

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF LOCKWOOD  
WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT**

**February 8, 2023**

**Call to Order:**

The regular meeting of the Lockwood Water and Sewer Board of Directors was held on February 8, 2023. Board President Carl Peters called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Lockwood Water and Sewer District Office, 1644 Old Hardin Road, Billings, Montana 59101.

**Introductions:**

Present at the meeting were Board members Carl Peters, Merrill Walker, Carlotta Hecker, Stuart Deans and Scot Bowen. Also present was Manager Mike Ariztia, Assistant Manager Tony Reed and Jill Cook, Engineer, Morrison-Maierle, Inc.

**Public Comment:**

1. Any member of the public may be heard on any subject that is not on the agenda.

There was no public comment.

**Approval of Minutes:**

2. January 11, 2023.

The minutes of the January 11, 2023, Board meeting were presented for approval. There were no corrections.

- I. Merrill Walker moved to approve the January 11, 2023 minutes as written. Stuart Deans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

3. Discussion and approval of Task Order No. 20 to the Master Agreement between Lockwood Water and Sewer District and Morrison-Maierle to provide design of water and sewer modifications/relocations/extensions required for the 2023-2024 MDT Johnson Lane Interchange project.

Task Order No. 20 was presented for the Board's review and approval covering MDT Johnson Lane Interchange Utility Modifications. The Task Order sets forth Morrison-Maierle's duties to provide design of water main, sewer gravity main, and force main modifications/ relocations/extensions as necessitated by or adjacent to the MDT

Johnson Lane Interchange Project, in an amount not to exceed \$230,000.

The project requires LWSD to relocate either laterally or to deepen some of its water or sewer infrastructure within the Johnson Lane Interchange boundary, which includes Old Hardin Road, Johnson Lane and North Frontage Road. The Task Order covers both water and sewer facilities. The Task Order encompasses the design portion.

In MDT projects where District or other facilities are impacted, MDT covers 75% of the construction cost. They cover none of the engineering cost. Total project cost has not been determined at this time.

- II. Merrill Walker moved to approve Task Order No. 20 covering the Morrison-Maierle design portion of the MDT Johnson Lane Interchange Project, in an amount not to exceed \$230,000.00. Carlotta Hecker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Copy of Task Order No. 20 attached to minutes**

- 4. Approval of 2023-2024 Health Insurance Renewal.

Manager Ariztia met with the health insurance representative, who advised that there would be a 5 to 5-1/2% renewal increase in the policy now in effect. The monthly fee amount would increase to \$7,166.00. The present coverage provisions of the policy would remain the same.

- III. Carlotta Hecker moved to approve renewal of the employee health insurance package including vision and life currently in effect. Stuart Deans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- 5. Approval to attend Montana Rural Water Systems 2023 Conference.

The yearly MRWS convention will be held in Great Falls, Montana on March 22, 23 and 24. Manager Ariztia advised that he anticipated sending two people, possibly a third if there is someone ready for their certification test. Board members can also attend if they wish to.

- IV. Carlotta Hecker moved to approve attendance at the MRWS Convention for 2 to 3 staff members, and any Board members who wish to attend, in Great Falls, Montana on March 22, 23 and 24. Stuart Deans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Copy of Convention Schedule attached to minutes**

6. Water Treatment Plant Expansion Update.

Manager Ariztia reported there has been quite a bit of progress since the last Board meeting. Water is now running through the two new filter trains, both the clarifier and the filters. They built up a sludge bed in filter 4, and are now working in filter 3. One filter is being run from the old side of the plant and one from the new side until it is operational.

New parts should be received this week to put the UV system into operation. There are communication electronics that will have to be taken care of, and hopefully next week that system will be up and operational. It is anticipated that within the next week or two, the two new filter trains will be completely in operation to where they can shut down the old side of the plant to do the modifications needed there.

The architect, Collaborative Design, had assumed responsibility for the cost of the new siding. However, the cost of the new siding was found to be higher than anticipated. The result is the new siding has not been ordered yet, and this has caused issues between the parties. Negotiations between the architect, RSCI, and LWSD regarding the issue are ongoing.

**Financial Reports:**

7. Balance Sheets, P&L Budget Comparison, Yellowstone County Trial Budget Summary (summary not available).

Financial Reports attached to the minutes consist of the following reports for January, 2023:

**Water Fund:** Claim Details; Trial Balance with Revenue and Expenditures; Statement of Revenue Budget vs. Actual; Statement of Expenditures - Budget vs. Actual Report.

**Sewer Fund:** Claim Details; Trial Balance with Revenue and Expenditures; Statement of Revenue Budget vs. Actual; Statement of Expenditures - Budget vs. Actual Report.

8. **Approval of Bills due for Signature:**

V. Stuart Deans moved to pay the bills due as set forth on the Water and Sewer Fund Claim Details. Carlotta Hecker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Other Business:**

9. Lockwood Transportation District

President Peters and Manager Ariztia attended the Steering Committee meeting in January. Conrad Strobbe is trying to revive the Lockwood Transportation District, which has been dormant for years. He would like to have a member of the various Lockwood Districts on that committee and asked for volunteers. Board members offered neither yes or no at this time, with Stuart Deans stating he might.

**Manager's Report:**

**10. Pumping Record**

<b>Water:</b>	January, 2022	22,813,900
	January, 2023	23,490,300
<b>Wastewater:</b>	December, 2021	5,255,000
	December, 2022	4,677,000
<b>Exxon Wastewater:</b>	December, 2021	65,913,000
	December, 2022	37,014,000

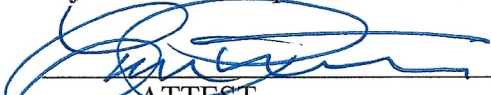
There was a meeting with the TEDD as part of the Johnson Lane Interchange Project. The TEDD was advised that if they want to get water across Johnson Lane outside of the MDT Interchange Project, now is the time to do it. They were provided a cost estimate prepared by MMI. There will be another meeting next week to present the estimate to the TEDD Board.

Manager Ariztia reported that he testified by video in support of LWSD's water intake project for grant funds from TSEP and RRGL before a long-range planning committee.

**Adjournment:**

- VI. Carlotta Hecker moved to adjourn. Merrill Walker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

  
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