

**Martin County Water District
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
January 24, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

Presiding: James Kerr, Chairman

Present: Directors: John Hensley, Nina McCoy, Greg Crum, BJ Slone
Staff: Brian Cumbo (Attorney), Craig Miller (GM), Jon Ridings, (LM),
Cassandra Moore

Guests: Ed Daniels, Doug Blackburn, Lowell Dove

The Regular Meeting of the Martin County Water District was held on January 24, 2023, at the Martin County Government Center, at 42 East Main St (2nd Floor), Inez, Kentucky 41224. Mr. Kerr called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Kerr called for review of the December 20, 2022, Special Board Meeting minutes.

- Nina McCoy stated that she didn't like how the minutes were written. She wants "After further review and discussion" removed
- Mr. Miller advised we can remove that line and make the minutes more to her liking
- Mr. Hensley motioned to accept the December 20, 2022 minutes with the removal of "After further review and discussion in the next meeting minutes"
- Mr. Crum seconded
- All ayes
- Motion carried.

Mr. Kerr requested discussion of the review and consideration of the Financial Reports.

- Mr. Miller detailed each report as submitted
- Mr. Slone motioned to approve the Treasurer's report submitted
- Mrs. McCoy seconded
- All ayes
- Motion carried
- Mr. Miller presented Other Financials
- Mr. Hensley motioned to approve Other Financials
- Mr. Slone seconded
- All ayes
- Motion carried.

Mr. Kerr called for review and consideration to Approve Bills.

- Nina McCoy asked if the Consolidated Pipe invoices were for one month?
- Mr. Miller advised these were old invoices that the District just received after reaching out to Consolidated Pipe
- Mr. Crum motioned to approve the List of Bills
- Mr. Slone seconded
- All ayes
- Motion carried.

Mr. Kerr asked if there were any legal issues to discuss.

- Mr. Cumbo stated he had no legal issues at this time.

Mr. Kerr called for review of the Operations Report.

- Staff has completed the last Elijah Streams payment for customers. The program assisted one hundred sixty-nine (**169**) customers.
- Tom Alley will remain as WTP Supervisor until June 31st, 2023. This will allow for additional training with new operator trainees. Mr. Alley will help with SOP's and functions of the plant.
- A new operator was hired to fill one WTP Operator Trainee position.
- Mr. Ridings will be accepting a new position in Missouri.
- During the freeze in December 2022 staff worked ten (**10**) to eleven (**11**) days straight and sixteen (**16**) hour shifts.
- Nina McCoy asked if the leak on Turkey where the road is broken is supposed to be fixed.
- Mr. Miller advised he knew it was on the state road guardrail project but didn't have a timeline of when it would be fixed. It was state funded, but he didn't know when the road department was going to fix it. Some of those funds had been diverted because of the disasters over the last year.
- Mr. Kerr commended crews for their work during the freeze. They worked hard and recovered quickly.
- Mr. Kerr stated he would be meeting with Nina McCoy and Mr. Miller soon to discuss on what happened and how to react the next time it should happen.
- Mr. Kerr congratulated Mr. Ridings on his recent promotion.
- Staff repaired an old repair that blew out on Turkey. It was a 14" main held by a wrap.
- Staff repaired many mains including a 2" main on Spence Br, 6" main on Tomahawk in two different locations, the 8" main at Main Street by the Community Center, 8" main on Main Street by the Business Development Center, 4" main at Jarrett's Trailer Park, 8" main on Beauty Rd, 14" main transmission line on Turkey Creek, 2" main at Inez Elementary, 4" main on Milo, 6" main on 645, and a 4" main on Hode Rd. Removed a hydrant connection due to leak on Buck Creek Mountain,

and responded to a busted fire suppression on Davella and Warfield. Staff repaired over twenty-one (21) service lines, replaced over twenty-five (25) meters, located and resolved twenty (20) customer side leaks, and leak detected extensively.

Mr. Miller presented an update of the water loss report.

- Water loss was reported at **79.20%** for the month of December 2022.
- Water loss was reported at **73.24%** for the annual year of 2022.
- Raw water flow meter numbers were used for this report due to the new production meter installed by Pace being out of calibration. Flow calibration issues were confirmed by a third party. This month's flow numbers are not consistent with the rest of the years partially because of this

Mr. Miller presented the Board with the December Leak Adjustments.

