

CANEBRAKE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Saturday, September 9, 2023

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Canebrake County Water District was called to order by President Jerry Bucheit at 9:00 am in McKenney Hall. Please see Attachment 1 for the meeting Agenda.

**ROLL CALL:** Bucheit called the roll with Daryl Holmes, Jr., Robert Mooney, Gunnar Ramstrum and Ellyn Hae in attendance. Also in attendance was Dean Kuns, Water Manager.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Bucheit led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**WELCOMING OF GUESTS:** Guests in attendance at the meeting were: Chris McDonald

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES JUNE 10TH, 2023**

Minutes are approved.

**PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Ramstrum presented the Canebrake Financial reporting for the period (Attachment 2). Asset information has been expanded to assist with understanding the reality of the existing assets. He noted that Reserves are placeholders, there is not a separate account. He read the bank debit transactions (Please see Attachment 2). Balance Sheet and Income and Expenses are included as Attachment 3.

The Morgan Stanley Money Market and CD accounts were established, and the Money Market accrued \$400 for the period. Ramstrum covered the investment strategy and recommended moving funds to average a 3.7 percent investment return to beat inflation. The suggestion is to remove all funds from SD County fund, leave 50K in the Chase Checking (existing budget) and move all the money from savings except the donated Price line funds into the Morgan Stanley Money Market account. These funds are liquid and can be accessed immediately.

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Mooney commented that the SD County Investment has been a consistent stable 1% over time.

Hae makes a motion to move \$55K from the SD County Investment Pool, \$27K from the Chase Savings, and \$13K from Chase Checking to the Morgan Stanley Money Market. Holmes seconds, motion passes unanimously.

Ramstrum covers the water usage via the attached graphs. Data from graphs indicates that 10 customers use 50% of the water. Discussion regarding education of the users. Ramstrum contends that the current water rates are not adequately covering the costs of the system. He will bring an analysis and proposal of changes to the tier values to cover the maintenance and wear on the system to the next meeting.

Discussion on leaks and potential for water conversation/leak stoppage via hose timers. Holmes found it insightful that the leaks are due to poor installation. The Board is considering coordinating a company that customers can use to replace poly pipe. The board thinks it would be beneficial to have Ramstrum present the data to the community at the CIA meeting. Ramstrum agrees to present.

Hae makes a motion to approve the Financial Report. Holmes seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

The board commends Ramstrum for excellent reporting and investment strategy.

## **GOVERNMENT FORMS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**

7/7 Notified DEH of positive coliform results. Provided sanitation procedure.

7/1 Forwarded to DEH Absent Test results taken from both Wells and two follow up sites.

7/19 Financial Audit completed and sent State and SD County

9/12 SDG&E Critical Facility Infrastructure Survey and Notification Form completed. Bucheit and Kuns are added as contacts.

8/30 Ramstrum completed D-1 Operator renewal course. Therefore, his D-1 Operator certification is valid for 6 years.

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SDG&E Weekly Usage Reports indicate that solar panels are operating, and costs are minimized for the period: \$31 Canebrake Road, and \$24 Smoke tree.

Cancelled a check to previous water sampling company Envirotech as we paid the bill, the company changed hands and the check was never cashed. Therefore, check #7103 \$157.50 as of June 23, 2023, was stopped.

Regarding AB1234 Ethics and Sexual Harassment training, Ramstrum and Hae have completed, and other Board Members are on track to have everyone in compliance by the next board meeting.

### **EQUIPMENT REPORT:**

Holmes first thanked Kuns for the days of work in assisting in preparing the expanded Equipment Report to identify the age and condition of the CCWD equipment. Holmes then summarized the equipment report (Attachment 3). The Dump Truck is now named "Heartbraker" after Kuns and Holmes washed it. Two mechanics have inspected the Dump Truck and declared it a valuable vehicle with a lot of "meat of the bones."

Kunz changed the spark plugs on the golf cart and it is in excellent condition.

The generator and trailer are in excellent condition. Bucheit asks Kuns to confirm there are electric outlets to use the generator at the Peterson and Mooney wells in the event of a catastrophic situation.

The Case Backhoe is in poor condition. Ron Ackey has been concerned for the last six months. Two mechanics inspected. The engine is great. But it has "wet brakes." The brake shoes are encased. One side is working and the other not. When the driver steps on the brakes the backhoe spins. It is unsafe. The hydraulic tank casing is also cracked and leaking. This is unrepairable. Both mechanics indicated that this is an expensive vehicle to work on. Estimated \$20,000 to bring it up to working condition. However, there could be additional issues once they open it up. Also, the backhoe is not compliant with CA EPA smog rules. A conversion kit will cost \$25,000 to \$30,000. This fact also lowers our trade value. The mechanic thought we would get a trade in value of about \$8,000.

For Holmes the most important aspect is safety. This vehicle is not safe. Also, would like a vehicle that is easy to drive. He is also concerned about the fact that we as a governmental agency are operating a non-compliant vehicle. Will conduct further

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research. Kuns adds that at some point no mechanic will be able to work on the backhoe as it is out of compliance.

Holmes discussed new and used replacement options. Both mechanics indicated that if looking at used, must verify condition. Holmes also looked at rental rates to prepare the CCWD in case of an emergency before the backhoe situation is resolved. Holmes looked at Skid Steers/Bobcats as an option. However, do not have the ability to move the size of rock that we handle in Canebrake.

Both mechanics think the Bulldozer will run forever.

