

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MEDFORD WATER COMMISSION
September 18, 2013

The pledge of allegiance was given.

The regular meeting of the Medford Water Commission was called to order at 12:24 p.m. on the above date at the Medford City Hall Lausmann Annex, Room 151/157 with the following commissioners and staff present:

Acting Chair Cathie Davis; Commissioners John Dailey, Lee Fortier, Leigh Johnson

Manager Larry Rains; Medford Attorney John Huttli; Deputy City Recorder Karen Spoons; Administrative Coordinator Betsy Martin; Principal Engineer Eric Johnson; Water Quality Administrator Rosie Pindilli; Operations Superintendent Ken Johnson

Guests: City of Medford Councilmember Bob Strosser; Ashland Associate Engineer Pieter Smeenk; Central Point Mayor and Liaison Hank Williams; Eagle Point Mayor & Liaison Bob Russell; Eagle Point Public Works Director Robert Miller; Phoenix Mayor & Liaison Jeff Bellah; Joe Strahl of RH2 Engineering; Dennis Schmader

Commissioner Jason Anderson was absent.

3. Approval or Correction of the Minutes of the Last Regular Meeting of September 4, 2013
The minutes were approved as presented.

4. Comments from Audience

- 4.1 Eagle Point Public Works Director Robert Miller stated that the City of Eagle Point completed their Water Master Plan and look forward to implementing.

- 4.2 Phoenix Mayor Jeff Bellah spoke on behalf of the cities of Central Point, Jacksonville, Phoenix, Eagle Point and Talent. This group, sometimes referred to as the Cities Water Coalition, has been meeting informally for years to discuss matters which are of major importance to our region, such as water conservation, water rights of the various cities, and funding capital improvements. The "other cities" would like to form a formal regional water group and he presented potential benefits for this proposed regional body. Mr. Bellah stated that this is consistent with Governor Kitzhaber's emphasis on regionalization and noted that the Clackamas River Water Providers was formed from this concept. This concept is intended to build on the success of Southern Oregon Regional Problem Solving (RPS), the recent regional work on water conservation, and the desire to coordinate on our water resources. The "other cities" are in favor of this concept and plan to start discussions this fall about establishing goals, creating bylaws, and possibly taking other steps to create a formal organization in 2014.

Commissioner Dailey questioned what he is requesting; Mr. Bellah would like the City of Medford and the Medford Water Commission to also sign the agreement and from there the bylaws would be formed.

5. Authorization of Vouchers

Motion: Authorize the Manager and the Recorder to issue check-warrants in payment of invoices for a total amount of \$420,382.55

Moved by: Mr. Dailey

Seconded by: Mr. Fortier

Commissioner Johnson questioned the payment to Aquatic Ecosystem Science pertaining to the Willow Lake study; Manager Rains noted that this is the third and final year of that project.

Roll Call: Commissioners Dailey, Davis, Fortier, and Johnson voting yes; Fortier abstained from Rogue Disposal & Recycling, Rogue Shred, and Rogue Transfer & Recycling vouchers. Motion carried and so

ordered.

6. Engineer's Report (E. Johnson)

- 6.1 Duff Flocc/Sed Basins – Black & Veatch have started the design for the basins. The 50% preliminary plans are due October 23. The project monthly meeting is scheduled for Friday.
- 6.2 Duff Emergency Backwash – All of the equipment is on site. A tentative date of October 14 is scheduled for Duff Water Treatment Plant to be shut down for the electrical and mechanical tie over.
- 6.3 Duff Raw Water Intake Pumps – Staff is currently reviewing the draft of the predesign technical memorandum submitted by CH2M Hill.
- 6.4 Martin Control Station – PP&L has installed the new power pole and transformer, interior drain plumbing is done and butterfly valves for the pumps are being installed.
- 6.5 Angelcrest Pump Station – Staff has reviewed and returned the draft technical memorandum submitted by Marquess & Associates.
- 6.6 Water Main Project Highway 62 Bypass – The design for the relocations of the water mains is underway.
- 6.7 Vilas Road 16" Water Main Inter-tie – Staff is currently reviewing the preliminary water main alignment which Marquess & Associates has submitted.

7. Water Treatment Report (Pindilli)

- 7.1 Regulatory testing is coming to an end; all results are status quo with no violations. Results are so low with the Stage 2 monitoring that Water Quality Administrator Rosie Pindilli stated that she has applied for reduced monitoring.
- 7.2 Ms. Pindilli stated that due to high levels of blue-green algae at Lost Creek Lake a health advisory was issued as of September 13, 2013. Although this is not a regulated contaminate the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is advising no drinking of the water.

Mr. Dailey questioned how this is treated; Ms. Pindilli stated it is treated through ozone. Commissioner Fortier questioned when it is not dangerous; Ms. Pindilli noted that when it is at one point per billion. Mr. Johnson suggested communication with the State be continued and if needed, we will talk with our state representatives. Mr. Dailey questioned if blue-green algae are found in other areas as well; Ms. Pindilli noted that it is but this has become more of an issue as testing is so much more detailed.

