

Thurston County Rural Water Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
November 27, 2012

A meeting of the Thurston County Rural Water Advisory Board was held at the NRD field office in Walthill, NE, on Tuesday, November 27, 2012. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Harlan Witte at 7:32 p.m.

QUORUM CALL:

Quorum call was taken. The following members and individuals were in attendance:

<u>Advisory Board Members</u> <u>Present</u>	<u>Advisory Board Members</u> <u>Absent</u>	<u>Others In Attendance</u>
Harlan Witte Marvin Baker Bruce Paeper Rod Bonderson Larry Athey	None	Dick Sklenar, NRD Staff

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Discussion was called for on the tentative agenda. It was moved by Witte, and seconded by Paeper, that the agenda be adopted.

Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4 - 0.

Voting Yea: Witte, Paeper, Baker, Bonderson
Voting Nay: None
Abstaining: None
Absent: Athey

WATER USAGE & FINANCIAL REPORTS

A review of water usage by consumers was provided by Dick Sklenar. He noted that dry conditions this year showed a marked increase in water usage. Most could be accountable to customers that had livestock. Thus far, water accountability for the fiscal year is a little over 97%. Dick also mentioned that customers were asked to voluntarily reduce their usage based on the request by the Village of Pender. That community also asked its residents to do so as well because of lower groundwater levels. The voluntary restriction was lifted after about 8 weeks had passed.

Higher water usage by customers resulted in generating more revenues. So far this fiscal year, revenue is over 20% higher compared to last year. A breakdown of all income sources for the past 2 fiscal years was handed out to Advisory Board members. It was moved by Bonderson, and seconded by Witte, that the water usage & financial reports be accepted.

Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5 - 0.

Voting Yea: Witte, Paeper, Baker, Athey, Bonderson
Voting Nay: None
Abstaining: None
Absent: None

OPERATIONS REPORT

Events that occurred since the last advisory board meeting were;

- 1.) There was 1 new hookup (D. Smith) that occurred north of Pender which required the extension of a 2 inch waterline. A leak developed on the gate valve near this location and was repaired.
- 2.) Two flushing hydrants were relocated. One had developed a leak. The other one was moved because it, along with an inactive meter pit, was located at a former farmstead that was cleared away.

Rod Bonderson inquired about the hookup fee for the Smith hookup. Dick Sklenar responded that the property owner paid for the full cost of extending the 2 inch waterline to his property.

RECOMMENDATION ON WATER RATES ADJUSTMENT:

Because the Village of Pender raised their rates to the rural water system last year, Dick Sklenar stated that the increased operating cost needed to be passed on to the consumer. High priced maintenance items in the future (such as overhaul of pumps and motors, painting of the water tower, and control system replacement) were items that are costly for the system and will need to be addressed. Bruce Paeper inquired about the maintenance of the motors and pumps. Larry Athey felt that the rural water system was a valuable asset to the area. A handout on the proposed water rate adjustment was presented. There was further discussion.

It was moved by Baker, and seconded by Bonderson, that the Advisory Board recommends to the District's Board of Directors that the following water rate adjustment be implemented on May 1, 2013;

Minimum Base Charge.....\$26.55
 First 20,000 gls.....\$4.75/1,000 gls.
 All Over 20,000 gls.....\$2.15/1,000 gls.

Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5 - 0.

Voting Yea: Witte, Paeper, Baker, Athey, Bonderson
Voting Nay: None
Abstaining: None
Absent: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by acclamation at 8:12 p.m.