Discussion of ways to cover backhoe cost via rate increase, one-time assessment, and/or fund raiser, donations.

Board directs Holmes to research replacement backhoe costs and funding. Will discuss at the next meeting under old business. The Board thanks Holmes for the research.

#### **SYSTEM MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS:**

Dean Kuns presented his report covering the period June 10, 2023 – September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (Attachment 5). Dodged a bullet with the storm. Rocks fell down, but no damage to the system. Holmes added that he learned a lot when he was out with Kuns, Bucheit and Mooney and Ramstrum working on the line during the coliform flare. Mooney would like to see pictures of the repairs as he would like to see the amount work that folks such as Chris McDonald, Dean Kunz, and others are contributing. Kunz thanked Chris McDonald for holding a flashlight for the nighttime repair.

#### **WATER DELIVERY INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE:**

Polyethylene tank is a priority for early October. Bucheit, Kuns, Mooney, and Chris McDonald will complete.

Priceline painting is completed. Still need to place anchors.

Ramstrum with Chris McDonald is working on a map of the blowoffs, water meters, valves, lines, even elevation drops (thanks to Holmes' new vehicle) of the CCWD water system. After some vandalism at the steel tank, Kuns suggests adding hinges and concrete to the gate at the tank.

Bucheit suggests adding a bottom and door to weatherize the electronics at the Mooney well.

Ramstrum would like to see Sexton walk the line and instruct the Board and Water Manager in proper installation methods.

In speaking with folks this summer, even though we post on website, Facebook, and email every customer, Ramstrum suggests adding signs at entry locations to notify Canebrakers of status of water issues such as "Boil Water," "Water off" and more. We have a volunteer that is interested in helping.

Kuns reports that with the heat and the suction after shutting the system off, two pipes imploded. No leaks. Pipe will be replaced during new tank installation. We have posted when returning to Canebrake how to turn your water on after a system shut off. But we will post on the website how to clean your system after a water shut off.

System Sanitation Procedure. Ramstrum is creating is an SOP how to remove Coliform if it ever happens again.

Ramstrum and Hae are working on a series of SOPs to cover all areas of the CCWD system from Admin to Finance to Maintenance to Communication. Ramstrum will clean up the spreadsheet and present at the next meeting.

Bucheit would like a list of all items in an action report for 2023. Ramstrum is working on one and will present it at the next meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### Ultrasonic Leak Detection Flow Metter

Subject: Attempt to use technology to identify leaks in a perfunctory manner. A series of correspondence occurred between Frank Colver and the CCWD via Ramstrum.

Documents are available upon request. Attachment 6 represents the most recent synopsis of the discussion. Essentially Mr. Cover proposes a bidirectional non-contact sensor on the main line to provide continuous reading of the flow to the entire community system (on the polyethylene tank). We like this; however, we would have to use satellite, or RF. Ramstrum would like to try a PSI gauge on a stem that is not in use to determine leakage and potentially minimize the geographic leak area.

Example. Apply gauge at west end of Palo Verde Lane. Turn off, at Hae's house, if no leak, can exempt from system. Then we can do all ten stems. Thus, we will identify leakage locations. Mr. Colver's idea is great but let us do this first as it is least cost.

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### Continuing the Discussion by using a Pressure Reducing Valve by Mark Robinson

We have been working with Mark Robinson to place pressure-reducing valve in the system. Looking at the map with elevation considerations, perhaps we put one in at the value in the middle of the community? The point is that we want to decrease the PSI at the lower altitudes. This is the reason that Kuns continues to recommend that we keep the level of the steel tank low in the summer with little usage. Ramstrum did more research with a PVC pipe company and was told that in California there are three reasons that we have issues: movement of the soil, surges in pressure (confirmed by Mr. Sexton) and improper installation.

The problem is that it has to be bi-directional. Bucheit is thinking it needs to be in a vault for both Robinson and the Colver idea. We need some more elevation readings from Holmes.

### Steel Tank Liner Discussion

Ramstrum recommends that we check the liner on the steel tank on an annual basis (open the hatch and check) as he contacted Paul Deschamp and asked for the installation date, and it seems it will expire within approximately five years. Ramstrum learned in the D1 Operator class that if you place a galvanized anode on it, the anode will rust, and the steel tank won't rust. So, we don't know if they did that when we put on the liner, so we need to determine if an anode was applied or do we need to apply an anode immediately? If the liner goes, we have a significant cost (20K), perhaps we go to another polyethylene tank?

Ramstrum says the reality is that we will need a liner, or a new tank, backhoe, maintenance truck, new well pump every seven years, we may even need a new well. Good to know in the next 10 years we need at least \$100,000.

### Update Well Water Spectrum Analysis

Bucheit has containers and samples will be collected in September.

### Update Well Water Level Sounding Device

Readings were taken. Measuring light. Ramstrum will investigate.

## Letters

Response from the CCWD Board to Kathy Steuermann for correspondence read in previous meeting (Attachment 7) and Bob Fritz (Attachment 8).

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Hae received a request from Myrna Wosk to participate in CCWD via Zoom? The Board is grateful she wants to participate; however, we do not have internet access to allow. We can investigate if that is community desire.

Hae requests to research audio to transcript costs to minimize time writing minutes. With a 3-to-4-hour meeting, it requires a 8 to 10 hours transcription requirement. The idea would be to minimize that time. Will present at next meeting.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

None.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Hae, seconded by Holmes to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

Saturday, November 11, 2023, at 9 AM  
McKenney Hall

Attachments  
eh