- Mr. Slone motioned to approve the December Leak Adjustments
- Mr. Crum seconded
- All ayes
- Motion carried

Mr. Miller presented an update on the capital projects report.

- The generator is in place
- Still waiting on the transfer switch
- Scada work has been completed
- Working on meter issue at plant
- The contractors performed the following major items of work since the quarterly meeting of December 7th, 2022
 - Painted mud valves and bridge
 - Mounted panels
 - Pulled wire
 - Sandblasted bottom of walkway on Unit 2
 - Installed handrail
 - Welded leaks on Unit 1 underdrain (there were some serious leaks on the underdrain)
 - Ran tests on welds
 - Painted Unit 2 walkway
 - Painted underdrain welds
 - Rubbed generator pad concrete edges
 - Wired chemical feed pump
 - Ran conduit for annunciator panel
- Still items to be completed before the final inspection and signature of completion will be signed
- Mr. Kerr asked if the clarifier being down changes our treatment process?

- Mr. Miller answered that it could change our treatment process some since that clarifier is a lot smaller. It's the same style and type, so It will not change our chemical process majorly. May have to make adjustments on mixer speed and sludge blanket. The primary intent is to take down the other clarifiers when they may have issue or need cleaned properly.
- Nina McCoy mentioned that the information in the packet was from Bell's meeting and wanted to know why the one point five (**1.5**) million wasn't on there? Said she thought it should be added for the Warfield project.
- Mr. Miller advised he would speak with Stephen Caudill about having it added to their packet
- Nina McCoy asked if the county had paid for the High School check valve that was promised?
- Mr. Kerr said it was promised but hasn't been paid for yet. Mr. Kerr said he was having weekly meetings with the new Deputy Judge and would inquire at the next meeting about the High School valve
- The Warfield project should go to bid this quarter for the Collins Creek water line
- The goal is to replace all the lines and meters on Collins Creek
- If they can't replace all the lines in Warfield, then they have to at least put in multiple valves to section Warfield off
- Nona McCoy asked if the new lines were extended into the Lovely area
- Mr. Miller said the new lines do not go down past Collins Creek. The primary section is first Collins Creek and then Warfield. The new line that was put in starts on the other side of the railroad bridge.

Mr. Kerr inquired if there was any Other Old Business to discuss.

- Staff presented the Board with a memo about the One Call now system offered through OnSolve
- It's been a big concern for Nina McCoy and the Concerned Citizens/Water Warrior's
- Mr. Kerr read the memo stating that "OnSolve is web-based, so there's not hardware or software to install or update. OnSolve can create an unlimited number of contacts and subgroups. This will allow staff to send emergency and any other time-sensitive alerts to customers
- OnSolve is based on the amount of credits purchased
- One call/text equals one credit
- A quote was provided for ten thousand (**10,000**) credits costing twelve hundred dollars (**\$1,200**) annually.
- Credits not used can be rolled over to the next year
- Mr. Kerr is going to meet with the county and the school system about their one-call system
- No motion
- Board agreed to table decision until Mr. Kerr could meet with the county about their one call systems

Mr. Kerr inquired if there was any Other New Business to discuss.

- Staff presented the Board with the Equipment Lease Agreement approved by the Board on March 9th, 2018 as prepared by Cumbo Law Office
- In searching for the original signed copy, staff was unable to locate the original signed document
- Mr. Slone asked if the date on the agreement should be changed to January 24, 2023
- Per Mr. Cumbo, he advised the agreement should reflect the original date
- Official signed copy will be filed with Cumbo Law Office, and extra copy will be filed at the District Billing Office
- Nina McCoy asked why it was only one (1) dollar since the water district was “flushed” and the sanitation is not
- Because the District received a USDA loan to pay for those items, Mr. Miller advised he didn’t know the legality of selling those to the Water District or how the Board would go about selling them. The water district owns nothing.
- Mr. Crum motioned to approve the Equipment Lease Agreement and make it official and right
- Mr. Hensley seconded
- All ayes.
- Motion carried.

