



Howell Mountain Mutual Water Company

Howell Mountain Mutual Water Company 2021 Annual Board Meeting

ZOOM Meeting of the Board of Directors Wednesday, March 31, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Call to Order: 6:34 p.m.

Frank Dotzler

- Board Members Present: Frank Dotzler, Dave Wesner, Nikki Callnan, Maurice Helmer, Kevin Dennis, Jesse Clifton, Craig Cazet
- Board Members Absent: None
- Employees Present: Tanner Hiers, Shannon Damonte
- Community Members Present: Michael Norris

Approval of Agenda:

All Board Members

- Dave moved to approve the Agenda; Jesse second - 7 ayes

Approval of February 24, 2021 Minutes:

- Dave moved to approve the February 24, 2021 Minutes; Jesse second - 7 ayes

New Service Connections:

- Michael Norris is located at 1400 Deer Park Road and has been without water since the fire. He would like to use Brian Rahn's (our existing customer) line as it goes past his property and get on HMMWCO water. Rahn doesn't use our water at this time as he has 3 wells. Tanner presented a concept that would work. We would need to read two more meters as well as the existing Rahn meter which is on Mrs. Chow's property on STR so we could detect a leak if one happened. There will be a little bit of extra work for HMMWCO employees but not significant. Norris would need to buy a water right and get a written agreement with Rahn. We would need to review the agreement and have a copy in the file. HMMWCO does not want to be in the middle of a neighbor dispute.
- Dave made a motion to approve a water right to Michael Norris following the concept that Tanner presented and pending review of agreement between the two parties. Jesse second - 6 ayes

2021 Board Elections:

Election Results:

Dave Wesner

- There were 451 ballots mailed (3 returned undeliverable) and we received 81 back which is 18%. You need 33% (150) for a quorum. The final count with approval from the nominating committee is as follows:

Craig Becker – 38
Kevin Dennis – 41
Frank Dotzler – 48
Maurice Helmer – 71
Curtis Sosna – 23
Abstain – 1

- As, there was not a quorum, it has been the current policy to choose the candidates with the most votes from the members. Dave made a motion to accept the top three candidates Kevin Dennis, Frank Dotzler, and Maurice Helmer and be re-elected for the term 2021-2024. Craig second – 7 ayes.

Nominations of Officers:

- Jesse nominated Frank Dotzler as President; Nikki second - 7 ayes
- Dave made a motion to keep all officers in their current positions. Craig second - 7 ayes.

February 2021 Financial Reports:

Shannon Damonte

- Financial Reports were provided. Income was over projected budget by \$5,763 for the month and over \$5,021 for the year. General and Admin expenses were under projected budget by \$3,684 for the month and under \$5,440 for the year. Operating expenses were under projected budget by \$6,314 for the month and under \$8,212 for the year. This is due to having only one operator (payroll/insurance) and less spent on maintenance.
- The State Loan of \$40,000 was paid on March 10th. Dam fees of \$31,258 will be due in May. The good news is that this is \$5,610 less than last year and due to a one time 15% savings in operating expenses.
- Maurice moved to approve the February Financial Report; Kevin second – 7 ayes

Customer Communications:

Shannon Damonte

- Don Westerland: BRK-108 had a very bad leak we discovered when we were doing meter reads on March 15th. His bill was \$4,097.40. I discussed our leak adjustment policy with him and any amount over \$500 had to have Board approval. He e-mailed the following request to be presented to the Board.

Hi Shannon

If you could Present the follow request to the board on the 31st It would be much appreciated.

To Whom it may concern,

Late last month (not certain of the exact date) in a wind storm I had noticed a giant ponderosa pine on my neighbor's property (110 Brookside Dr.) had fallen. I was relieved it did not fall in our direction as it was tall enough to hit our house. The tree died about three years ago and I have been trying to get my neighbor to remove it as it was clearly, what is referred to as a standing hazard. Perhaps this removal was a financial burden he could not absorb, regardless left unaddressed. It was not until Shannon and team were meter reading earlier this month and notified me, that I realized the fallen tree had damaged my water line, resulting in a large leak on my neighbor's property. Once notified I fixed the leak that day. (did not record the exact date) but estimate the leak had occurred about 3 weeks earlier. I have been informed that the water line to the meter is my responsibility. In principle I understand, however It should be noted that the placement of the water meters is two lots away and I do not have a utility easement or any type of easement allowing me to move, repair or access this line. This makes the responsibility untenable . My home owners' insurance does not cover non structures property damage therefor I am requesting additional relief. I greatly appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Don Westerland

- There was detailed discussion regarding this request. Maurice made a motion to adjust (forgive) all but \$500 of his bill because of the facts being: 1) the length of distance between his meter and his property, 2) It was his neighbor's tree (not negligence on his part), 3) his quick response to fix the issue, 4) his normal water usage and 5) he has been a very good customer, pays promptly, etc... Craig second – 7 ayes

- Tom Skouras: STR-1320 sent in a note with his ballot wanting to know our policy for serving residents as winery and vineyard usage increases. There was detailed discussion regarding this issue and the threat of a drought. Although we are not in that situation right now, we may be looking at creating a tiered rates system for higher usage. If there is a moratorium on water and rationing it will be separated by water use NOT by vineyard/yard use etc. The state will then give us authority to implement any kind of water conservation efforts (the state and our by-laws).
- Nikki suggested a newsletter and perhaps a Waterwise banner across from the Chevron stop-sign.
- Tanner signed up for a Water Conservation/Drought Webinar tomorrow.

Report on Operations:

Tanner Hiers

- **We have hired a new operator in training**, Ryan Mattiuzzi who started on March 17th. We promptly had a safety meeting his first day and we have been purchasing safety equipment as we are lacking in some areas.
- We are currently at 53% of Raw Storage which is 107,824,096 gallons.
- **The Konocti crews** came out 4 times this month. They have done a lot to clear and clean up the watershed.
- **New Connection Information Packet:** I have finished the New Customer Water Connection Guidance packet. Please contact me within the next week for any input or changes.
- **Request for Public Assistance (RPA) FEMA/CalOES:** Our request for Public Assistance was approved. We have had several phone conferences with them. We may be able to get Deer Park Mains upgraded for a "codes and standards upgrade." This would be huge. If not, it would possibly do done under a mitigation grant program.
- **Insurance:** renewing in April. We put in a request for a Member Guard proposal as well as the standard Gladfelter proposal. Gladfelter is behind on getting the renewals done but apparently there will be no lapse in coverage if the don't complete it by April 1st. We will continue to seek other insurance options later in the year but well ahead of our next April 2022 renewal.

Confirm Future Meetings: Next Meeting - Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 6:30 p.m. Zoom or in person to be determined.

Meeting adjourned: 8:07 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Shannon Damonte