

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

February 12, 2025

Call to Order:

The regular monthly meeting of the Lockwood Water Sewer Board of Directors was held on February 12, 2025. 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, Carlotta Hecker, Scot Bowen, Brent Kober and Gary Forrester. Also present was LWSD Manager Mike Ariztia, Assistant Manager Tony Reed, Jill Cook of Morrison-Maierle, Inc., and Evelyn Pyburn, *Yellowstone County News*.

Public Comment:

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

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes:

- 2. January 8, 2025**

The minutes of the January 8, 2025 meeting were presented for review and approval.

- I. Gary Forrester moved to approve the January 8, 2025 minutes as written. Scot Bowen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A special meeting of the Board was held on January 31, 2025. The minutes were prepared by Manager Ariztia. Brent Kober noted the minutes were titled "Minutes of Regular Meeting" and should have been designated "Minutes of Special Meeting."

- II. Carotta Hecker moved to approve the January 31, 2025 minutes as corrected. Brent Kober seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business:

- 3. Approval of Amendment 1 to Task Order 24 for the 2025 Water Master Plan/Preliminary Engineering Report**

Amendment No. 1 to Task Order 24 calls for modifying the time for completion of the 2025 Water Master Plan/Preliminary Engineering Report (PER). Task Order 24 authorized Morrison-Maierle to move forward with the Water Master Plan (PER) for the District.

Amendment No. 1 changes the schedule for rendering services and modifies it as follows:

Phase 1 and 2 tasks will be completed in 2025. All work under this Task Order shall be completed not later than December 31, 2025. There is no cost associated with this Amendment.

III. Scot Bowen moved to approve Amendment No. 1 to Task Order 24 of the PER. Brent Kober seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. Discussion related to BGI/YELP request for information on possible connection into the LWSD sewer system

BGI previously submitted a request to opt-out of Phase 1, and subsequently they were left out of the Phase 1 boundary. In 2020, the District received a request from BGI expressing an interest in connecting to the sewer. Morrison-Maierle prepared a Task Order outlining additional and necessary improvements. Raftelis, the LWSD rate consultant, provided a breakdown of the costs involved. The proposals and task orders were presented to BGI. There was no response.

BGI has now expressed an interest in connecting to the sewer system. Manager Ariztia reiterated the items that would need to be completed. Morrison-Maierle was asked to update the Task Order to current cost. The scope would likely stay the same, but the cost would change. Raftelis was also asked to update rate information. BGI will be responsible for associated costs by Morrison-Maierle and Raftelis for these services.

Further discussion between BGI, the District and the City will have to be undertaken to determine the feasibility of this request.

The Board directed Manager Ariztia to proceed gathering necessary information.

5. Approval of 2025-2026 Health Insurance

Manager Ariztia advised the Board that the Blue Cross/Blue Shield health insurance policy was due for its annual renewal. The increase would be approximately 11 to 12% resulting in a \$1,000.00 increase in premium per month.

IV. Brent Kober moved to approve the 2025-2026 renewal of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield health insurance policy with the \$1,000.00 monthly premium increase. Gary Forrester seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. Discussion to move the March 2025 Board Meeting date

The Board discussed changing the date of the March Board meeting date due to the conflicting March 12 through 14 Montana Rural Water systems 2025 Conference that Manager Ariztia will be attending along with Board member Brent Kober. It was decided that the meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025. No motion was required.

7. MDT Johnson Lane Project Update

Manager Ariztia reported they were moving forward on the schedule. Mobilization is set

for the second week in March. A pre-construction meeting will be held at Morrison-Maierle on February 13, 2025. Morrison-Maierle is presently working on submittals, traffic control, and with DEQ. This project is called I-90 Water and Sewer Project east of Johnson Lane.

A second project they are working on is called Johnson Lane Interchange.

8. Phase 3 Sewer Project Update

Plans are with DEQ and are being reviewed. It is hoped they will be going out for bid at the end of March.

A request was made by a developer inquiring if the Board would consider allowing a contractor to start to construct certain areas before others with the intention of spurring development immediately. Manager Ariztia suggested having the developer come to a Board meeting to explain what he intends to do with the property. Gary Forrester suggested Morrison-Maierle, the developer and the developer's engineer meet before meeting with the Board to go through their options.

9. Financial Reports

Balance Sheets, P&L Budget Comparison, Yellowstone County Summary

10. Approval of Bills due for Signature

- V. Carlotta Hecker moved to pay the bills due. Scot Bowen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Other Business: None.

Manager's Report:

11. Pumping Record

Water:	January, 2024	27,396,470	January, 2025	30,927,328
Wastewater:	December, 2023	4,237,000	December, 2024	4,084,000
PAR MT	December, 2023	60,541,000	December, 2024	59,789,000

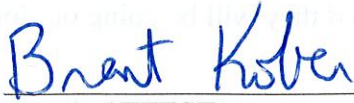
Manager Ariztia reported that they had purchased a 2020 Ford F250 long-bed, 31,000 miles, for \$34,800.00.

With regard to Board vacancies, two positions are up for election, Carl Peters and Gary Forrester; two people applied, Carl Peters and Gary Forrester. Manager Ariztia is expecting the county to appoint them by acclamation, in which case there will be no election.

Adjournment:

- VI. Scot Bowen moved to adjourn. Brent Kober seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



ATTEST



ATTEST