

Hurricane City Water Board  
Meeting Minutes  
April 29, 2025

Present: Ken Richins, Angie Tripp, Kory Wright, Mac Hall, Dayton Hall, Clark Fawcett, John Slack, Leah Thompson, Bevin Johnson, Casey Lofthouse, Nanette Despain, and Mike Vercimak

Guests: Bruce Zimmerman

Item #1 Call to order, prayer

Mac Hall called the meeting to order at 7 pm. Clark Fawcett gave the prayer.

**Item #2 Approval of minutes from March 25, 2025**

John Slack motion to approve the minutes from March 25, 2025. Leah Thompson second the motion. Motion approved.

**Item #3 Report on irrigation expansion Phase 1 piping, irrigation ponds, and pump station projects**

Kory Wright reported they are running the lines most of the walls are done. Coming along good. Services are in to 920 – 840 and 700 W area they will be working. There are a lot of utilities and challenges to get through, but overall Interstate Rock is doing a great job.

Kory Wright talked to some residents about where they wanted their meters to be placed.

Ken Richins talked to NRCS and would like to talk to people in late May or June and get the information out at the end of next month.

**Item #4 Report on irrigation expansion Phase 2 piping project**

Ken said we are still waiting for the word on the funding. Mayor Billings said she has heard that farmers have been funded, and the cities should be next in line. She talked to Kerri Webster about the state of the city.

**Item #5 Report on Gould's Wash and Sky Ranch wells**

Ken Richins said they have the paperwork but haven't received the notice to proceed yet. Sky Ranch well the city did a land trade for the new well site from the first well site where we were unable to get good water. If everything goes well it will go to the council on Thursday. Dayton Hall said contracts, and everything is ready to go to the city council.

**Item #6 Sky Ranch 2-million-gallon water tank status**

Kory Wright attended the pre-job meeting and said they are still getting things in order they are thinking the start date should be getting closer. Still have to sign proceed work.

## **Item #7 Discussion on Sand Hollow aquifer study**

Leah Thompson along with Kory Wright, and Dayton Hall met with Tom Marston with USGS as referred to by state. Most of the time the state initiates these studies but because it was initiated by water users it is very important to stay involved, the state is basically just mediating and if we want something it is our responsibility to be a part of the plan. There were a lot of things that were not part of the study because they were hard or inconvenient to study and they didn't put in the study before they built the reservoir. Getting the information from before the reservoir was built would be very helpful to the state. Kory Wright said as the reservoir moves out, they did some studies around the reservoir to see how far the water moves out and claimed it isn't impeding on our water source currently. The water hasn't yet got to the well sites, but the pressure of the reservoir will help push water up in those areas. The houses that are going there are supposed to have desert landscaping so they shouldn't use much water.

Casey Lofthouse asked if they are still pumping water out of the basements of the houses around the dam. Kory Wright explained that they haven't had to do that for a few years. They have been pumping around the wells.

Leah Thompson says there is 38 wells around the reservoir. We could see impact if that happens for a long period of time. They are keeping the water down with shallow boosters. Leah said Tom said in the next year or two they are expecting to be pumping all the wells out there, they have like 38 wells around the reservoir and if they start pumping all of those then we could see a decrease in the water level. Right now, they're using a ton of water out there for the PID which possibly is pulling the water table down, once they start building houses the water table should rise as they'll be using less water. The safe yield of 2,000 to 8,000. Leah said there is another meeting with the state in June to come up with a plan.

Mayor Billings said that it is awesome to come from the citizens, it is good to have citizens who are concerned enough to come up with these questions and have really good information and the state respects and recognizes their input.

## **Item #8 Discussion and possible recommendation to the city council on the Hurricane city water conservation plan.**

Ken Richins said every 5 years we are required by the state to do a water conservation plan, we haven't started yet, but we have to have it in by the end of the calendar year. The district would like us to do one with all the members in the agreement and if we can cover our bases won't be bad. If they come up with a good plan might save us from having to do it every 5 years. We have a draft on the district plan.

Dayton Hall said we should wait and recommend this once it's been adopted by the district. This will need to be done before the end of the year. They are bringing it to the board on May 5<sup>th</sup>. If anybody wants more information and details, we can send emails.

## **Item #9 Discussion and possible recommendation to the city council for the annual WCWCD wholesale water rate increase, and Hurricane city water rates.**

Ken Richins explained that by the end of next month we need to pass a resolution that adds the 15 cents a thousand that the district is going to increase. We have been doing this every year, raising our rates by following what the district does on both the water we produce and purchase. We have been using that money to fund our projects on wells. We need to add something in the resolution that says we can add it

to our failing infrastructure in Dixie Springs area. The amount of money we collect will likely be our portion of a bond or loan payments because we cannot generate enough money to do it on our own.

Clark Fawcett said he took the numbers that Ken gave him that's shows usage in the higher months and lower months. Clark wants to meet and go over what he has come up with. This data shows the billed amount only.

Mayor Billings asked about the surcharge would be added and not in the tiers. Clark Fawcell explained that the data he has only shows the tier rate not the base rate or surcharge rate.

Bevin Johnson asked is the base rate what everyone is charged? Ken Richins explained yes, it's all up to date as of today.

The board had a brief discussion on the tier rate and usage during those low and high months.

The board members discussed charging second homeowners a different rate and charging commercial different rates.

Dayton Hall said to have different classes you need to have a good reason why and documentation to follow. He explained that there are certain parameters that are set for utilities in the State.

The board had a brief discussion on the water rates for those in Washington County area and what the charges were.

Ken Richins said our top tier is cheaper than a lot more than other cities' bottom tiers. In the future we might have to get more low interest money to try and get things done. It is going to be difficult to finance projects in the future if we don't look responsible.

Ken Richins said as soon as our Dixie Springs well is running hopefully in June or July the Dixie Springs rate right now is being charged more because we have to buy all the water from the district and when the well comes on it wouldn't be fair to charge them higher. It will still increase our revenue because we wouldn't have to buy the water as well.

Mac asked the board if they wanted to make a motion on a recommendation to take to the city council the 15 cents per thousand across the board with the base rate going up 2% to follow the districts rate increase and readjust the rates when the Dixie Springs well is up and going.

Ken Richins made a motion to recommend to the city council the 15 cents per thousand increase to match the districts, it will go on every tier rate and be applied to the base rate. Casey Lofthouse second the motion. Motion passed

#### **Item #10 Report on the 2024 CCR (Consumer Confidence Report)**

Ken Richins said the CCR reports on all the samples we take all year long about how good our water is. This information will go out in the July 1<sup>st</sup> newsletter.

**Item #11      New Business**

The city is at 19.4% water loss right now despite efforts to reduce.

Kory Wright talked about the Dixie Springs failing infrastructure. How we are just putting a band aid on fixing the leaks eventually we need to just get fixed.

John Slack asked if we could get a loan to fix it. Mayor Billings explained to do this we need to raise our rates to qualify. Kory Wright explained that the state has decided the cities need to show that they are trying to help themselves before they will help.

The board had a discussion on how to figure out ways to pay for the failing infrastructure in the Dixie Springs area.

Kory Wright went over our water rights and where we are. We are still looking good.

Ken Richins said we would like to supply all the water we can and have the district's help when needed.

Ken Richins and Kory Wright talked about what a great crew we have.

**Item #12      Adjourn 8:15 pm**