Executive session not required.

Mr. Kerr inquired if there were any guest requesting to speak.

- Before guest spoke, Mr. Kerr advised that he has spoken to Adam Rice about some funding that would be available here shortly
- Forms must be in by February 1st, 2023
- Mr. Miller will forward copies of projects needed
- Nina McCoy said on the last project meeting she asked Bell Engineering about the fact that there was a CIP plan in there, but it was not funded by the AML. She asked how much it would cost. They advised for a simple plan (which is what the District has now) a range of ten thousand (**\$10,000**) up to six (**6**) figures. She asked where we wanted to place these items on the repair plan. She’s wondering if money does become available what goes first and the next
- Mr. Miller advised the CIP plan for now was in the following order: 40 E Water Line Replacement, Turkey Water Line Replacement, Coldwater Line Replacement, Old Rt. 3 Line Replacement, and then the Turkey Storage Tank Replacement
- Mr. Miller stated that the mixer he was referring to has been completely rehabbed
- Nina McCoy asked if we get the money could some of our workers do the jobs to save us funding

- Mr. Miller and Mr. Hensley advised that when you get federal grant money you have federal provisions you must follow. When you have federal or state projects, you're always going to have to bid those out and have contractors and engineers working them. They are also paid based on a Federal Prevailing Wage Scale
- The District uses Big Sandy Area Development District to handle all funds and grants so there will be no questions asked where the money goes and whom too
- Ed Daniels commented on "Nina McCoy says three times that why don't you put it on TV, why wouldn't you want to think about that?" "Do we not want the publicity?" "What is it?"
- Mr. Kerr stated that every time something happens Martin County always ends up being the "poster child". For workers in the field, they feel like it's a blast on them and their work. They feel attacked by all of it
- Ed Daniels asked, "why we don't fire back when negative comments are blasted at us?"
- Mr. Kerr answered that "they don't like to post that stuff; they don't report the positive."
- Mr. Kerr is going to sit down with other Board Members and come up with an SOP about how to handle these types of situations. He advised that other areas including Winchester, Atlanta Georgia, and other areas. We even reach out to Mountain Water about getting water from them and they advised they couldn't provide us any because they were low also. Kermit was out as well
- Ed Daniels asked if the work they did at the business center the past weekend was finished?
- Mr. Miller advised it was not finished; it was already in the work to be completed
- Ed Daniels said, "not everyone has phones, computers, or Wi-fi so he thinks Nina McCoy's idea of TV is a real good idea".
- Mr. Hensley spoke about how some people might be like him and not have regular TV or local channels. He streams everything
- Mr. Kerr advised again that it would be something they will talk about during their meeting and the making of the SOP
- Mr. Miller agreed that "communication is definitely important, and he mostly certainly wants our customers to know what's going on. He has no doubt whatsoever that in the past three (3) years, you have twice the amount of communication you have ever had before. He would also argue that also sometimes more communication is not better. Sometimes too much communication can cause just as much harm as not enough. You have to be careful, there is a fine line
- Ed Daniels asked Mr. Miller if he had a timeline of when you will work on the sidewalk at the business center?
- Mr. Miller advised they are hoping to have it done hopefully next week weather permitting. However, it will be finished and correct when they finish it
- Doug Blackburn asked what the school system used when they didn't have school?
- Mr. Kerr advised they had a robo-call system as well, and he was going to check with them and gather information as well

