

**Hurricane City Water Board
Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2016**

Members Present: Chairman Greg Last, Mac J. Hall, Ken Richins, Larry Hutchings, Troy Gubler, Kelby Iverson, John Slack, Pam Humphries and Toni Foran.

Others Present: Mike Vercimak and Dean Monson

Item #1 Call to Order, Prayer

Mac called the meeting to order and Ken offered prayer.

Item #2 Review Minutes of March 29th Meeting

Mac and Pam had some minor changes to the minutes. Pam motioned to approve the minutes with the minor changes, Mac seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Item #3 Possible Water Bill Adjustment

Dean Monson was present to discuss a possible adjustment on their water bill. They had received a call from the City about a possible leak. They investigated and found a leak. They paid approximately \$350.00 for a repair. The City has already made an adjustment, but there is still a large amount on the bill. Discussed a problem with the way the irrigation is connected. The Board educated Dean on the proper way to connect his sprinklers to the culinary or irrigation system with no cross connection. Dean did not have enough information about the bill to discuss what amount he needed adjusted. He tried to get some information from his wife, but was unable to obtain what he needed. Mac suggested Dean provide more information to Ken about the leak and who repaired it. There is some concern about how it was repaired and where the water went. Dean thinks the bill is around \$2,000.00. The Board would like to continue this item until the next meeting when there is enough information to make a decision. Ken will notify Michelle not to add a late fee or finance charges until this issue can be resolved.

Item #4 Discuss NRCS Offer to the City

Mac talked about the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The Canal Company has applied for grant money to redo about five or six lines in the Hurricane Valley. The only place the City is involved is on 920 West. The Canal Company cannot pressurize that line until the City installs a drainage line. Larry asked if the Canal Company was going to pressurize the existing line or install a new line. Mac said he didn't know at this time. Larry said that if they install a new pressurized line, the existing line could be used for drainage until later. Not really big enough for future needs but would be okay for now. Mac said that is something the Canal Company and the City would have to work out. The NRCS sent a document to the Mayor and Brent Gardner with Alpha Engineering. Brent sent it on to Mac. Mac said

there were several commitments in the document that he was very uncomfortable with. Over the past two weeks he has been working the NRCS to make sure the document is more what the Canal Company wants. Number one, the Canal Company and the City were making a commitment that any water saved by this project would be returned to the instream flow of the Virgin River. Mac explained to the NRCS that there would not be any extra water since the City has enough area to use the water. The City is not saving water by this project, only being more efficient with it. The other issue was that the Canal Company and the City were committing twenty five large irrigators into going to sprinklers. Mac explained the City and Canal Company cannot make that kind of commitment. They don't own the property or the water. The only thing the Canal Company wants to do is put in a closed system so they can move towards sprinklers. Mac took the document to the Canal Board and asked them if they were okay with him working with Brent to change the document so it is more in line with what the Canal Company wants. The Canal Board felt that would be equitable, so Mac has been working on that. Pam asked how large the report was. Mac said it is about 30 pages. Mike asked if Mac was working to remove the City from the agreement. Mac stated the Mayor has made a commitment to participate. Larry mentioned the City has started the engineering on the 920 West drainage project to see what is involved and the cost. Mike mentioned there has been a study by Rosenberg Engineering regarding the collapsible soils. If it is possible, Wadman Development will want to develop their property and if he does that, the City will need to have a sufficient drainage system in place.

Item #5 Possible Water Rights Purchase

Ken reported on 40 acre feet of water rights that are for sale. Since our water attorney is still in China, Ken asked Brent Gardner at Alpha Engineering to take a look at the right. Brent said it looks like a good right. The individual indicated they would sell for \$1,000 per acre. That is the same price we paid for the last right. We currently have \$20,000 budgeted this year for water right purchase and we should have another \$20,000 from next year's budget to make this purchase. The sale would probably not go through until after the beginning of our next budget year.

Brent has communicated with Nathan Moses at the State Engineer's office. He is the new State Engineer for our area. Nathan sent Brent a full page of comments. His recommendation to Brent is to make the purchase contingent on approval of a change application by the State to move the water into a proposed City well. The right is currently at a "Non Use" status and no one has protested it. There was a discussion about the cost per acre foot.

Ken explained this water is being sold as irrigation water, but after the State changes it to culinary water, the net acre feet would be 20 acre feet instead of 40 acre feet. Ken read the minutes of April 13, 2013 regarding the Joe Nepple water rights. Pam asked if there would be any conflict with the District and Ken said no. He asked the Board if they were interested in purchasing this right. There was a discussion about writing a contract similar to the one Rick Hafen wrote for the Joe Nepple purchase or if the City needs to hire another attorney to write it up.

Ken mentioned that Brent has suggested drilling a well in Dixie Springs close to the new proposed tank and moving these rights into the new well. Mac asked why the City couldn't move it to the total well system. Ken said the City could do that but some of the wells are shut down during the winter. Ken read some comments made by Rick Hafen when the Joe Nepple water right was being negotiated. Rick suggested the City purchase as many rights as they possibly could because the cost of water is expected to sky rocket in the future. Ken mentioned that in the past, Clark has allowed us to use money from the depreciation fund to purchase water rights if needed. Larry motioned to purchase this water right contingent on approval of the State Engineer to change the use and move into a City Well. Pam seconded the motion. Motion passed. Ken asked Mike to present this to the City Council.

Item #6 Report on System

Ken asked if everyone had a chance to see the picture of the wreck at Ash Creek Springs. A cement pumping truck went over the cliff and landed about 300 feet upstream from the springs. On Friday the 22nd about 2:00 p.m., Ken received a call from the fire department. They explained what happened. Ken sent Dallan to investigate. Dallan immediately turned the water off. He communicated with the State agencies that needed to be involved and followed their instructions for sampling. Within hours a hazmat team from California showed up to clean it up. The City will not be able to have access to the springs until the sampling results come back and we get the all clear from Racheal Cassidy from the Division of Drinking Water. Mac explained how fuel could have entered the collection boxes by the springs. Ken explained that he and Dallan walked the springs with Paul Wright from St George and they could not see how anything could have possibly entered the springs.

The springs were producing about 1500 gpm. Once that was lost, a decision was made to purchase more water from the District through the Dixie Springs system. La Verkin went on the Cottom well line. Luckily Toquerville had no outside irrigation running on Sunday. Ken is optimistic that the West Well can be started soon. The rain has helped. Mike asked if the City can make a claim toward the insurance company for the water that is being purchased. Ken said we would keep track of the City expenses and file a claim.

Item #7 New Business

Kelby asked if the District's power generator was causing any havoc to the irrigation water pump of the City. Ken mentioned it does hit hard but they have taken measures to counteract the impact.

There was a discussion about the amount of sand that has been coming through the irrigation systems of the Canal Company and the City.

Greg asked what the digging was all about along 600 N. Mike explained the new housing developments that are going in. The entire infrastructure needs to be installed.

Greg called the meeting adjourned.

