## REGULAR MEETING – BUTTONWILLOW COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

SEWER, KERN MUTUAL, BID#1, WSV DISTRICT

APRIL 17, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Buttonwillow County Water District was called to order by Chair Richard Garcia at 5:32 PM at the Ag Center, 289 Main Steet, Buttonwillow, CA.

The following directors were present: Mike Burleson, Richard Garcia, Albert Ghilarducci, and Vanessa Montemayor.

Others in attendance: Regina Houchin, Mario Cervantes, and Jeff Eklund. Melissa Bergen attended telephonically.

The minutes of the March 20, 2024, meeting were read and approved on a motion by Vanessa Montemayor, second by Albert Ghilarducci. Carried. (Ayes 4- MB, AG, RG, VM; Absent 1 SG).

# Accounts Payable

The Board reviewed the accounts payable for April 17, 2024. On a motion by Vanessa Montemayor, second by Mike Burleson, the following checks were approved for payment:

M & O – Sewer $ 35,137.22 Vouchers #5162-5190 General – Water $ 15,050.65 Vouchers #5162-5190

 Well #2 $ 364.24 Vouchers #5162-5190

 Well #4 $ 2,181.95 Vouchers #5162-5190

 Well #5 $ 126.85 Vouchers #5162-5190

 Less: P/R Tax $ ( 28.69) to be paid with Payroll Returns

for a cash disbursement total of $52,832.22. Carried. (Ayes 4- MB, AG, RG, VM; Absent 1 SG). A $18,830.00 transfer from the general account to the WW Construction account was made to cover the USDA loan payments for the upcoming year.

Cash Account balance information, disbursement analysis and P G & E summary were provided by the secretary and reviewed by the Board.

# Accounts Receivable

Board members reviewed the delinquent accounts receivable report. Thirty-four customer accounts over 90 days totaled $14,308.21. Required notifications have been mailed and disconnection notifications hand delivered. Ten accounts are scheduled to be disconnected on April 24, 2024, and six accounts will be disconnected on May 16, 2024, if not paid. Remaining accounts have made payment arrangements or service has been shut off.

Correspondence:

* California Rural Water Association notice of Annual Meeting, April 23, 2024, was received.
* KC Planning & Natural Resources Department – Carbon Terra Vault I – notice that further environmental review of the draft Environmental Impact Report will be conducted.
* KC Planning & Natural Resources Department – Notice of Preparation of Draft Second Supplemental Recirculated Environmental Impact Report for Revision to Title 19 – KC Zoning Ordinance focused on oil and gas local permitting was received. Responses due by April 22, 2024.

Public Time:

No Public Time

District Business:

Mario presented his March/April operators report. Responded to called out for a water leak at 337 Highway 58. Found it was a Main leak that required a contractor to repair. Installed new booster pump at well #2. Met with CRC for well abandonment and well #4 improvements. Reviewed well #2 new hydro tank plans. Continued daily monitoring of WWTP.

Jeff Eklund, P & P provided updates on the following items, with input from Melissa Bergen.

* Sewer Main Inspection Project –Jeff provided a map of various locations of the sewer system and classified phases according to need of immediate replacement and or repairs. He presented an Engineer’s Opinion of Probable Construction Cost for Alternative 2 – Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation with an estimated cost of $8,200,742.00. State funding would direct which phases to complete with this grant.
* WWTP Engineering – The Draft of the WWTP Improvement Project Report was presented for review. Jeff presented the preliminary process layout. The map clearly shows the area where the proposed Avantus transmission lines would be located and the distance from the plant. A new emergency pond would be located under a portion of Avantus lines.
* CDBG Funded Project – Regina reported on the conversation with James Golden regarding the initial Well Site #2 Electrical Upgrade/replacement project application filed December 18, 2020. He said that the 2020 application had been approved yet the same project applied for in the CDBG application dated December 14, 2023. He asked if the district had ever received confirmation of the approval, which the district did not receive. He said the County Department failed to send notifications to other recipients as well. The original application was $73,600 and the new application indicated the cost as $220,000.00. As the initial $73,600 application has been approved and allocated to the District, Mr. Golden wanted to know if the district needed additional funding to complete the project. Jeff Eklund indicated that costs have increased, and additional funding would be needed. After further discussion, a motion was made Vanessa Montemayor, second by Mike Burleson, to move forward with the modified application. Carried. (Ayes 4- MB, AG, RG, VM; Absent 1 SG).
* CRC EHO-SEP – On-going coordination with CRC regarding execution of the project. Unified is presenting the scope of work for the destruction of each well. Once the cost is arrived at, a contract with CRC will be drafted. Jeff, Mario, and the CRC team continue to have team meetings to answer questions.
* The possibility of saving Well #3 for future use was discussed. A video of the well would determine the condition of the casing and whether a lining could be installed, and if that change would result in reduced flows. Would this project change be acceptable and covered under the existing CRC project?

A copy of the newest version of the Transmission Easement Agreement with Avantus was presented for review. Avantus had made several changes to the initial agreement previously provided. The proposed easement payment was discussed. The first proposal indicated the easement would be at the west and south perimeters of the property, leaving much of the property intact for future use. Those plans changed and the transmission lines would be installed through the middle of the property, rendering it useless or drastically minimizing its use. Jeff had not had an opportunity to review the agreement and a copy has not been sent to Attorney Schroeter for comments. The board requested Regina contact Avantus and let them know the district is having the contract reviewed and will be discussing the proposed payment due to location changes limiting future use.

Regina provided information received from Attorney Schroeter regarding the fees associated with selling water to contractors in the future. A copy of the Lost Hills Water resolution was available. The board would like more information regarding costs. Those provided seemed low and would not cover the cost of pumping and administration. Regina would collect fee information from other districts.

The Electronic Annual Report (EAR) was filed and accepted by the State Water Board.

Attorney – Nothing

Secretary –Regina indicated that she will be out of town at the regularly scheduled May board meeting and that another staff member would be present to take minutes. Jeff also indicated he would be attending the May meeting for discussion for ongoing projects. Chairman Garcia inquired whether the board would like to change the meeting date so Regina could be present. After discussion it was decided to change the May meeting to Friday, May 10, 2024, at 5:30 PM.

Chairman – Nothing

Directors – Member Vanessa Montemayor reported that in the coming months she will be moving out of the district and the board will need to post her vacancy and appoint a replacement. She will submit her resignation when a date is determined.

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for May 10, 2024, at 5:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Regina Houchin, Secretary to the Board