

Flathead Reservation Water Management Board

Approved Minutes

October 13, 2022, from 2:00-4:00 PM

In-person: Flathead Reservation Water Management Board Office
400 Main Street Southwest, Ronan, MT 59864

Virtual at Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/98885758088>

1. Call to Order (Board Chair)

1.1. Opening Prayer

1.2. Attendance

Clayton Matt, Georgia Smies, Roger Noble, Kenneth Pitt

Absent: Teresa Wall-McDonald

1.3. Announce meeting minutes on DNRC & CSKT websites

1.4. Adopt agenda

Roger: Amend agenda to remove Sept. 8, 2022, minutes.

2. Public Comment (for items not on the agenda)

No public comment

3. Board Business (Board Chair)

3.1. Approve minutes for September 8, 2022, and September 15, 2022

Approve September 15, 2022, minutes, remove approval of September 8, 2022 minutes since they weren't included.

Motion by Georgia Smies

Seconded by Kenneth Pitt

3.2. Legal Update (Hallee Frandsen)

Hallee: We are currently working on some memorandums for legality of boards status. To update on the type of entity we are considered. We are considered per tax information a government instrumentality. We are also working on getting authorization for the design logo for the board.

Clayton: The memo for open meeting laws was sent out to employees and staff. Roger, Kenneth, and Georgia didn't receive the email. Make sure everyone has received a copy of this email.

3.3. Domestic Allowance applications

3.3.1. Applications recommended for authorization (Cristy Brooks)

Anna: Please approve the list of applications noted on the attachment to your agenda. The following applicants need approval:

3.3.2. Board action on domestic allowance authorization

Motion by Georgia to approve

Seconded by Roger Noble

3.4. Redundant wells (Board-Ethan Mace)

3.4.1. Overview of redundant wells

Redundant wells are a well that supplies as a back up well to a public water system. Introducing the form for redundant wells so applicants can come and apply to the office of the Engineer for approval.

The idea of the well is that something built in duplication of the first water source so that if the first water source wasn't available for use. I would like approval of this form to process them

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through our office without the boards need to individually approve them. There would be a notice of completion and would have a variety of documents required.

Kenneth: Why is this coming to use this early in the process?

Ethan: People have a need for a redundant well supply.

Clayton: Who is asking for this now?

Ethan: Tribal housing has requested it as well as other members of the public.

Roger: DNRC has a redundant well notice and filing.

Clayton: Would any reservation communities filed through DNRC for a redundant well?

Roger: The process going through here for a redundant well, would someone want to also file through here? A redundant well could be in place but can't use concurrently.

Ethan: The applicant couldn't use both sources and would only be able to use one water source at one given time.

Roger: There is a redundant well definition but not one for a replacement well.

Ethan: One that uses the same service and aquifer but must abandon old well and not continue use.

Also, it is hard to get notarizations of forms and would like to know if there will be a notary requirement on the form.

Roger: The notarization for signature could be brought to legal review and asked of Hallee to look over.

Clayton: Agrees that there should be legal advice on if there a need for notarization of the document.

Hallee: I think it sounds fine to continue.

Action on redundant well form: No action taken at this time.

3.5. Human Resource Committee

3.5.1 Water Conservation Specialist (Georgia Smies)

Georgia: Aimee Seyler contacted candidates, scheduled interview, and let candidates know the position was in Ronan, MT. As of October 6, Aimee hasn't heard back from 3 candidates and is replacing them with other candidates that weren't on the list.

3.5.2. Personnel Policy Update (Board-Ethan Mace)

Ethan: Will be working on updates as needed on the policy and hand off comments and thoughts to policy committee.

3.5.3. Benefits Update (Cristy Brooks)

Cristy: There really aren't any updates currently. It has been hard to get far without the memo for definition of the type of entity we are. I have been visiting with a lady who has started up her own business handling HR benefit packages here in Ronan. She used to work for SK Technologies managing their benefits packages. I am waiting for a phone call from Adele.

3.6. Office of the Engineers Operations

3.6.1. Operations update (Board-Cristy Brooks)

Cristy: I feel it would be appropriate to have some type of ad of information in the media. I tend to get phone calls with similar questions as well as getting phone calls about the Opposition of the water compact. Most people don't understand the water compact and are given false information.

Clayton: Feels a PR with some information decided on by Ethan to be released would be good.

Georgia: Agrees that there is a lot of misinformation going around the reservation.

3.6.2. Water Engineer Spending Authority (Board-Ethan Mace)

3.6.2.1. Office supply request

Ethan: Would like permission to exceed the monthly supply budget to purchase desks and chairs and subscriptions.

Ken: Subscriptions?

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Ethan: Adobe

Ken: Okay.

