

Meeting Minutes:

March 19, 2025

The March meeting of the L.I.D. was held at the Lockwood Water and Sewer District office, at 1644 Old Hardin RD. The board members present were Terry Seiffert, Brent Kober, Bob Riehl by telephone, Manager Carl Peters and Secretary/Treasurer, Angela Watson. Steve Nave, Dick Hoke, and Taylor Kasperick from Performance Engineering were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Terry Seiffert. February 19, 2025, meeting minutes were reviewed, a motion was made by Bob Riehl, seconded by Brent Kober to approve the February 19th minutes, motion carried.

Public Comment:

New Business

1. **Bond** : \$1,389,000.00 deposited 12-17-24 into fund 7285. Invoices from Watertronics, Performance Engineering and Askin Construction are submitted to Yellowstone County Finance Department for payment. The 8038-G Tax exempt form was received by the IRS. The bond account receives interest which has accumulated to over \$5,000.00, and Anna Miller of the DNRC said that this can be applied to the project.
2. **PH Rehab Project:** Taylor Kasperick of Performance Engineering explained that the potential change orders from Askin Construction were written with subtotals of all options which are misrepresented on the two Potential Change Orders for fencing and canopy installations. The actual cost would be the total number of each line item multiplied by 1.18%, 15% for marking up and 3% for taxes, bonds, and insurance. Taylor says the District has some time to decide on the PCO's because these items will not be installed until fall. If the District were to hire a contractor of their own to install the canopy and fence, then the District would save the 15% mark up. Jares would be installing the fencing and WMK would be the contractor for the steel canopy. The electronics will be enclosed within a weather-proof cabinet. The BNSF application and \$1,500.00 non-refundable application fee were received by BNSF on March 7, 2025, via priority proof of delivery mail but there is still no response to the Manager or to Taylor Kasperick. Taylor spoke with Askin Construction, and they are planning to start next week after a preconstruction meeting. Askin plans to get the wet-well in this spring and has submitted their dewatering plan to the DEQ. The existing pump station is in the Lockwood Solvent super fund boundary, but it was determined it is far enough away from the plume to avoid sampling requirements.
3. **MDT Johnson Lane Project:** No Update
4. **OHR Sidewalk Project:** 420' of 36" RCP in the 60' canal east of Rykken Circle. Mid-April construction-Logan McIsaac Yellowstone County Public Works Manager.
5. **2025 Contract Water:** There are only three or four multi-acre lots up above the 100' canal that are out of our district and are not paying enough to water that much property. In addition, properties outside of the district are not obligated to pay toward the new pump station bond. The letter last year stated that users with multiple acre lots would see a substantial increase in their contract amount in 2025. Terry Seiffert asked the Manager how he determines if the lot is over a half-acre. The Manager responded with Google Earth. The Manager mentioned that Hysham Irrigation meters their ditch water. Bob Riehl asked how extensive the meters are, and the Manager said he would have to investigate that further. The meter would be installed at the expense of the property owner. The Secretary will bring the Contract Water Users Tracking Spreadsheet from the last two years to see which properties have been paying and decide on whether to pull their pump this year or not.
6. **Proposed 2025 O&M Budget:** The Manager is including a 4% raise for the Manager and the Secretary this year. The other item was the employee internet expense and the 6 month study on use of email showing 71% district business to determine a reimbursement amount along with the Century Link account located at the pump house. Terry Seiffert mentioned that there should be another income account for headgate replacements under

special assessments. The 2025 Proposed budget was reviewed, a motion to approve the proposed budget was made by Brent Kober and 2nd by Bob Riehl, motion carried.

7. **Required Audit:** The 2024 AFR (Annual Financial Report) to the State of Montana Local Government Services Bureau is required by 6/30/25 and because of long-term debt of our \$1.7 million bond, it requires an audit but no fee. The Manager has been speaking with local accounting firms and only two smaller firms showed any interest in doing Lockwood Irrigation's audit. The Manager says that he did not include that amount in the budget, and it could cost more than \$20,000.00. The Manager is going to request an extension on the deadline for the audit. Bob Riehl suggested that we get the extension and include it in next year's budget along with a rate adjustment. Brent Kober mentioned the League of Cities and Towns and they have many resources available to help with things like an audit. The Manager says that there is a \$5,000.00 line item in the bond to cover an audit.

Old Business:

1. **LID-LWSD Water Rights:** nothing new
2. **2014 LID Rate Update 2019:** On Hold

Manager's Report:

Pump start date Tuesday May 27, 2024. The same maintenance crew will return this year in April. The property owner from 2535 Rockwood called about a tree in the canal, 1727 Canary, and 1548 Rosebud are going to have tree removal done by Melle's Tree Service. The Manager is having issues with the security cameras down at the pump station. The wood floor of the 12' trailer needs to be replaced. Possible closed system for the six properties on Wanda Ln. The District would supply the pipe. The other bad area is on the 60' canal between Cherry St and Maier Rd and there are four or five area property owners so the Manager would like to send them a letter after meeting with a tree cutter to get an idea of the cost and see if the property owners would be willing to contribute. The letter in response to Steve Nave's letter for a request for information has been postponed until the Manager and Terry Seiffert can generate it. Wright's weed control was contacted to spray the cattails in the canal, but no line amount was in the proposed budget. The Manager will also need to get a bid on the shotcrete for 3631 Spotted Jack Loop S. this amount is included in line item 422 in the budget. The manager did not include the increase in district insurance because it is being reviewed by the insurance agent. The Manager also asked our agent if we had a siphon blowout would it be covered by our insurance. The property owner at 2047 Dickie would like the district to fix the pipe that leads to the pond at the end of the 100' canal but it has not been a priority because of all the other repairs and maintenance of the rest of the canal.

Secretary's Report:

The February financial reports included \$1,650.53 deposited into reserve fund 7284, which is the last of the FEMA reimbursements, were reviewed, a motion for approval for the January and February Financials was made by Brent Kober, Bob Riehl 2nd, motion carried. With no further business, a motion was made to adjourn by Brent Kober, 2nd Bob Riehl, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12PM. The next board meeting will be on April 16th, at 7:00 PM, located at the Lockwood Water and Sewer Office.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Watson, Secretary/Treasurer