

**MEANSVILLE RILEY ROAD WATER COMPANY, INC.
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR, FEBRUARY 25, 2025
HELD IN CONFERENCE ROOM AT MRWC 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT

Gibby Arthur
Paula Brewster
Cindy Burnett
Robynne Burress
Mark Carroll
Otis Hembree
Hermine Keith
Don Tucker
David Valentine

ALSO PRESENT

Arnold Ramsey
Christy Mills
Paula Wright

Meeting Called to Order: Otis called the meeting to order.

Invocation: Don gave the invocation.

Stagecoach Road: Arnold Ramsey and Christy Mills appealed to the Directors to get water on Stagecoach Road. Arnold stated that he grew up on Stagecoach Road. His parents lived there for seventy years and as long as he could remember they had problems with the well. He and his sister have inherited eighty acres and would like to develop the land. A surveyor thinks if public water were available 75 to 80 homes could be built on the property. One developer would be willing to pay part of the money to install the water line on Stagecoach Road. Dan Henderson would like to build 25 to 50 homes on Stagecoach Road in four to five years. The Directors informed them that the goal is to provide water to all, but MRWC has many projects ongoing, and money was not available at this time. Otis will pass on this information to engineer Rich Anderson with Summit Engineering and see what the figures will look like.

Approve Minutes: Cindy made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 28th meeting and the February 11th meetings. David seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Financial Statement: Robynne made a motion to approve the financials, seconded by Don, and the motion passed.

Correspondence: The South State CD account had \$97,422.59 and was closed on Monday, February 3rd, and deposited in the Arthur State Checking and Brent Babb will pull the funds out and invest in CDs with Wells Fargo where we will earn more interest.

The South State Money Market account, which is the USDA debt reserve account, should not be touched without Rural Development permission, so \$22,601.60 was withdrawn and deposited into Arthur State Checking then transferred to the SCIIP Account. Bryan Jordan with USDA stated MRWC should have a capital needs account or emergency funds available for pumps, trucks, etc.

A Wells Fargo CD matured on February 12th and was renewed for six months at 4.3% per Brent Babb's recommendation. One CD will mature in March and two in April.

The South Carolina Environmental Conference is March 9th through the 12th in Myrtle Beach. The cost is \$390.00 to attend and if anyone is interested in attending registration is due no later than February 27th. Otis will ask if James or Mitch would like to attend.

The SCRWA will hold a GIS Mobile Solutions Workshop about mapping software on Thursday, March 6th at the office in Columbia from 8:30 a. m. to noon and Mitch will attend.

The Equipment and Operators Expo will be held this year in Orangeburg on Thursday, April 10th at the fairgrounds and James would like Mitch to attend.

Merit Policy: Mitch attended the SCRWA Trenching, Shoring & Confined Space Competency in Bishopville on February 12th. He received eight hours and successfully completed the seminar in the Federal OSHA Excavation Requirements and passed the test. The Board decided that all the maintenance employees should attend this class, and this does not warrant a promotion.

Lead and Copper: We must certify to DES that we have made the required notifications by sending a copy of whatever templates we used, a list of recipients, and a signed statement that states the list of recipients received the letter to LCR@des.sc.gov, and include your full system name and 7 digit PWDID in the subject line and certification must be completed by July 1, 2025. Patrick will reach out to Duncan Wright with DES as to what MRWC needs to do next.

Audit: Tabled for now.

Rate Study: Laurin has not been able to contact Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project in Columbia. Patrick and the office staff will work on this project later.

General Manager: Mark stated the committee is working on the details with the new General Manager and things are going well.

SCIIP Highway 49 Project & Meadow Woods Road: Don stated the project is almost finished on highway 49. Otis reported that Rich will send Angela Kirkpatrick with COG the information as to how the remaining unobligated funds will be spent on the Meadow Woods Road water line by noon March 5th. The remaining funds must connect to Highway 49 and the money must be spent in Union County.

SC RIA O'Shields Road: MRWC received a \$250,000.00 grant to run water lines on O'Shields Road and Rich is doing the drawings and permitting.

SC RIA Old Hills Bridge Road, Gwinn Mill Road, Riddle Road, & Pettit Circle: The application is due March 17th and Rich will be applying for the \$1.3 million grant on MRWC's behalf. Spartanburg County will be the recipient if we receive the grant, and the company match will be 25%, around \$400,000.00.

Highway 92 Bridge Hangers: Patrick stated John Davis with Davis Plumbing will price two bridge hangers and contact traffic control.

Bridge Replacements Highway 215 Forest Creek: The DOT has told MRWC that the water line on Highway 215 at Forest Creek cannot be hung on the bridge, but DOT will pay for the bore. The water line now is a six-inch line but will bore an eight-inch water line.

Free Water Audit Software: Tabled until the new General Manager comes.

HAVC: Ben Parham with Parham Heating & Cooling will install the five-ton gas furnace and air conditioner unit on Friday, February 28th.

Replace 2017 Toyota Work Truck: The work truck has been in the shop three times recently and it just does not have any power. Mark made a motion to sell the truck on GovDeals and to be disposed of for clarity and transparency, Paula Brewster seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The maintenance guys stated that the company needs a regular size four-wheel drive truck. Mitch will take care of selling the truck.

UCMR5-Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule: The EPA contractor sent three sampling kits, one for each company that we purchase water from. James and Mitch collected the samples February 18th, sent them off, and a report will be available on the CDX website. DES requires sampling to be collected four times a year and will also be in the CCR Report. I have not received the results.

SCRWA Decision Makers Summit Report: Cindy, Paula Brewster, and Paula Wright attended the South Carolina Rural Water Association Decision Makers Summit in Isle Palms February 19th through 21st. Paula Brewster reported that the budget committee have been doing the budget correctly. Will McAllister with World Insurance spoke on the different insurances coverages that are offered. Bill Ford with SESCO spoke on human resource management that all handbooks need to be reviewed annually to ensure compliance as well as effectiveness. Paula Wright reported that wire transfers can only be made to accounts linked to business accounts and not to personal accounts. Daniel Wilson with Southern Corrosion talked about how useful Artificial Intelligence and Chat GPT can be. Paula Wright attended the 2nd Annual Women in Rural Water Luncheon. Allison Farrell, the Director of Wellness and Resiliency with Richland County Sheriff's Department was the guest speaker along with K-9, CJ. Allison discussed the importance of mental wellness, and the role women play in creating a work culture focused on wellbeing and inclusivity. I met Jena Hazelet with ServLine, a program by HomeServe, which is a leak insurance program. The ladies enjoyed attending and were appreciative of getting to attend the Summit.

Veterans Point Memorial Report: Robynne and Hermine attended the meeting. Post 22 would like to erect a monument with four levels of giving, \$5,000.00 platinum, \$2,500 gold, \$1,500 silver, and \$1,000 bronze. Robynne and Hermine recommend that due to the cost of the memorial that maybe MRWC could give \$250.00 later.

Committee for Employee Evaluations & Merit Increases: The committee consists of Paula Brewster, Cindy, Robynne, Mark, Otis, and David. They will meet Monday, March 3rd, 2025.

Badge Readers versus Timecards: QuickBooks has a kiosk which is available to us now. An iPad would be kept in the break room, and employees would key in with a four-digit code. The office staff will gather information on a program with a badge and fingerprint.

IRS Form 990: David McAllister with Manley Garvin is working on the form.

Prayer: Otis closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Paula C. Wright
Board Secretary