

# Ponderosa Community Services District

RESPONSIBLY PROVIDING PURE MOUNTAIN WATER AND EFFECTIVE SNOW REMOVAL

Minutes of meeting

October 12, 2023

Present:

Directors: G. O'Neill, B. Benton, C. Marchaunt, F. Ohnesorgen

Absent director: J. Gordon

Staff: W. Dolmovic, T. Harness, T. Griesbach (Via zoom) K. Klemcke

Absent staff: J. Landers, J. Robertson

Guests: Bill Benton, T. Stewart, M. Krasowski

The meeting was called to order at 12:43 by Ms. O'Neill, followed by the flag salute.

## Comments from the Public

Bill Benton – would like the board to consider moving regular monthly meetings to a Saturday instead of the second Thursday. The board agreed to put this on the November agenda.

## Acceptance of Minutes

It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes from September 14, 2023, regular meeting, September 30, 2023, special meeting, and October 8, 2023, special meeting as presented. Hearing none opposed, the motion carried.

## Communications:

9/21 from M Goldsmith – a quote for back up snow removal. *Hi Tom and PCSD board. Tom requested I send a proposal to our company as a backup snow removal resource for the Ponderosa Community Services District. I would not want to use the PCSD snowplow for liability reasons. I would be willing to have one of my trucks available with a plow. I would request a non-refundable \$10,000 retainer and an hourly charge of \$295 per hour against the retainer. If anyone has any questions, please don't hesitate to email, or call.*

9/22 – from Catherine Lemaire regarding financing through CSDA for truck purchase

9/27 – from C. Lemaire with preliminary financing proposal

9/27 – from Rich Thomas providing information on team building meeting for directors and general manager

9/28 – from USDA notice they will begin using latest census data to determine eligibility for grant/loan packages

10/1 – from State water board drought report, September report due by Oct 31

10/4 – from CSDA Chris Palmer announced that Melissa Green has left CSDA and is no longer the Field Coordinator for the Central Network. Until they hire a replacement, he is the Central Network point of contact. CSDA has a link for information on wildfire prevention grant funds.

10/5 from Federal Funding Webinars: grant construction contracts webinar: *the Labor Department has issued a major overhaul to the regulations that govern Davis-Bacon administration and enforcement. The new regulations take effect on October 23.* Fwd to general manager.

10/5 – from State Water Board re: CCR certification issue. The issue has been corrected and acknowledged.

10/5 – from State Water Board information flyer on fall funding fair. Fwd to general manager and 2 directors.

10/6 – from attorney re: truck financing documents

## Staff Reports

General Manager – Griesbach

- Will follow up on payment to M. Krasowski
- Spent many hours working on finding financing for the new plow truck, dealing with insurance for old plow truck, and paperwork for DMV.

Secretary: not present to report

Contracted Water Operator – K. Klemcke

Regular monthly BacT was good.

Checked all well houses, they seem to be locked now – which is good. Griesbach will get a key made for Klemcke.

Notice work was done on the first new tank, a man access door was installed. Reminder to T. Harness that any time a water tank or the system is exposed to air, he needs to chlorinate.

- Information presented about the effect burned out buildings may have on local well water.  
Discussion of any necessary PCSD actions or concerns.

F, Ohnesorgen reported that some community members have expressed concern about runoff from recently burned buildings could potentially contaminate the local water supply.

Klemcke reported that there has been some research done after the Camp Fire event that destroyed most of the town of Paradise. The water board was mostly concerned about Benzene. Benzene results from plastic pipe that is exposed to extreme heat, such as wild fire. Benzene is one of the contaminants listed in the VOC test. (Volatile Organic Compounds) The State Water Board required the PCSD to test for VOC after the Castle/Sequoia Complex Fire before they would remove the boil order. Our test, at that time, was clean. We last tested for VOCs June 2022. Since we usually test with no detection, we are not required to test for VOCs again until 2028. We have tested 3 times in recent years due to wildfires. It was asked if we could test again even if not required. Klemcke will find out the cost of testing for VOCs (probably about 380 per well site) and said we can test for just Benzene.

There was a question about ash and surface runoff, Klemcke stated these are naturally filtered by the ground.

He did find articles from Chemical Engineering and the EPA that talk about VOCs. He will forward the links to those articles.

Another concern the state water board has related to wildfires is erosion. When the plant life has been destroyed, there are more landslides, and excessive runoff that causes flooding. The flooding can contaminate wells.

There was a question about possible contamination into the water system from the burned down Lodge. Klemcke stated again that Benzene is caused from plastic pipe coming into contact with extreme heat. He does not feel that situation occurred when the Lodge burned. The Lodge also has a backflow prevention valve. Since that valve is outside the Lodge, it was not damaged and prevented any contamination from the Lodge from being siphoned back into the PCSD water system. It was then mention that the cabin that burned down did not have a backflow valve. Klemcke explained that since that cabin was higher in the water system, the system's pressure would have prevented a backflow situation. Water from the burned cabin would only be siphoned into the PCSD water system if there was a total water outage. Harness reported that the cabin's water service was turned off at the street immediately after the fire. Therefore there is no danger of contamination from that burn site.

