



Howell Mountain Mutual Water Company

Howell Mountain Mutual Water Company Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

Via ZOOM Meeting at 6:30 pm

Call to Order: 6:33 pm

Frank Dotzler

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

Addendums to Agenda: None

Approval of Agenda:

All Board Members

- Jesse moved to approve the Agenda; Craig Becker second - 6 ayes

Approval August 4, 2021 Minutes:

- Dave moved to approve the August 4, 2021 Minutes; Jesse second - 6 ayes

Public Comments: NONE

July 2021 Financial Reports:

Shannon Damonte

- Financial Reports were provided. Income was under projected budget by \$1,643 for the month and over \$30,415 for the year. General and Admin expenses were over projected budget by \$2,224 for the month and under \$4,199 for the year. Operating expenses were under projected budget by \$2,184 for the month and under \$34,306 for the year.

Approval of the July 2021 Financial Reports:

- Maurice moved to approve the July Financial Report; Dave second - 6 ayes

Customer Communications:

Shannon Damonte

- Raul Hromyk (WCN-260) has a super high bill (\$1,405.66). He has a small vineyard that he needs to water. He thinks we should average high usage months rather than yearly. It was explained to him that we need conservation during THESE months and that is the purpose. We discussed irrigation, possible leaks, conservation etc. He is an absentee owner and has a tenant on the property. He was advised to have his tenant check meter before and after irrigating.
- Nikki stated that Krisi Muhic had inquired about submeters for one of her properties. That is something that the property owner can do if they wish.

Leak Adjustments:

Shannon Damonte

- **TBN-345** - While doing meter reads, we discovered that TBN-345 had a leak and we turned off the water and notified the customer immediately. The usage was 11,116 cubic feet (83,148 gallons) and the bill was \$2,502.10. The customer is a tenant, and the property is owned by Rent Napa Valley. They fixed the leak within 2 days. Because of the tier rate the customer went greatly over his monthly average and his bill reflected that. Dave made a motion to grant the customer a leak adjustment as per our regular leak adjustment (with the standard pricing point) which will compensate him for ½ of the over usage due to the leak. All were in favor. Leak adjustment for this customer was approved.
- Leak adjustments will be on a case-by-case basis. We do not owe them a credit in a certain time-frame and they can wait if need be until the board can approve.
- The question of smart meters was broached. There are two: AMR - (could be a possibility) - where you can drive by and get reads which will send an alarm if water is running for 24 hrs. These also need metal lids and we would need to replace many of the meter box lids. AMI - (would not work for us) - where you can see usage real time. You need a repeater and wi-fi system. Unfortunately, cell phone service is spotty in Angwin and these types of meters are expensive. An estimate of \$20,000 was given to convert to smart meters. About \$50 per encoder. There is also a flow detection device called Flume that a few customers are considering getting. They can detect flows on their phones or devices. Karl did replace 60-75 meters in the last few years.

Report on Drought Measures/Operations:

Tanner Hiers

- **Drought:** Things have calmed down a bit as far as customers calling the office. We have heard customers explicit personal issues and had many discussions on their water conservation measures. The current months bills just got sent out last Friday so we will see how it goes. The lakes have never been this low and we have not been in a drought situation like now. The penalties we are imposing are only to get people to conserve and to discover and fix any leaks.
 - Craig Becker suggested a newsletter educating the customers on the success of the conservation measures. Be on the offensive not defensive.
- **Reservoir Capacity:** We pumped a total of 3,873,600 gallons from the intakes to treatment leaving the reservoir capacity at 77,678,000 gallons by the end of the month, leaving us with a storage of approximately 34%.
- **Production:** This month we produced a total of 4,887,400 gallons of finished water according to our meters, averaging around 148,103 gallons per day. 68% was metered to our customers at around 3,339,813 gallons, averaging 101,206 gallons per day. Out of that finished water that was produced, 1,013,800 gallons were from the wells. Backwashing accounted for 365,360 gallons.
- **Unaccounted Losses:** Tanner provided a chart of HMMWCO Production vs Losses. Our total final losses are 1,112,712 gallons or 23% of our production. Normal is 10%. The number is high because we do not have an accurate production meter and the customers meters are reading slow (5-7% slower). The production meter is over accounting and the customer meters are under accounting. We need to get a mag meter which costs about \$8-10K.

- Craig Becker questioned the need to inform the members/community of the unaccounted losses. We are not required to do so but at the same time we are not withholding any information (was the response from other board members).
 - We have made great progress in reducing the number of leaks in the system and the majority of Measure A funds went to fix this problem. The plant now runs half the time as it used to in a day. 20 hrs a day compared to 6-8 hrs a day currently. We are also now metering flushing. A total of 4,676 gallons were flushed from the distribution system in the July-Aug billing period. Backwashing of the two filter trains resulted in 365,360 gallons used and 289,360 gallons were returned to the reservoir.
 - Tanner has more ideas of how to figure out the numbers and one of which is going to be to start the wells at the same time as the plant every day.
 - Tanner will put something together explaining loss ratio and reasonable numbers for unaccounted losses. If the numbers are not better, we will consider a new mag meter. Tanner was hoping to wait until the end of the year to purchase the mag meter (before January) if the budget allows.
- **Grants:** Craig Becker inquired about the possibility of receiving grants possibly from the “Infrastructure Bill” that was being passed in Congress. At this point we have only heard that there was a “Public Comment” period and that those funds are not ready to be able to apply for. We are getting some FEMA funding from the Glass Fire for expenses incurred (\$37,598.65) and we are applying for FEMA funding to replace the mains on OAK, PIN, MND & SNY due to codes and standards upgrades. We will definitely be applying for grants if funds do become available.
 - **Linda Falls Terrace:** Tanner is concerned about the section of the line in LFT that is under a leachfield/septic line. The funds to finish the Sunset/Edgemont final Measure A project would be better spent elsewhere. This would only benefit 5 current customers. It could cost upwards to \$120,000 with the rock clause. We believe this is not able to be redirected but Tanner will call Chris Silke to confirm. Tanner provided the Board with a map of the Linda Falls/Edgemont/Sunset information. He would like the Board to look at it and let him know what your thoughts are.
 - **Generators:** We are under budget for the generators at this time and Tanner is considering putting a small solar panel with a trickle charger at Well 2. The battery goes dead if the power is out for any length of time.
 - **TTHM’s:** We are looking into changing coagulants to reduce the organics and therefore reducing the TTHM’s. We are working with a specialist to determine an appropriate coagulant. This has always been a concern during these months at HMMWC. Tanner had this issue at his last TP and put a mixer and aerator in his tank where they were forming. His estimate is about \$60k for an aerator but could be a little higher with the cost to install the electrical components.
 - **Misc:** Tanner will be going to Sacramento on Aug 30-Sept 3 to take a Backflow Certification Class and Test. Jay will be Shift Operator and will be in charge and on call. He wanted the Board to know: The Board has the authority to vote out an employee who is not licensed and certified if he/she cannot do his job correctly. This would refer to Ryan our newest employee who does not quite yet have his certifications.

Confirm Future Meetings: Next Meeting - Wednesday, September 29, 2021, 6:30 pm

Adjourned at: 8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Shannon Damonte