8. Finance Report (DeLine)

None

9. Operations Report (K. Johnson)

- 9.1 A McCrometer representative was here pertaining to the issue with the TAP meter. The old meter was reading 14% high; the new meter read 28% less. An email was received today from McCrometer pertaining to the flow meters and as they investigate the meter issues they will be sending a weekly report on their progress.

Mr. Dailey questioned where the meters now are; Operations Superintendent Ken Johnson noted that they are in their factory being tested. Manager Rains reported that when they put the

existing meter back in it too read lower; he also noted that these same meters are also at about a dozen other locations. Mr. Johnson questioned if the solution would be to put in a different type of meter; Mr. Rains reported that there are several options, some more expensive, but any change would need to meet future capacity. Mr. Dailey questioned what the accuracy is; Operations Superintendent Johnson noted that the new meter is plus/minus one half percent; the older meter was plus/minus one-two percent. Mr. Fortier questioned the diameter of the meter; staff noted it is a 10" but is fed by a 24". Mr. Rains would like to give the vendor more time to resolve this; the board discussed how much time would be needed. Mr. Rains thought we would know within a month or so and requested a month to resolve this. Mr. Strahl noted that the vendor was frustrated with the meters as well. The board requested staff to stay on top of this.

9.2 Sensus was here this week and noted that they are stopping the manufacture of a particular meter. Operations Superintendent Johnson stated that there may be a change to the weighting table used with SDCs as presented at today's study session.

9.3 The recent leak from a corp blowout on Big Butte Springs #2 line at Brownsboro Highway was one of the more difficult repairs made due to the circumstances. Mr. Johnson questioned the age of the line; staff stated it was from the 1950's. There were two known leaks on Big Butte Springs #1 line on the top of Nichols Gap heading towards Butte Falls and also between McNeil Creek and Derby Road. Staff is working to make more improvements on the pipe line and noted that this was steel pipe. Dennis Schmader stated that this is one of the reasons you don't use steel and complemented the board for not choosing steel on more recent projects.

10. Manager/Other Staff Reports

10.1 TS Coordinator Kris Stitt provided an update on the software project. He noted that trainers are on site to wrap up some outstanding items which should solve some of the bigger issues, including the financial side of the project. Staff has met with the City of Medford to discuss the consumption file. Over the last few months staff has been trying to get the format right, which should be finalized at the end of this month. Staff has been trying to resolve the automatic online credit card transactions. At present the only option is to go with a third party vendor as we don't want to hold on to a credit card number with the current setup. The drawback is that it would cost about \$450 a month more and all credit card payments would need to go to the third party as well. The current vendor is trying to come up with a solution and staff would like to wait for them to do so. Mr. Dailey questioned when our contract is up with our vendor; staff was unsure but will report back as more information is known. Lastly Mr. Stitt noted that he has a once a week phone call with the vendors pertaining to a priority list they are working on. Currently the list is down to 29 items.

10.2 HDR will start the rate study on October 29 with a kick-off meeting including the focus group.

10.3 The Medford Water Commission Holiday Party will be Friday, December 13 at Four Daughters for employees and board members.

11. Propositions and Remarks from the Commissioners

11.1 Mr. Dailey questioned what we will do with the agreement presented by Mr. Bellah; Mr. Rains thought Commissioner Anderson should be involved and Attorney Huttli needs to speak pertaining to the Charter. Mr. Rains stated staff is not in favor of the agreement but would follow the board's direction. Mr. Bellah noted that he would hope this topic would be an agenda item for the next board meeting and questioned why the City wouldn't be interested in regional conservation. Mr. Huttli noted that eight points were listed on the agreement and suggested staff provide information on what we do with those eight items. Mr. Huttli also wanted it noted

that the MWC also provided money for the conservation grant and stated he would like to study the final report in detail before moving forward. Mr. Johnson stated that he wanted to take the time to review the agreement and also commented that there is strength in numbers. He expressed concern with the issue of water rights. Mr. Dailey noted that there are many people after our water and even though we don't always agree with the "other cities" we are better off in a larger group and being unified to protect our water. The board generally agreed. Staff will bring this back to the board on the first meeting in November.

Pertaining to the report that Mr. HuttI referred to, Mr. Strahl reported that the first draft will be presented to the MWC at the next meeting; good recommendations have come out of it although cities are concerned on how to implement the recommendations hence the reason for the concept presented to the board. Councilmember Strosser noted that all comments at the RPS stated that the MWC is not a regional water supplier but a treat and transport facility.

Mr. Johnson noted that this could reflect where this is going; two months ago the Oregon Water Resources Department issued a head gate order to the Medford Irrigation District (MID) and the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) on Four Mile Lake. Everyone fully expects the Oregon Water Resource Department and the Native American people to make a call on that water next year. That is not our issue but it is all of our issues. Both MID and RRVID will have to do battle on this and will need a lot of resources and help; directly or indirectly this will affect everyone on this valley. With the direction that the State is going they could someday say that Big Butte Springs was never the Medford Water Commissions. We all need to be ready to work on the same issue.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business, this Commission meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m. The proceedings of the Water Commission meeting were recorded on tape and are filed in the Water Commission's Office. The complete agenda of this meeting is filed in the Water Commission's Office.

Karen M. Spoonts, MMC
Deputy City Recorder
Clerk of the Commission