

Hurricane City Water Board
Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2024

Present: Ken Richins, Angie Tripp, Kory Wright, Mac J Hall, Dayton Hall, David Hirschi, Leah Thompson, John Slack and Gary Cupp

Guest: Bruce & Linda Zimmerman, Doug Bennett Conservation Manager (WCWCD)

Item #1 **Call to order, prayer**

Mac Hall called the meeting to order at 6 pm Ken Richins gave the prayer.

Item #2 **Review of minutes April 30th, 2024**

Minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

Item #3 **Irrigation expansion progress report**

Mac Hall explained we are still working on an agreement with the Nature Conservancy District. There hasn't been much change since last month. The property is getting advertised Friday May 31st or Saturday June 1st is when the bid with go out. Plans have been completed and approved. Still working on an easement issue with Nature Conservancy.

Item #4 **Discussion on the WCWCD annual water rate increase**

Dayton Hall said we can't charge through water rates higher rate than old users. There is a state code that all charges demanded should be adjusted reasonably. Dixie Springs is charged a different rate since their water comes from another water source. Dayton gave a brief discussion from the state law to explain how it is decided on.

Ken Richins explained that we have raised our rates 10 cents per thousand to follow what the district is doing. This year the district is going to 13 cents per thousand. So, I wanted to address it with the water board and get a recommendation to the city council to be on the agenda next week. We did this to help with our own water source and help with the water system. We have moved up every time the district moves up right now, we are still lower in the county.

John Slack explained that we have two options to match the district or calculate what water we are using from the district. By doing that this doesn't give us extra to help with projects that need to be done. Ken Richins said yes that is correct.

Mac Hall asked for a motion to follow the district at 13 cents per thousand. John motion that on July 1st we raise across the board 13 cents per thousand and re-evaluate next year. David Hirschi second the motion. Motion passed to move forward to city council.

Item #5 **Consideration and recommendation to the city council regarding the adoption of the WCWCD excess water use surcharge**

Dayton Hall introduced Doug Bennett Conservation Manager for WCWCD so if anyone has any questions they can ask. John Slack had a question for Doug why the district thinks that surcharge fee should go to them rather than stay with the cities? Doug Bennett explained he wasn't with the district when that was decided so he doesn't know all the mechanics behind it. He does know that Zach Renstrom made a commitment to put that water back into water conservation. A new program was created that was just for the government to send that money back into your water system. This would allow you to get that money to use for projects. Doug Bennett gave a brief discussion on how this program works.

Dayton Hall explained that Hurricane City adopted a variation to that surcharge of the district. There was a brief discussion on water excessive surcharge fee see the following attached chart. The city has been collecting a surcharge fee for the past year. Dayton explained that Zach Renstrom from the district came to a meeting with the city council and several others. The city council wanted to review this again to match the district rather than have the variation.

John Slack asked if someone has a water break on their side of the meter the city will allow you a leak adjustment every three years. So, with the water surcharge fee being added for the extra water usage does the city give some type of adjustment for that? Dayton Hall explained the resolution says the surcharge fee will follow the same adjustment as for leak adjustment.

Doug Bennett says the district designed this to have people realize how much water they are using and try to be more conservative on their water usage.

Kory Wright explained that the water department has helped a lot with helping the residents to find the leaks. The board and guests had a brief discussion on their thoughts on the surcharge fee.

Lea Thompson asked is this something that gets reviewed every year. Dayton Hall we are going to adopt the surcharge until it gets changed again. The city council can look at this at any time and change it. Surcharges are not discussed in the agreement.

Doug Bennett explained it's the district job to look out for its residents not for them. The district has created a board to advise the boards on things AAC to recommend to the boards on where the monies need to be spent and used for. Two years into policy and the district is still trying to get hurricane city involved.

Mac Hall explained all of it could be changed at any time to answer Leah question. Cheap water is gone, it's going to get more and more expensive as time goes on and we get more growth.

Mach Hall said the city council would like a recommendation from this board concerning the changing of the excess water surcharge to what we currently have in place to what the other cities have signed with the district.

Ken Richins motion to recommend to the city council the adoption of the WCWCD excess water surcharge fee an adopted by the district. Leah Thompson second. Motion passed.

Item #6 **Report on the progress of the Gould's Wash and Sky Ranch test wells**

Ken Richins said the Gould's wash well is completed and the water samples still need to be analyzed and decide what to do with it. Sky Ranch test well still working on it they got to 170 ft and hit water then got to 200 ft lost the water and now they are going to have to in case it farther and try it again. Gould's Wash well they went 800 ft.

Item #7 **Report on water system**

Kory Wright explained the water system is doing well. We had a few scares a few weeks ago and our water tanks went low and took some time to get it up and work again. Our Scada system was slow at getting the alert out to us. The pumps are back in place and hopefully ready for the summer months. Kory asked if there is anything the board would like to know about that we can report on during future meetings as far as the system is running.

John Slack would like to know how much water we are getting from the district and would like us to report on this.

Item #8 **New Business**

Ken talked about what he learned at his Dixie Conservation meeting today. They talked about some grants.

Adjourned at 8:05 pm