Motion by Roger to approve the request but not to exceed the amount that's being approved.

Seconded by Georgia to approve spending amount.

3.6.2.2. Spending Authority discussion

Ethan: Would like approval for spending authority and to be included in financials.

Clayton: We need a protocol for spending authority and operations before we can move forward.

Ethan: We need another debit card or approval for expenditures on the debit card.

Roger: Do we have a credit card?

Clayton: We are currently using a debit card in the office for initial purposes. We should get the accounting firm to help with some of the protocols.

3.6.3. Confirm date to start using frwmb.org email (Board-Anna Butterfield)

Anna: Has everyone initiated and been able to use the emails designated to the board?

Roger: No.

Ken: Mine was set up and just now working ½ hour ago.

Ethan: We are going to be changing the email domain to Kelly Connect and may only change Passwords to a higher level of security. We have been working on getting the email transferred

Kelly connects, my laptop came in with software uploaded and ready to go. Kelly Connect did Come in and do a walk through of the building to get ideas of where they can run the ethernet.

Ken: I received a strange email from the tribe stating the MOU expired for IT.

3.6.3.6. Technical workshop after meeting adjourns

3.6.4 Kelly Connect Update (Board-Ethan Mace)

Clayton: Kelly Connect will be our IT company and we will be directed to Kelly Connect through This office.

Ethan: I will give a services update on what's offered to the board

4. Other Updates

4.1. Board member updates

4.1.1. Water Law Seminar presentation (Clayton Matt)

4.1.2. Pure West information presentation request for October 20

Anna: Pure West reached out to get information on well and compact law information. They have a meeting on October 20.

Roger: We've met before with realtors and did a presentation for Northwest Association. Pure West is only 1 company and maybe we need a general meeting open for all realtors.

Clayton: Feel we should check into.

Georgia: I feel there is a lot of misinformation out there and what are the boards thoughts about making a video presentation to be uploaded to get the facts out there.

Roger: Agrees that it would be ideal to use media to get a video out there.

Rob: Was contacted to get the video of Roger's presentation but never heard back. He will follow up on his request.

Clayton: Would like to get the video presentation posted so people can access it.

Ethan: DNRC has meetings monthly or every other month to update realtors.

Georgia: Doesn't want to volunteer anyone for this task.

Ethan: As the Water Engineer we can go anywhere the board request to go and present.

Rob: There have been organized meetings where only 14 people show up. There is an antiwater law meeting that is going around giving out this misinformation. We have held several meetings with information on the water compact and the attendance was always low.

Clayton: We have held a lot of meetings for the water compact.

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Roger: There have been several meetings on the water compact topics.

Clayton 1. What are the questions from Pure West? 2. DNRC has periodic meetings. 3. We should continue to work on PR. 4. Work on posting a presentation. I'm not sure it's beneficial for our staff to continue having meetings that take from other work we need to get completed.

4.1.3. Polson Rotary Club Presentation Request

Anna: The rotary club from Polson would like someone to come and give a presentation on the Flathead Reservation Water Management Board.

Roger: What is the update on the logo information.

Rob: For the logo information he's been working with Hallee and will let Hallee talk.

Hallee: 6 Pony has a contract for the logo releasing to the board. Make sure if there are any questions that they're referred to the board and legal.

Clayton: Heating update. Has 3 companies who will be giving bids. Hopefully we will have our Water Specialist hired soon. I would also like to make time to introduce staff to Tribal Council.

5. Public Comment

Jack Nordberg: I turned in application and met with Ethan. He isn't sure why he wasn't on today's approval as he had met with Ethan. Ethan told him he needed 1 more signature for his application to be ready. He doesn't understand why he was told he would be approved today and isn't even a part of the applications for approval.

Cristy: Excuse me, we have 30 days to review your application. It does go before me to do a general review. We just received it, and it hadn't been reviewed. I want to apologize for the delay in processing your applications but the applications on the list for approval are old applications that came in before yours. We are behind and I apologize but I was out sick, and it put me behind in my job duties.

Ethan: I am not sure why your application wasn't on the list for approval.

Clayton: When was your application turned in?

Jack Nordberg: September 30, 2022. We need approval to allow for DEQ to move forward. Now we must wait another 2 weeks just to get something that says we have permission to drill a well for DEQ?

Ethan: Wants to update his information on DEQ.

Clayton: The process for DEQ will be reviewed and from understanding the DEQ will allow others to move forward but DNRC needs to complete their part.

Roger: DEQ said they're waiting for us to approve the applicant?

Ethan: Yes.

6. Next steps

6.1. Set next meetings and location

6.1.1. October 27, 2022 (in person)

6.2. Choose meeting topics

7. End meeting (Board Chair)

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