

Thurston County Rural Water Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
November 22, 2010

A meeting of the Thurston County Rural Water Advisory Board was held in Bancroft, NE, on Monday, November 22, 2010. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Harlan Witte at 7:20 p.m.

QUORUM CALL:

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

Advisory Board Members Present	Advisory Board Members Absent	Others In Attendance
Harlan Witte	Larry Athey	Dick Sklenar, NRD Staff
Rob Bonderson	Marv Baker	Dennis Piper, NRD Staff
Bruce Paeper		

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Voting Aye: Witte, Paeper, Bonderson

Voting Nay: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: Athey, Baker

WATER USAGE REPORT:

For the second straight year, the total amount of water sold has declined. The decline in fiscal year was 12.5% compared to the previous year. Advisory board members indicated that livestock numbers were down. Heavier rainfall over the past couple of summers was also a factor.

OPERATIONS AND FINANCIAL REPORT:

It was mentioned by Dick Sklenar that over the past six months that the pump station building has been painted and caulked. Painting the interior piping is all that remains. More than 10 customer water meters have been replaced due to age, and more are on the horizon for the next few years. Meters tend to lose accuracy over time. The installation of a new electrical power line along Hwy. 94, between Walthill & Pender, has

resulted in 4 water main breaks. The water lines that were initially installed in 1983 did not have a locate wire buried with it, and thus determining the exact location of the pipeline is difficult. Dennis Piper stated that considerable time has been spent coordinating with the electrical contracting firm. There was further discussion.

Because the amount of water sold has been decreasing, the revenue generated has followed suit. Figures over the past few years were provided to advisory board members. Net income over the past 2 years has been in the negative.

It was moved by Witte, and seconded by Paeper, that the water use and financial reports be accepted.

Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Voting Aye: Witte, Paeper, Bonderson

Voting Nay: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: Athey, Baker

RECOMMENDATION ON HOOKUP FEE ADJUSTMENT:

It was indicated that the current hookup fee for a single-family residence was \$1,175. This has not changed for several years, although the cost for materials and labor for installing the meter pit has increased. It was recommended that the hookup fee be increased \$200. Paeper and Bonderson agreed that it was time to adjust the hookup fee. There was further discussion.

It was moved by Paeper, and seconded by Witte, that the Advisory Board recommends to the District that the hookup fee for all meter sizes be increased by \$200 effective January 1, 2011.

Roll call was taken on the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Voting Aye: Witte, Paeper, Bonderson

Voting Nay: None

Abstaining: None

Absent: Athey, Baker

RECOMMENDATION ON WATER RATE SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT:

With net income below expectations for the past few years, Dick Sklenar recommended a water rate adjustment. The last adjustment occurred nearly 5 years ago. Paeper wanted to ensure that any rate adjustment would be adequate to address the financial needs of the system. Sklenar mentioned that any adjustment would not take effect until May 1, 2011. There was further discussion by board members.

It was moved by Paeper, and seconded by Bonderson, that the Advisory Board recommends to the District that the following proposed water rate adjustment be implemented on May 1, 2011.

Minimum Base Charge....\$26.00
First 20,000 gls.....\$4.30/1,000 gls.
All Over 20,000 gls.....\$2.00/1,000 gls.

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

ADJOURNMENT: There is no further business, the meeting adjourned by acclamation at 8:15 p.m.