is currently required, and we will discuss this further at next meeting to work out the details of how many are required and who will pay the cost.

MA will make an accounting on next water meter check to establish number of meters that do not have the additional valve. BJ noted the concern of the current supply issues, and that MA did check with our vendors, and he confirmed there is enough inventory to draw from and we will have enough replacement meters available. RT pointed out that some of our meters have been replaced with AMR meters and MA indicated at this point there are 7 currently installed.

5b. Purchase of Zoom license: BJ reminded us that at one of our previous meetings we agreed to have DA purchase a Zoom license. With the passing of DA there was some confusion on the purchase and purchase was delayed. At this point we need to still do that and also meet with the bank on getting MA's signature added to sign checks for the district and credit card put in MA's name.

6. Call to the Public for non-agenda items: NA

7. Call to Staff and Board Members for non-agenda topics and recommended topics for future meetings: WR suggested adding question of qualifying expense of additional cost of adding separate check valve to install of AMR meters, what is the quantity, if it can be grandfathered-in and how it will be paid. RT pointed out to verify with bidders on what that additional cost would be to add check valve and a reminder to MA that the contracts need to be approved by the Board. RT suggested need to respond in writing regarding the posting of meeting notice. There also a question of what is required to share with the public on contracts. DA was looking into this and with his passing it did not get qualified. JM will investigate this and discuss with HJ on what authorities that the district contracts should be shared with the public. JM also referred to an email from HJ on inadequate emails and will verify what he means by that. JM noted that HJ was asking for Water treatment and distribution certifications of MA and if he could receive a copy of them. MA indicated that it is public information, and he will post on Water Treatment Plant, RT noted it is on ADEQ. BJ commented to JM to assure HJ that as a district we want to have transparency and abide by the laws. RT added items to put on the next agenda to have Board tour our district wells, in addition include two of the other local neighborhood districts that either take water out of the East Verde or Bonita Creek and see how they operate and see what kind of plants they use. Another item RT wanted to add to the agenda any new information on the water treatment plant. MA didn't have anything to add right now on WTP other than we need to work on the draw station where we intake from the East Verde and further investigate the turbidity issue. WR commented when engineers look at it, we need to get a read on the intake pump. MA added FYI that Well #4 is providing about 90% of our water now along with additional amount from Well #2. RT noted: he not suggesting we should moth ball it, but our water is so expensive because of the WTP. We need a Level II operator only because of the plant. Without that plant we only need a Level 1 operator. Until our water rights issue is resolved we may not want to spend a whole lot of money on it until that is resolved. RT additional item suggested putting on agenda to establish some kind of policy on our 'distribution system upgrade'. He doesn't have a problem with replacing the system as it need to be replaced but there may be some opportunities with the "Infrastructure Bill" our President as just gotten passed. There may be alot of money available if in fact we were going to do a wholesale replacement. No other comments.

9. BJ noted that we will send us potential dates for January meeting.

10. BJ called for a motion to adjourn. JT motioned to close and WR second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 PM