



# Howell Mountain Mutual Water Company

## Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, August 30, 2023

**Located at the HMMWCO Office – 1100 Friesen Drive, Angwin, CA 94508**  
**Also, via ZOOM – Meeting ID: 875-994-4007 – Password: Howell1100**

**Call to Order:** 6:32 pm

**Frank Dotzler**

- Board Members Present: Frank Dotzler, Dave Wesner, Jesse Clifton, Greg Desmond
- Board Members Present via Zoom: Nikki Callnan, Craig Cazet
- Board Members Absent: Maurice Helmer
- Employees Present: Tanner Hiers, Shannon Damonte
- Community Members Present: NONE

**Approval of Agenda:**

**All Board Members**

- Dave moved to approve the Agenda; Jesse seconded – 6 ayes

**Approval of July 19, 2023, Minutes:**

**All Board Members**

- Dave moved to approve the July 19, 2023 Minutes; Jesse seconded – 6 ayes

**Public Comments: None**

**June (corrected) & July 2023 Financial Reports:**

**Shannon Damonte**

- June and July Financial Reports were provided.
- Due to the change in the billing cycle, the income was off for June in the previous financial report. June's income is actually for 1 ½ months as May 15-June 15 was billed in June and then for June 16-June 30.
- **June 2023** – Because of the change in the billing cycle Income shows to be above projected budget by \$28,109 for the month and under \$10,393 for the year. General and Administrative expenses were under projected budget \$335 for the month and under \$2,105 for the year. Operating expenses were under projected budget by \$9,735 for the month and under projected budget \$49,124 for the year.
- **July 2023** - Income was under projected budget by \$7,997 for the month and under \$18,390 for the year. General and Administrative expenses were under projected budget \$1,712 for the month and under \$3,817 for the year. Operating expenses were over projected budget by \$1,070 for the month and under projected budget \$48,054 for the year.

**Approval of the Corrected June & July 2023 Financial Reports:**

- Jesse moved to approve the Corrected June & July Financial Reports; Dave seconded – 6 ayes

## Customer Communications:

Shannon Damonte

- I spoke with Don Buller our customer on CMP. He stated that he was very unhappy with HMMWCO because of the cost of the upgrade to a 1" meter to his property which was \$3,520. He has been a customer for a very long time and thought we should give special consideration to people in Deer Park who lost their homes. I did inform him that we have given consideration to those people by not charging them a monthly fee until they rebuild which in his case was close to three years (which amounted to \$1,626) as well as not charging the customers for the water that spewed out of their houses while they were burning. I suggested that he come to this board meeting and voice his concerns and possibly consider becoming a member of the board in an upcoming election.
- There was some discussion regarding this issue. As, several customers have already upgraded their meters, we cannot give special consideration to just one customer and would therefore have to reimburse those customers that have already paid to upgrade. As a consideration, Tanner suggested installing a 1" meter for him and doing the lateral adjustment for him if he would like to upgrade this property (it was the adjacent property that he upgraded to a 1" previously).

## Rate Increases:

Shannon Damonte

- Tanner discussed and handed out information on Waterboards CA Small Water Systems Rates Dashboard, which is for systems with 500-3300 connections.
- Shannon will get together a report on how our expenses have increased since the last rate increase in 2014 and will compare to 2022 (but will likely be even higher for 2023 with the recent rise in inflation) and focus on consumables and payroll expenses. Then we will have a good data point on how much our expenses have gone up.
- The Board should be prepared to vote on rate increases at the next board meeting.

## Report on Operations:

Tanner Hiers

- **Cross Connection Control Program & Ordinance:** Tanner provided an example from State Water Resources Control Board of a Small Water System Cross-Connection Control Ordinance and a Small Community Water Systems Cross Connection Survey Summary Form. Previously the State had very few regulations in the CA Code and what they did have was not very specific. The question is: does the customer own them or do we adopt them? We have this hybrid situation right now. The customer "owns" the BF's but we charge each customer \$3.75 a month and we test them and repair them. We will have to give the customer 3 choices of who they want to test and repair.

The first step is to send out the survey. There will be \$100 fine if we have to go out to the property and do a site visit with a Cross-Connection Control Specialist. Tanner will finalize the survey and the Board can vote to approve it at the next meeting. The Board will also need to vote to approve a Cross-Connection Control Ordinance for the Company By-Laws.

- **THM Removal System:** We received the control panel finally. She (project manager) wanted us to sign the change order for \$10,500. We requested who to speak with to dispute the change order. Per our contract, a new contract would need to be signed to change the scope of work. She decided to change the VFD, the original one was designed to do any voltage.

The contractor will be going on vacation in September, but we will get the installation scheduled for the end of September or beginning of October.

The last two quarters for TTHM's were low enough that we can get MCL of 110 without getting another violation or having to send out letters. After installation we will have to take one sample to report and then one to prove 60% removal rate guarantee.

- **Lake Levels:** The lakes are still looking good. About two weeks ago we were at 87% capacity and probably at around 85% now.
- **Deer Park Pipeline Replacement:** This week Piazza Construction was working on getting the encroachment permit from the county and said they would let us know so we can schedule that project.

The \$820,035 has been obligated. It does take some time before we will get the check. We need to decide where to put the funds as it needs to be protected. On Frank's recommendation, Shannon will call First Republic in St. Helena to get information on a sweep account.

- **E.Coli False Positive Test Results:** When this issue first came to light we thought it could no way be the lab's mistake. But, after Yountville had a positive result and Rob Lutz called to say that he had 3 positive e.coli results (and what lab do we use), we decided to switch to Alpha Analytical in Petaluma. Caltest was apparently having quality control issues with their bottles (although they never confirmed it with us or stated that it was their mistake). They have made a few other mistakes since I've been here so we thought it would be a good idea to change labs. I have worked with Alpha Labs in the past and they are very good and also do in house HAA5 and TTHM testing (not subbed out like with Caltest) so in the future we will have those results earlier.

**Confirm Future Meetings:**

- **Next Meeting – Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 6:30 pm**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.**

**Respectfully submitted by: Shannon Damonte**