

Rogers Mesa Domestic Water Company
Annual Membership Meeting
January 8, 2024
Rogers Mesa Research Station

UNOFFICIAL
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Cynthia Houseweart, President

Ross Allen led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

Determination of Quorum - According to the By Laws, a quorum is defined as the members present at the meeting. There were 27 people present in the room. The people in the room represented 41 memberships and proxies had been submitted for an additional 37 memberships.

Proof of due notice. Meeting notices were published in the below manner.

- Delta County Independent December 27, 2023
- High Country Shopper 12/27/2023, and 1/3/2024
- Letter mailed 12/20/2023

Report of Board of Directors by the President. Cynthia Houseweart thanked Jim and Diane for their work keeping the system working. She also thanked Kendell Excavating, contractors who had been invaluable in fixing leaks this past year and Paul Schmucker for jumping in whenever necessary. The board has had five meetings this year and the item that comes up at every meeting is how do we get more water for our company. It is something we are constantly working on. The board is proceeding cautiously with tap sales in order to be able to have enough water to serve our existing customers.

Paul Schmucker stated that it is not possible for the company to acquire irrigation water for domestic purposes, so in order for the company to have a more secure water supply, we must increase our reservoir shares. The company is currently looking at possibly leasing water and at possible improvements to existing reservoirs as ways to achieve this. We hope we might be able to add 5-15 acre feet of water to our storage capacity. There is not much snow at the moment, so water supply for the coming year could be a bit of a concern.

Report of the System Operator. We had 2 major breaks in the last year, one very large crack in an 8” main and one in the 6” pipe at J80 Road and 3300 Road. This repair caused a few people to be out of water overnight.

The hydrant at 3160 Road and the highway was replaced and the hydrant by Rogers Mesa Fruit was repaired. There is one non-functioning hydrant left at the south end of 3250 Road.

Jim has been working to install backflow preventers in locations where they don’t exist and has also had to replace about 15 pressure reducing valves this year.

He has been busy doing locates and repairing leaks caused by the company moving the gas lines along the highway west of 3100 Road.

Report of Treasurer. Dan Schultz-Ela went over the financials in detail. The company is in good financial condition, but we noticed a slight loss last year. We are fairly steady in our cash reserves, so this is not alarming, but it may be an indication that we might need to raise rates in the future.

Dale Engemann asked if we had billed the gas company for the repairs we had to do on the highway. The short answer is that we did not. The company was a great help in exposing all of the breaks and making repairs relatively easy.

Approval of previous meeting’s minutes

This item was skipped at the beginning of the meeting. The minutes for last year’s Annual, Meeting – January 9, 2023, were reviewed. Jim Firor made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and all were in favor. The minutes were approved.

Report of the Secretary. Diane Perry reported the result of this year’s tap sale. The board voted in August to allow the sale of one new tap this year. We had 3 qualified applicants this year. The winner of the lottery was Wendell Widner on 3200 Rd north of the highway. This is the third year that Mr. Widner had entered the lottery.

Unfinished business. No unfinished business

New business. No new business

Larry Head thanked Jim for coming right down to fix an unmarked line at his house when the gas company broke it. As he understands it, CDOT is paying to move our lines when they widen the road. He wonders if we couldn’t take this opportunity to update our lines with more fire hydrants since the line will be exposed.

James McCain expressed concern over fluoride in the water. He says fluoride has been linked to bone issues and can be considered a neurotoxin. There is a new ruling that should be out at the end of January that should clarify some of this. He is going to go to a Hotchkiss Town council meeting and find out what needs to be done to get fluoride removed from the water – a petition or letter from the board – and will let the board know.

He also thinks that there might be some grant monies available through the fire department for fire hydrant installation. Will have Nicole Carpenter contact the board with more information.

Barrett Funka asked for an update on the plans for the work along Highway that will take place next fall.

Ron Smith thanked Jim for trying to get him water during the repair at the intersection of J80 and 3300 Road, as he had a house full of guests. Jim also replaced his pressure reducing valve, but still feels that he has more water pressure in his house during the morning hours than in the evening. He wonders if anyone else has a similar problem.

Nominations for vacancies on the Board of Directors.

Cynthia Houseweart and Paul Schmucker are up for re-election and are willing to serve again.

Dale Engemann informed the board that Anthony Lambrakos might be interested in serving on the board. This brought up the question of whether a candidate needs to be a member or not.

Ross Allen made a motion that both board members be retained. The motion was seconded.

Larry Head made a motion that nomination cease. The motion was seconded.

Election

Cynthia Houseweart and Paul Schmucker were retained as board members by unanimous vote.

Larry Head thanked the current board for being receptive to the needs of its members.

Dale Engemann thinks it might be a good idea to raise rates for everyone, not just the folks covered by the new additional use policy.

Sharon Armstrong made an announcement that her granddaughter has opened and organic bakery in the old Coal Train building and encouraged everyone to go.

Cynthia Houseweart made a motion that we adjourn. The motion was seconded and all present were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 pm.