

RUBY RANCH WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION
Meeting Minutes for November 14, 2024

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

Excused: Kevin Rodriguez
Marcus Krause

Professional Consultant:
Tim Young (PGMS)
Liza Saldana (PGMS)

Public: Steven Selger Al Gmitter

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

1. Chris Whittenhall 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 October 30, 2024 Regular Meeting. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Treasurer Thomas Doebner stated the contractors that worked to supply and install the new generator and propane tank have been fully paid at a total of approximately \$74,000. Thomas stated the Corporation remains in good standing.
4. Tim Young provided the Board with the Monthly Water System Operations Report dated November 14, 2024. RRWSC pumped 2,736,800 gallons with 2,596,900 gallons sold In September and pumped 2,632,000 gallons with 2,466,100 gallons sold in October. There was a 4.66% net water loss for September and a 5.84% net water loss for October.
5. Tim Young stated there were 2 regular bacteriological samples taken from the distribution system during the months of September and October 2024 indicating no coliform organisms found.
6. Tim Young stated there were 249 active connections in September 2024 with total current charge of \$30,503.20 and 248 active connections in October with a total current charge of \$30,146.09.
7. BPAT Certification Compliance status, to date, PGMS had received 69 passing certificates for 2024. Two previously failing backflow prevention devices were repaired, retested and passed. Additionally, two members are having their irrigation system caped and BFP removed. One member has not responded to requests to have their device tested, PGMS has left a door-hanger advising them to the requirement to have a passing certificate.

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8. In the last reporting period, no failed meters have been replaced. The changing of meters registering over one-million gallons has been paused while discussion about AMI meters continues. PGMS will continue to change meters that fail to register water use. PGMS has reached out to Hunter Allen of Neptune Meters requesting any contracts, payment forms or any other necessary documents to move forward with the AMI system. PGMS shall continue to reach out.

9. Tim Young stated the auto debit program continues to work as planned. ACH payments were initiated on October 9th and November 13th with no issues; with debits from 123 accounts each month.

10. Tim Young stated PGMS has received three Water Conservation Rebate requests, each totaling \$175.00. PGMS will report any additional requests.

11. Tim Young stated Plant #2 has been placed online again. It is designated to run for 10 hours per day and Plant #1 will run the remaining 14 hours per day. There have been no issues to report.

12. Tim Young stated the system has continued to extract ASR stored water to supplement the Edwards wells. While helpful in the short-term, the available 1.2 million gallons of stored water will run out within the next two months if usage does not decline. To date, 571,000 gallons have been extracted.

13. Tim Young stated Capital Power Systems has completed the installation of the WSC's backup generator. It has been tested and put into service. PGMS is working with CPS to schedule a walk-through with any interested parties onsite. Once that date is firmed, PGMS shall forward that to the Board.

14. The Board continued the discussion about purchase and procurement of the AMI water meters. At the last Board meeting on October 30th a motion was approved to move forward with using Core and Main to provide and install Neptune meters and have Vertexone provide the software. Tim Young stated he has a purchase order for the larger meters but no delivery date provided. Dale Olmstead stated he would like to have a single representative that could be contacted with any questions or problems with the usage or installation of the system. Tim Young will check if Hunter Allen would be the contact and, if not, provide another contact. Tim Young stated there has not yet been a signed contract with Vertexone, but is working to have that accomplished.

15. Thomas Doebner stated he had received a request from RRWSC liability insurance company requesting very specific information due to newly established EPA standards. The EPA established legally enforceable levels of six PFAS contaminants in water systems throughout the country. Thomas will send Tim Young the information needed to respond to this request.

16. Dale Olmstead stated the Service Extension Policy must be publically stated in the Onion Creek Free Press once every two years. Chris Whittenhall stated he would take care of having this taken care of. Dale will send Chris the necessary information.

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17. The Board discussed revisions to the Ruby Ranch Water Supply Corporation Water Saving Devices Rebate Program. The length of the program has been increased until March 31, 2025 or until all of the allocated money runs out. Energy Star dishwashers and washing machines have been added to the water saving devices and the rebate amounts for each device has been increased as follows:

High-efficiency toilets \$150

Low-flow showerheads \$35

Faucet aerators \$20

Dishwasher \$175

Washing machine \$175

Maximum rebate per household is \$555.

A motion was made by Thomas Doebner and seconded by Raul Saldivar to approve the increases. Motion carried 5-0.

18. The Board continued discussion of updating the RRWSC UDCP document. The deadline for submission of the updated document is November 17th which means it should be delivered to the District on Friday, November 15th. Tim Young stated he would get the document delivered to BSEACD by Friday. Chris Whittenhall will send a letter to the District that RRWSC has met all requirements requested by BSEACD.

19. The Board discussed posting authorization on the RRWSC web site. A motion was made by Dale Olmstead and seconded by Thomas Doebner that only Chris Whittenhall has the authority to have items posted on the website with the exception of financial documents and monthly minutes. Also, the webmaster has the authority to post notices and postings the Board receives from BSEACD that are intended for public consumption. Motion carried 5-0.

20. The Board continued discussion of the possible additional RRWSC water sources as requested by BSEACD. Thomas Doebner discussed three possibilities as follows:

Long Range Plan - A regional plan water source from the City of Buda extending water from the new high school along Route 967. (\$1,000,000 +)

Mid-range Plan - Drill a 6th well to the Lower Trinity. (\$600,000 +)

Short Range Plan – Set aside ASR. (Minimal Cost)

It was agreed to seek legal input and action on the possible Short Range Plan. The Board will continue discussions on this subject.

21. Chris Whittenhall stated he would be working on the December Ruby Ranch Water Works newsletter especially dealing with Stage 3 and 4 drought conditions.

22. It was determined to have the next RRWSC Zoom Meeting on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

23. A motion was made by Lynn Blackmore and seconded by Thomas Doebner to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0 and the meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Selger, Public Secretary