

RUBY RANCH WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION  
Meeting Minutes for April 25, 2024

Attendees: Thomas Doebner  
Raul Saldivar  
Dale Olmstead  
Lynn Blackmore  
Chris Whittenhall

Excused: Kevin Rodriguez  
Marcus Krause

Professional Consultant:  
Tim Young (PGMS)

Public: Al Gmitter, Steven Selger

Meeting opened for business at 7:00 pm, via Zoom Conference and Video Call

1. Raul Saldivar called the meeting to order and determined a quorum had been established.
2. A motion was made by Thomas Doebner and seconded by Lynn Blackmore to approve the minutes for the April 4, 2024 Regular Meeting and annual meeting. Motion carried 4-0, Dale Olmstead had yet to attend.
3. The RRWSC Board has received a number of documents from Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer District. One document was a Notice of Alleged Violations of District Rules & Bylaws dated April 22, 2024. The District has placed a maximum penalty for said violations of \$39,600. As an incentive to achieve immediate compliance and early resolution of the violations, the District has agreed to a reduced penalty of no more than \$9,500 if RRWSC agrees to execute and comply with the Agreed Order.
4. The Board discussed at great length the impact this violation will place on the Ruby Ranch water system and its operation. The Board also discussed possible solutions and resolutions necessary to comply with the District's concerns.
5. The Board discussed the District's use of average daily water use at 82 gallons per capita day and 2.7 people per household. A number of years ago a census taken of Ruby Ranch home owners there were 3.7 people per household and that general statistical data in the United States was 4 persons per household. This computation would show the per capita per day consumption in Ruby Ranch would be 81.75 gallons. A new census could possibly be done.
6. Thomas Doebner informed the Board the fines were tabulated during the months of November and December 2023, January and February 2024 due to excessive water usage.

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7. Thomas Doebner stated at committee of 3 Board members should meet with BSEACD to discuss the District's concerns as a possible start toward a resolution. It was agreed to have Thomas Doebner, Dale Olmstead and Chris Whittenhall set up this meeting next week if possible.

8. The Board discussed possible ways to improve communication with the water system members which total around 250 households.

9. Dale Olmstead asked Tim Young for a log of homeowners (high users) that had received individual letters requesting a reduction in their usage. Dale also requested a copy of this letter. It was agreed that the Board should document everything that has been or will be done to control high water usage. PGMS will provide a standard letter for each drought condition to be sent to high users, even during non-drought conditions.

10. The Board discussed creating a possible quarterly newsletter discussing present drought conditions and limitations to water usage and conservation. The Board could also tap into the District's newsletter for up to date information. This newsletter will also show up on the RRWSC website.

11. The Board agreed to have a copy of the Notice of Alleged Violation letter attached to the next billings sent to all customers along with a cover letter. Chris Whittenhall agreed to draft this cover letter and forward it to PGMS before the bills are sent out on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

12. Thomas Doebner informed the Board that we are charged \$390 Drought Management Fee by the District for every month our usage exceeds our drought permit. This is separate from any fines the District imposes.

13. The Board discussed if the initial penalty payment of \$9,500 could possibly be waived temporarily until it could be used as a positive impact improvement to the water system such as installation of automatic meter readers.

14. The Board discussed a document received from BSEACD concerning a variance request made by RRWSC to possibly inject water during alarm stage drought from Well #4 to Well #5 under the ASR program. The District stated a total of 25 million gallons would be the limit injection which has already been obtained. No water can now be extracted nor injected into the Well #5 Trinity Well under the present alarm stage drought.

15. Tim Young was asked to have all meters read on the 14<sup>th</sup> of every month unless it falls on a weekend or holiday. The Board asked Tim to have the Alarm Stage metal signs installed as soon as possible.

16. The Board spent time brain storming and discussing ways to have customers reduce water usage. One method which could be immediately initiated by PGMS was to lower the psi at the water plant. Another discussion was to possibly implement certain days to do outside watering and have home owners water at night. The Texas Development Water Board web site could be a good source of information. The Board discussed the possibility of having fines for high water users or installing low flow adapters.

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17. It was agreed to discuss the possibility of increasing water rates at the next Board meeting.

18. It was determined to have the next RRWSC Zoom Meeting on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

19. The Zoom Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Selger, Public Secretary