- Doug Blackburn asked what kind of meters we were buying? If we were buying the kind like Johnson County?
- Mr. Miller advised we were buying Mueller Radio Read meters, he didn't know what kind Johnson County were buying
- Doug Blackburn said Johnson County bought from Citco as well and Mr. Miller advised we don't purchase our meters from Citco
- Doug Blackburn said he called Citco and asked him how much for thirty-five hundred (**3500**) meters and they told him it would be six hundred thousand (**600,000**) for the meters and two hundred thousand (**200,000**) to put them in
- Mr. Kerr advised Mr. Blackburn to that contract and project would go out for bid when the time comes. If they want to bid on the project, they were more to welcome to bid
- Mr. Kerr advised if we had our own money then we probably could do a project for that price, but where it will be grant funded, we have to follow all policies and project regulations
- Doug Blackburn said it wasn't rocket science to put in a meter
- Mr. Miller advised that he "thought" if you used federal money/grants you "may" have to use a state or federal approved contractor, but he wasn't 100% sure
- Doug Blackburn said he didn't agree with that. The federal government waste more money than anyone. He's talking for the county
- Doug Blackburn once again asked about the 1 million loan and how that was going to be paid back?
- Mr. Kerr advised that they would be paid back by the DSS surcharge added by the PSC. All those funds are going into an account right now and sitting until time to start payments. Once payments begin, the DSS will be used strictly for that
- Doug Blackburn asked why we don't use the Kermit tap in line from across the river for customers in Warfield/Lovely area when we have issues
- Mr. Hensley and Mr. Crum informed that the line was broken, and that connection is under the Tug River. It's not an easy fix
- Doug Blackburn said he knows we're learning. Whatever we have done in the "big cities", we're learning what we have here now. If we have a valve on a line in between a meter and we turn the valve off and that meter is still spinning, then you have leak somewhere on that line
- Doug Blackburn asked why we were not using valves?
- Mr. Kerr advised that we don't have enough valves in our system, that's why we're trying to get more installed
- Doug Blackburn said if you turn a valve and there's a leak it will be "screaming." That's common sense
- Doug Blackburn asked if the mixer is working?
- Mr. Miller stated that it was a clarifier. That's the project they're working on now.
- Doug Blackburn said the mixer is what mix's the chemicals
- Mr. Ridings stated we have a flash mixer for our chemicals
- Lowell Dove said he noticed that Mr. Miller said, "Mountain Water didn't have any water to supply." So, he wants to know why did 292 have some water? "Why did he lie and say Mountain Water didn't have any?"

- Mr. Kerr informed that they didn't lie. Mountain water didn't have water for the first couple of days to help supply us.
- Lowell Dove asked why we keep wanting to buy "meters, meters, meters" when we need to replace lines. "All he sees reliable from Alliance right now is the bill coming every month."
- Mr. Kerr again advised this is all items on which we are working. These are all the projects we have in place. During the freeze we had issues over the Tomahawk area, but because we didn't have enough pressure to push the water over to the Warfield/Lovely area those customers were without as well. We have to shut things off. That's the point of trying to get more valves
- Lowell Dove asked, "if we couldn't sustain water during the freeze, why was the car wash still running?"
- Mr. Kerr spoke about how they were unaware of the car wash operating, but once they found out and was notified, they called the company and asked them if they cared to stop using the service until they could get the system stabilized and back up and running. The company graciously agreed and closed the service until we could call them back with a startup time. They gladly collaborated with us.
- Lowell Dove said he wouldn't drink this water if someone paid him too
- Mr. Kerr stated that the District has not failed a test in a few years now
- Lowell Dove said sometimes when he turns on his water it's a milky color
- Mr. Miller stated it was most likely air in the lines
- Lowell Dove stated "he didn't believe Mr. Miller because he was a liar. He lied about Mountain Water not being able to supply us with water."
- Mr. Kerr again stated "no one lied. Mountain Water couldn't supply us with water for the first few days of the freeze, because they didn't have the water either. After a couple of days, they called us and said they could help now."
- Nina McCoy asked if we have tried to get state grants?
- Mr. Kerr said he has reach out to everyone possible and would continue to do so
- Mr. Hensley mentioned possibly adding a grant or project to get the Kermit connection fixed and re-connected.
- Mr. Miller advised he would check into it
- Lowell Dove asked about the possible connection to a non-used campground on Evans Hill
- Mr. Kerr and Mr. Miller stated that that would be a county question
- Lowell Dove said it made no sense to him since we didn't have reliable drinking water here
- Mr. Miller advised that they would not be connecting water to that area, and no one had discussed that with him recently

Mr. Kerr requested a motion to adjourn.

- Mr. Hensley motioned to adjourn meeting at 7:47 p.m.
- Mr. Slone seconded
- All ayes
- Motion Carried

Minutes approved this _____ day of _____, 2023.

James Kerr, Chairman

Cassandra Moore, District Clerk