

**GWSSA OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING
3025 E. Spanish Trail Road, Moab, Utah
Thursday August 15th, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Gary Wilson at 7pm. Board members in attendance were Mike Holyoak, Ben Wilson, Kevin Clyde, Rick Thompson, Dale Weiss, Rani Derasary, Brian Backus, Ken Helfenbein, Steve Getz, Luke Wojciechowski, and Mike Duncan.

Others present were Agency Manager Ben Musselman and Josh Green.

Board Members not present were Dan Pyatt and Trisha Hedin.

Minutes – Board Meeting of 7-18-2024 Presented by Gary Wilson. Motion to approve minutes by Dale Weiss. Second by Rani Derasary. **Motion carried Unanimously 12-0.**

Citizens to be heard Will Rhoades owns property on Desert Road that he inherited. For past three years it's been in probate in different scenarios, which caused him to not receive mail for property. GWSSA sent certified mail to previous owner (who was unknowingly deceased). Unanswered letters caused GWSSA to reclaim 5-acre feet of water rights and to place a lien on property. Will Rhoades explained that he did not know of this or he would have been paying these fees. He has made arrangements with GWSSA to get account up to date for both sewer and water. Would like to reobtain his 5 acre feet of water rights due to circumstances beyond his control. Ben Musselman says that this is a case by case scenario, and in this case, he has shown good faith. Gary Wilson believes that if he gets everything caught up billing wise, that he should get his water rights back. This was agreed upon sentiment. Board gave direction to Ben Musselman to work with Will Rhoades to get it taken care of.

Financial Statement Presented by Ben Musselman. Says nothing out of order. Did have two checks for maintenance for HVAC system and one for swamp cooler pads. There was a bill from our auditor for \$965.00 for him to come to our last meeting to present their findings.

Approval of Checks and Expenditures We will see a big bill next month because of booster pump and Chapman Well failures. We are on track for the year; more year has lapsed vs money spent. Working on next years budget to have preliminary ready in October. Motion by Kevin Clyde to approve checks in the amount of \$226,667.64. Second by Rick Thompson. No discussion. **Motion Carried Unanimously 12-0.**

Project Updates Presented by Ben Musselman. Combined this agenda item with Item 8 and 9. July 19th the Chapman Well pump failed due to ground fault. Surface checks indicated that problem was in well on pump. By that following Monday had a drilling company pull pump out of Chapman Well. Pump full of water and dripped for two weeks. This pump only lasted six years, replaced with our backup pump, which was the last pump that broke that we rebuilt years ago. Ben contacted all proper entities to coordinate and keep everyone up to speed on what was happening. Followed all regulations. Booster pump was waiting for O-rings and drilling company happened to have the O-rings that fit and was able to put it back in the ground for us.

Ben is having a consultant come next week to look at our pump and then evaluate all wells and pumps to help get us set up with a backup.

To help with our downtime we put a procedure in place: slowed flow of water with upper portion of our area with PRV's to decrease draw on 3 million gallon tank. Started up Spanish Valley well, which only does 250 Gallons per minute. Then activated the Interconnect with San Juan County, which helped us maintain our levels through their help and cooperation. After that, we sent out a message to conserve, which helped with roughly a 25% reduction. Water Quality remained good.

This brought up discussion over consultant to investigate what's better for situation: Above ground turbine pumps or submersibles. Get cost analysis, etc. Gary Wilson says need to figure out soon and get a booster pump at least ordered for emergencies; believes we should go with turbines.

Kevin Clyde ended with saying San Juan helped us a lot and saved our situation, which there was agreeance by all board members. This brought up the importance of having this relationship and looking into the interconnect with the City of Moab. Moab City Liaison Luke Wojciechowski was asked who they could talk to and he would get a name. Gary Wilson says we have a grant for this and we don't want to lose it, so we should get to work soon on getting this done.

Solar Farm Lease of Ken's Lake Surface Water Wise Solar Solutions contacted Ben Musselman and brought a potential project to put 1 acre of solar panels on surface of Ken's Lake. A Motion to respond to the company that GWSSA is not interested in pursuing this project was made. Recreation was a big factor in the decision for this. Motion was made by Kevin Clyde. Seconded by Rick Thompson. **Motion Carried Unanimously 12-0**

Upper Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program, B.O.R A grant brought to our attention by Nature Conservancy, Division of Drinking Water, and Division of Water Rights. There will be a meeting on Monday the 19th at 1:30pm that will include a lot of our communities' stakeholders to brainstorm about creating a diversion on the Colorado River using this grant. Diversion will immediately benefit the Matheson Wetland Preserve as it will put water back into it to revive it. Eventually this could lead to the future pumping of filling Ken's Lake for secondary irrigation use for city of Moab and aquifer recharge. There are a lot of Colorado River water rights between GWSSA and San Juan County.

Lake & Snow Report Presented by Ben Musselman. Down from last year. It has been drier. Recent rain has caused less outflow from reservoir. Our gate broke at the Sheely Diversion and is going to be fixed, we still are getting out our required CFS downstream at Millcreek.

Items from Staff Presented by Ben Musselman. Hired a new Operator named Gary Riddle who begins Monday, August 19th. He holds certificates and a class A CDL that will benefit our agency. Reassignments have been made to Record Keeping, Board Meetings, Website, and Scribe. Josh Green is now doing these responsibilities. Ben encouraged the Board to look at the website to see that it is updated to ADA requirements.

There was possibly lightning at the chlorination building, which affected inflow meter at 3 million gallon tank. Bids are being taken to replace. We are able to bypass this issue manually while waiting for new parts. Our communications is down, but Browns Hill (our SCADA) should be here Tuesday next week to fix it. Lightning storm did cause a fuse to pop at the George White Well #5. We put a new fuse in and its back up and running.

Ben noted he would be attending meetings in other towns in the coming weeks.

Committee Reports Gary Wilson, Dale Weis, and Ben met to discuss the new hire and the wages for him. They agreed to pay his counter offer because of his CDL and licenses that he already has.

A question was made by Dale Weis to clarify about a Ad hoc Committee. Ben Musselman read from section 6b from policy to inform board.

Shutoff Moratorium Discussion/Action Presented by Ben Musselman. Changes were added that were requested last meeting. Finding that it met the criteria that the Board wanted a Motion was made by Kevin Clyde to approve the RESOLUTION OF THE GRAND WATER & SEWER SERVICE AGENCY TO ESTABLISH PARAMETERS FOR A SHUTOFF MORATORIUM PROGRAM THAT GOES INTO EFFECT DURING EXTREME WEATHER-RELATED EVENTS. Seconded by Dale Weiss. No discussion. **Motion Carried Unanimously 12-0.**

Items from Board Members Kevin Clyde presented a letter to send to San Juan that thanked them for their help with supplying us with water during our emergency. Kevin also emphasized the importance of this agreement, which is why he would like to also post the letter in the paper to show the community that there is unity between the counties. Nobody disagreed. Ben Wilson asked to have the letterhead changed to reflect new members on board (was written by Agency on wrong letter head). Ben Musselman said he would get it fixed.

Closed Session No Closed Session

Adjournment Motion to adjourn by Mike Holyoak at 8:03PM. Seconded by Luke Wojciechowski. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

ATTEST:


Ben Musselman, Agency Manager


Dan Pyatt, President