

## RAINBOW WATER DISTRICT BOARD AND BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: May 8, 2024

Time: 5:30 PM

Place: Rainbow Water District Office/Virtual

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON:	Doug Keeler and Jim McLaughlin
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:	Mindy Kephart and Marla Casley
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:	James Burrington, Devin Thompson, and Rob Hallett
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:	Erik Westerholm
STAFF PRESENT:	Jamie Porter, Jodi Sanders, Brian Scott, and Eric Carlson

Doug Keeler opened the Board Meeting at 5:30 pm.

### **AGENDA REVIEW**

No added items.

### **REVIEW ITEMS**

1. The minutes from April 10, 2024, were presented for approval. Jim McLaughlin moved to approve the minutes as presented. Marla Casley seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.
2. The financial reports for April 2024 were presented for approval. Marla Casley moved to accept the financial reports and pay the bills. Doug Keeler seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.
3. April 2024 Financial Report Review: Doug Keeler reviewed 3 transactions and approved the audit trail report. The missing check reports were reviewed and approved, check numbers are 17484-17529 (Key Bank) and 1000-1018 (Summit Bank) and there were no breaks in sequence. There was one new vendor: Calgon Carbon for the PFAS pilot study.

### **BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

None

### **BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD**

Jim McLaughlin announced that the LCOG Regulatory Solutions and Advisory Committee is taking volunteer applications for a number of different committees.

### **BUSINESS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

1. The property with the filbert orchard near 29<sup>th</sup> and Yolanda is applying for annexation and will be developed.
2. The Springfield Utility Board (SUB) asked Rainbow if we would be interested in sponsoring the Light of Liberty 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. The Board is supportive since Rainbow

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customers are also SUB customers and would be eligible for their financial assistance on their electric bills. The Board is supportive at the \$500.00 level.

3. A Rainbow customer called for help with a neighbor that was dumping RV waste directly into the sewer. Jamie put them in touch with officials with the City and County and they will address the problem.
4. The January ice storm was declared a state of emergency and Rainbow was able to submit a claim for damages we incurred.
5. The State of Oregon standardized inflation adjustments for minimum wage. Jamie has suggested that Rainbow follow that as a standard for cost-of-living adjustments starting with this budget in 2024.
6. The Weyco Water Treatment Plant was damaged in the January Ice Storm. There were 3 tees that needed to be repaired. ODOT has given us a draft agreement for discharging the backwash tank out onto the field in front of the office. They want environmental assessments, and the agreement still has to be worked out. For this year, International Paper will be trucking the water to the wastewater treatment plant for disposal. Jim suggested that we offer the water to contractors for construction projects.
7. Jamie requested quotes for fencing around the wells at Chase Wellfield. There is about a \$30,000.00 budget line item for fencing, which may come up in the next year. There has not been a lot of tampering with the wells, but there is always the possibility.
8. Eric met with the orchard owner East of the Chase Wellfield and proposed allowing Rainbow to do some core drilling in the orchard to see if there is a better spot for a well. We are doing a survey to see if there is a better spot to drill wells at different depths, to get water not contaminated with PFAS. We redesigned the scope of the grant request and are waiting for the State to award it.
9. Eric resampled I5 for PFAS and we did get some detections at both wells #1 and #2.
10. We got 250+ professional pictures done through our consultant to use for future newsletters and Consumer Confidence Reports. Summit Bank also came out to take pictures for their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
11. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party – Currently planning a couple of food carts in our parking lot in August. We will have additional raffles and coloring contests for the kids. The board likes the idea of reserving the dance hall parking lot for the celebration. Jim knows the owner and will inquire about the rental.
12. The control system needs software updates, and we are considering upgrading the phone system to a VOIP system.

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13. The kitchen flooring needs to be replaced due to damage creating a trip hazard. The existing vinyl flooring tested positive for asbestos. We are in the process of getting quotes for the asbestos abatement and flooring replacement.
14. There is a concern at the County and State levels that small water systems do not have the technical or managerial capacity to safely make water for their communities. Lane County is considering what needs to be done to help these systems function. They have considered developing a county department that runs these systems, which is not their preference. They are asking if we would be interested in taking on additional systems as they see the needs develop. A representative from Lane County will come in the future to present the idea to the Board.
15. The Blue River Water District generator is at the shop to see if it can be repaired. If so, it is a good size for Shenandoah, and they might be willing to purchase it.
16. PFAS Discussion: Withing three years, by 2027, water districts need to have a plan to treat PFAS and withing five years, by 2029, those plans have to be implemented. During this timeframe, we will have a renegotiated contract with SUB, and we will be selling less water and need to figure out which water sources we will still need. Jamie and Eric are studying if there are ways to reconfigure our wells to eliminate or reduce PFAS detections and thus, don't need to invest in treatment systems. This could include addressing the depth at which PFAS is detected, and if wells can be redrilled or modified to avoid the areas of the water table that have PFAS contamination.

Doug Keeler closed the Board Meeting at 6:38 pm.

James Burrington opened the Budget Committee Meeting at 6:38 pm.

Jamie reviewed the budget changes that were presented in writing to the Board and Budget Committee. The review was an overall look at what the budget entails and will follow up with an in-depth review of changes page by page.

### **BUDGET RECOMMENDATION UPDATES:**

1. Page 1 – Income increased to a total of \$2.9 million through a combination of water rate increases, grant funds and increase water sales to SUB.
2. Page 2 – Slight decrease in COLA adjustment from 3.6% to 3.52%, increased materials and services budget to match the total of \$2.9 million in expenses.
3. Page 5 – Increased income due to the possibility of receiving PFAS settlement money and budgeted capital projects to include Chase Wellfield fencing.

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4. Page 6 – Increased the income due to the possibility of receiving PFAS settlement money and holding it as savings.

Rob Hallett moved to approve the Budget as presented and to recommend adoption to the Board. James Burrington seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

James Burrington closed the Budget Committee Meeting at 7:00 pm.

Doug Keeler reopened the regular Board Meeting at 7:00 pm.

The next Board Meeting will be scheduled for June 12, 2024.

Doug Keeler closed the Board Meeting at 7:01 pm.