Bill Benton expressed concern about the anodes at the Summit tank, that they may have been damaged by the snow load last winter. He also questioned whether the new tanks had anode (sacrificial zinc) protection. Klemcke stated he is skeptical about the benefits of anode protection. The zinc only last a relatively short time and needs to be replaced (every 3 to 4 years). He further stated it has not been common practice to install anodes since 1950. Some tank manufactures use it, others do not. In his opinion, it is not necessary.

There was a question as to whether the Summit tank has been inspected recently. Klemcke suggested that is something the district personnel can do annually. Run the tank down to a few feet of water, open the top hatch and inspect, alternatively hire a company with a drone to do the inspection.

#### Water System Operations Report

- Request to purchase a handheld soil compactor for use in water line repairs – *Dolmovic to*

*Minutes October 2023\_regular*

*provide information* - Discussion of cost and determination to purchase – carry forward

#### Snow Removal Operations Report – Dolmovic

Proposal from High Sierra Snow Removal to provide back-up equipment if necessary.

Lease equipment from High Sierra – hourly rates do not include wages for driver

\$175/hour for pick-up plow truck

\$150/hour for M5 blower

Toro has skidsteer with backhoe. His rate is \$110/hour and does include the driver. Using Toro and his equipment is the most cost effective option if/when it is needed.

#### **Financial Report**

Treasurer not present, no report to be accepted.

#### **Additional Reports**

- PPOA/PCSD Liaison – Tammi Stewart reported there will be a “Friendsgiving” at the home of Bill and Cheri Benton on Nov 25 starting at 2:30. The PPOA is providing the meat, anyone who attends may bring a side dish or dessert.
- US Forest Service Liaison – no report

#### **Status Update** on Holby tank replacement project

- The county has inspected the well site and signed off everything.
- Still waiting for electrician to connect the tanks to the electrical panel on Holby Rd so nobody has to go down into the well site and manually transfer water during the winter.
- The Holby well house needs to be weatherproofed for winter
- Need to submit receipts and reports to the grant for reimbursement

#### **Director Comments** – none

#### **Unfinished Business**

Ongoing items: *These will be completed as weather and time allow.*

- Gates or access *barriers* on Holby foot bridge, and access road to Holby well site - Spring
- Status of upgrade for current radio/walkie talkie communication equipment – *Dolmovic*

#### **Old Business**

- Request from O’Neill to consider switching internet providers: leave ViaSat for Starlink  
Status of placing receiver: The dish is placed and Starlink connected. There was no real use of Starlink to notice a difference. It was determined that the dish will not be able to go on a tree, it would have to go on a pole. Since the monthly cost is less for Starlink, it was decided to purchase a Starlink dish. The cost of the dish will be recouped in 7 months through the lower monthly fee.
- Update on County crew cleaning culverts on Snowflake to prevent flooding this coming winter season, and road repairs within the Ponderosa subdivision.  
No further work was done yet. Mr. Wong has been contacted numerous times, provided with photos and details, and Supervisor Townsend has been made aware of the situation. The county is supposed to come work in the Ponderosa subdivision after the repairs on M105 are completed.

## **New Business**

- Rich Thomas will facilitate a team building workshop for the board of directors and general manager. This meeting is currently set for Saturday Nov 11, 2023, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm in the district building.

Possible date change due to director conflict. *The date has been changed to Saturday Dec 16, 2023.*

- Security cameras – information will be presented on the type and cost of security cameras to be installed on PCSD property and well sites.

Gabby prefers the Nest camera. The picture quality is good, it provides notification to a smart phone, you can speak through the camera's speaker, and the battery lasts a long time. The battery also recharges easily. Cost is \$119, or \$200 with a flood light. It does only work via wifi, so these cameras are not an option for the well sites or Summit tank. An option for the sites without wifi is using a "game: camera. They are motion sensing so only record if something triggers it. The card can be taken out and viewed on a computer.

*It was determined to use 2 Nest cameras at the PCSD building. One for the yard, and one for the tool room. The cameras will not include floodlights. Harness will get 2 sets of regular floodlights and install on the exterior of the building.*

- Discussion and determination regarding extending housing the Fire Brigade truck to Sept 2024.

*It was determined to allow the fire brigade to house the fire truck on the PCSD garage until September 2024.*

- Review, discussion, and determination of action regarding damage to PCSD garage door

*It was determined that the garage door can be repaired well enough for continued use rather than bearing the cost of replacement. Ohnesorgen and Dolmovic took the responsibility of repairing the garage door.*

- Discussion and determination of action regarding telephone access for Ponderosa Fire Brigade.

*There was a great deal of discussion about possibilities for phone service. The general consensus was fire brigade could use an old cell phone. Several individuals offered to donate their former smart phones. The brigade would need to obtain a cellular plan so the phone would have its own number. It could then make calls over wifi.*

- Starlink – discussion and determination of action regarding purchase of equipment for use of Starlink internet.

*See discussion and determination above in old business.*

- Discussion and determination about proposed community wood splitting day on PCSD property; tentatively set for the first week in November. PCSD already has a liability waiver to be signed by all participants.

*The liability waiver was made available; however the proposed wood splitting day did not happen and does not seem likely to happen. However, any community member is still welcome to come get logs from PCSD property.*

**Adjourn** – Hearing none opposed, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

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The next regular meeting will be held November 9, 2023, at 12:30 pm in the district building, with zoom link available.

*Note: The board secretary and treasurer are not available to attend the regular October meeting in person or via zoom. O'Neill will host the zoom session from the PCSD building.*

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Robertson/Board Secretary