**Raineri Mutual Water Company**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**April 29, 2024 @ 7:00 PM**

**Via Zoom Teleconference**

**Minutes**

1. **Call to order and roll call.**

The meeting was attended by 5 participants in total for the duration of the conference. There were enough board members to make a quorum for the meeting to proceed. Those attending were 4 out 5 members of the board: Alison Armstrong, Westin Bolliger, John Camp, and Mihai Damian; and one former board member: Wade Bastien.

1. **Discussion and approval of the last RMWC Board member meeting minutes that was held on March 25, 2024 @ 7:00 PM via Zoom teleconference.**

The board members present discussed and approved the minutes of the last meeting held in March. Voted and approved by the quorum of all 4 voting board members present at the meeting. No editing or changes are needed currently.

1. **Presentation of RMWC financial statements.**

The review of the financial statements portion of the meeting was skipped for the time being. Our Treasurer, Stephanie Massei, was not present and the other board members were not in possession of the most up-to-date financial reports needed for the meeting. These will be reviewed and discussed at the next board meeting on Monday May 13, 2024.

1. **System status update.**

The RMWC water plant is still experiencing an issue with silt being present in the filtration system. Currently, no one really knows why there is so much silt coming into the water intake for the plant. It could be that a tree upturned fine soil that is slowly being washed away by the streams of Moody Gulch or there was washout from a nearby slope or hillside that is being carried to the plant. This issue will continue to be monitored closely.

There is an issue with slow-sand filter #6 at the plant. Filter #6 is leaking sand into the water system after it has already been filtered. Bruce will be shutting down filter #6 to inspect and assess the issue with the sand filtering setup. He will update us further when he finds out what is happening.

There was a recap of the board approving a motion for early spring cleaning/ weed-whacking around the plant with costs not to exceed $400. The work will be taking place ASAP.

One of the bigger issues that recently occurred right before this meeting was the collapsing of the hatch on top of tank #1. We are awaiting further input from Bruce and his assessment about what to do with the roof of tank #1 to repair it. Currently, we as a board are pre-approving a maximum amount of $5,000 to see if the roof/hatch area can be fixed for that amount or less. It is believed that a repair within the price range could be as close to a permanent fix as it could be without replacing the whole tank. The board moved to approve this motion with all 4 votes in favor.

President Alison is still waiting to hear back about when the high-risk tree will be removed near her house on top of a RMWC water line. The county had said they may have to shut down highway 17 and potentially kill power to the whole neighborhood to get that tree removed from the property safely. She will update us further.

1. **Status of work and information at the Emami properties.**

There has still been no word from anyone over at the Emami outfit. None of the board members or any of the watermasters have heard from Emami, a project manager, or anyone. On behalf of the board, Marty Feldman has tried multiple times to reach out to them regarding the RMWC water lines that run across the Emami property lines as well as the installation of float valves for his tanks already on one of his properties. Other than a notification that Emami had a change of personnel in accounting, there has been no discussion of business with RMWC.

1. **Discussion of next steps and timeline for possible rate increase.**

Before this meeting took place, the board was contacted by Gary regarding the renewal of his contract but with updated rate increases. The board will honor the requests of Gary and his crew set forth in the renewed contract. However, with the changing of Gary’s rate and the collapsing of the hatch on tank #1, the board has some decisions to make about increasing rates within our mutual. It is an inevitability that we are facing sooner rather than later. Other than some light discussion about adjusting for inflation for both Gary’s contract and RMWC member rates, we have held off discussing further any other detailed financial figures until we get Stephanie back to aid us in our solution. Alison made the great point that we should hold another board meeting that will strictly talk about the rate change. This meeting will have all board members present and former board member Wade Bastien will be there to guide us through the process of rate change using a spreadsheet he developed to help the board solve exactly how we are going raise rates effectively to finance repairs and upgrades to the plant.

1. **List of projects or upgrades for the plant based on priority/importance.**

Currently, there is great priority on taking care of repairing the hatch on tank #1, figuring out the issue with slow-sand filter #6, and figuring out the financials to do so. Westin has sent out the drafted list from previously available meeting minutes to President Alison. If there are other meeting minutes from the past, Westin will attempt to take a deeper dive into those notes as well. For now, the current list has plenty of projects and notes to keep us busy. This list will surely be updated and finalized as time wears on. Right now, the focus of this meeting was mostly financials and figuring out how we are going to tackle the challenges of rate increases.

1. **Any other items board members feel should be discussed and/or addressed.**

Alison has moved to set up a meeting a couple of weeks after this meeting to discuss financials and set up a plan before we have our annual meeting for members. The next board member meeting will be May 13, 2024, at 7:00 PM via Zoom teleconference to discuss financials. The annual meeting for members will be held on Monday June 3, 2024.

Westin brought attention to sending Alison the board members’ water safety certificates.

**Previously Tabled items:** The following items are a reminder of topics that have been tabled at multiple meetings.

1. Discussion about determining whether certificate holders who have not installed a meter or active water system should be charged some form of a rate. If they are to be charged, how is that rate to be determined and implemented?
2. Possibilities for hooking up to SJ Water for emergency use will remain on the priority list but it has been tabled for the moment. Still waiting for specific solutions.
3. **The meeting was adjourned.**