

## PINE-STRAWBERRY WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

### Water Enhancement Committee Meeting

Monday, April 11, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.

PSWID Administrative Office

6306 W Hardscrabble Rd.

Pine, AZ 85544

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Larry Bagshaw called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

#### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Larry Bagshaw

#### 3. PRAYER

Offered by Raymond Headings

#### 4. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS

Conducted by Larry Bagshaw: Committee members present: Larry Bagshaw, Roger Childers, Christy Mikesell, Chris Ray, Sam Schwalm, Cynthia Wright and Pam Mason. A quorum was present. David Dickinson, the General Manager, and Heather Nelson, PSWID customer service rep, were also present. 23 members of the public were physically present and 24 were attending via Go to Meeting.

#### 5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Peter Moravosik asked if the district could save water by reducing the water pressure. [It would be difficult to reduce the pressure overall due to the many pressure zones and valves in the system.](#) Denny Hemmings was curious about the possible purchase of/well share agreement at Fuller Dr. and Glen Straun in Strawberry. [This was discussed later in the meeting as an agenda item.](#) Charles Spencer asked about rate increases in the future. [The board approved the option two rate increase as in the rate study at the last board meeting which will take effect July 1, 2022.](#)

#### 6. OLD BUSINESS

##### **I. DISCUSS THE WATER CONSERVATION STAGES DOCUMENT THAT THE STAFF HAS**

**PREPARED AND DO THE FINAL EDITS.** Sam Schwalm had made some edits and had some questions which were discussed. The document was approved with some changes and will be sent to the board for approval. The document with the water saving tips was also approved and will be posted to the website and other places.

##### **II. DISCUSS FINES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE WATER CONSERVATION STAGES.**

Violations will be identified by high water usage reports and the field staff and customers. Higher summer water rates were suggested to get people to conserve water. It was suggested that customers get one warning and then their rates will increase. The board will need to decide whether to levy fines or what the rate increase will be.

##### **III. BRAINSTORM WAYS TO GET THE PUBLIC TO CONSERVE WATER.**

- a. Review letter to STR rental owners to post on website and Facebook. We should request STR owners to install low flow toilets in addition to the

suggestions on the letter. We also need to draft a specific list for conservation for the renters, including no laundry, no car washing, etc.

- b. Educational program, PowerPoint presentation, pamphlets. It was suggested that we do a presentation at the school and have a contest for conservation ideas. It was also suggested that we do a booth at the festivals regarding water conservation, like the Firewise trailer.

**IV. DISCUSS SIGNING THE NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT WITH SRP FOR INFORMATION ON AVAILABLE RIGHTS TO THE CC CRAGIN WATER.**

We cannot get any information from SRP about the costs and specifics without signing the NDA. Larry Bagshaw still has reservations that by signing the NDA that we may be giving up our groundwater rights. The district's attorney has said that we could sign it. A lot of people think it would still be too costly considering the need for a pipeline and treatment plant. The board will make the final decision.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**I. DISCUSS THE FEES THAT NEED TO BE ADDED OR INCREASED JULY 1**

- a. Rates already approved by the board from the rate study. The board chose to adopt option 2 at the March meeting.
- b. Discuss future water resource fee to add to monthly bill with funds put in a dedicated account for deepening or cloning current wells. The consensus was that this was a good idea. The board will set the fee. It was suggested as much as \$3 to 4 a month and perhaps have a spot for people to make an optional donation.
- c. Impact fees. Should we match Payson's fees? Our fees have not been increased for several years. Right now, we are about breaking even and cannot apply any of the fees toward future maintenance of the system. Sam Schwalm suggested we consider doing a fee analysis. David Dickinson has already been comparing impact fees with other districts. This will be sent to the board to consider.
- d. On without notice fee (customer turns on his water at meter without notifying the district). David Dickinson suggested that we charge \$150 plus time and materials. Some others said to charge up to \$500 and put a tag on the meter. This will be sent to the board to consider.
- e. Increase in late fee from \$6. It was suggested that we up the fee to at least \$10, but to do a comparison with the market standard and charge up to \$35. Or we could start at \$25 and up the fee by \$5 each additional month it is late. This will be sent to the board to consider.
- f. Surcharges: WIFA, USDA, Paper, Credit Card. Only the paper surcharge was discussed. It was suggested that we encourage customers to go paperless by providing an incentive.

**II. DISCUSS NEW WATER SHARE AGREEMENTS AND/OR WELL AVAILABILITIES**

- a. Change wording on the moratorium documents to allow new water share

agreements and meter(s) for those willing to agree to let PSWID use their well. David Dickinson suggested that we change the wording to allow 2% of new well gpm output to go towards new hookups at a rate of .08 gpm per household or 39 gpm per commercial. Larry Bagshaw plans on drafting an alternate option. People were concerned about people drilling wells to offer to PSWID. They do not want PSWID to spend outrageous amounts of public funds to buy a private well which will not be as productive as claimed.

- b. If we add a new well either by WSA or acquisition, how to release meters to those on the wait list. Do full time residents get priority? Do people whose wells have gone dry get priority? Or do we go by their position on the list? The consensus was that people who are established full time primary residents and particularly those whose wells have gone dry should get priority over those whose homes are secondary residents or rentals. This will be considered by the board.
- c. Discuss Glen Straun/Fuller Dr. well. WSA or purchase. Should we do next step approval? Until the moratorium is changed, we still cannot do anything about proceeding with this. The owner is intending on flipping the property but wants to offer the district access to the well, but also provide the house with a district meter for water.

**8. IDENTIFY POTENTIAL AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

Suggestions will be emailed to the committee members.

- 9. MOTION TO ADJOURN.** Roger Childers moved the meeting be adjourned. Pam Mason seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.