

HARDY COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT
OCTOBER 2, 2024
4:30 P.M.
45 District Drive, Moorefield, West Virginia

Present: Logan Moyers, Rose Helmick, Robert Harper, Melvin Shook and Connie Sherman – HCPSD; Kylea Radcliff, The Thrasher Group.

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Chairman Robert Harper. Melvin Shook was welcomed back as a new board member. Melvin was appointed by the Hardy County Commission to fill the unexpired term of board member Justin Basye. He has served previously as a District board member and is familiar with District operations.

The minutes of the September 11, 2024 regular meeting were presented. Rose Helmick made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Robert Harper seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business:

Baker Secondary Water Source Project– Kylea Radcliff, project engineer with The Thrasher Group, attended the meeting to discuss the test wells summary report that was received from the groundwater hydrology firm regarding the quality and quantity of water from the Baker wells. As was discussed at last month’s meeting, there are a few issues regarding the use the of wells as a public water source, those being the yield of the wells, the interconnection of the test wells to two surrounding private wells and contamination issues that were present in one of the test wells. Moyers told the board that after looking into these issues further, all of the issues were manageable and would not prevent the District from pursuing the development of the wells as an alternate water source if the board chooses to proceed in that direction. Regarding the yield of the wells, Ms. Radcliff said the total yield when drawing from both wells simultaneously was estimated to be between 100–110 gallons per minute. The water plant operates at a rate that produces 200 gallons per minute. Since the output of the wells does not meet the demand of the water plant, any project to develop the wells as an alternate source would need to include a storage tank where water from the wells could be stored in bulk in order to meet demand of the water plant. Ms. Radcliff estimated the storage tank would need to be sized to hold approximately 200,000 to 250,000 gallons. Regarding the interconnection of the test wells to two surrounding wells, consultation with the WV Bureau for Public Health and the WV Dept. of Environmental Protection helped to determine there is no regulation that would prevent or limit in any way a public utility from utilizing water from a well for a public water source regardless of how it may impact surrounding private wells. Further investigation of the well monitoring data as well as review of the available data for the impacted private wells showed that the impact the test wells had on the two affected private wells is very minimal and would likely have no noticeable impact on the private wells. Additionally, it was pointed out that one of the private wells that was impacted serves a currently vacant property that is connected to public water for in-home use. It was also noted that there was no impact or interconnection between the test wells and the Parker Hollow Impoundment. In regard to the contamination issues in well 2, it was noted that it is not uncommon to find arsenic or total coliform in public raw water sources and the Baker water plant can effectively remove these two contaminants. While e-coli can also be removed during the disinfection process at the Baker water plant, it is suspected that the e-coli contamination is likely from a low-yield, shallow-depth water stream that was present in well 2 and if that is the case, the shallow streams can be sealed to prevent that water from being pumped out of the well. The contaminant of greatest concern is the PFAS compounds that were present in well 2. While the Baker water plant is not currently equipped to remove PFAS, the District is anticipating moving forward with a project to construct a PFAS removal system at the Baker plant that will allow PFAS contamination to be removed during the water treatment process. Once the PFAS removal system is in place, the Baker water plant will have the capability of removing all contaminants that were present in well 2. The two primary remaining hurdles to moving forward with this project are obtaining suitable funding for the project and getting authorization to move forward with the project from the State Conservation Committee (SCC) which owns the ground adjacent to the Baker water

plant where the test wells were drilled. Regarding funding for the project, it was hoped that if the wells had been free of PFAS contamination the project would have been eligible for emerging contaminant funding through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), but with PFAS present in the test wells, this project does not qualify for that funding source. Board member, Rose Helmick, had suggested at last month's meeting that it may be prudent to pair the secondary source project with a future extension project that would add customers, so that the revenue generated from those customers could be used to offset some of the debt associated with the secondary source project. Board members agreed this would likely be the best option for proceeding with this project as it would also allow the necessary time for the District to complete a PFAS removal system project that would enable the Baker water plant to be able to remove PFAS compounds from source water. Project engineer, Kylea Radcliff, suggested that the District move forward with efforts to obtain authorization from the SCC to proceed with development of the test wells into full scale production wells even if the secondary source project is put on a temporary hold, as it has historically taken significant time to get approvals from the SCC. Robert Harper made a motion that the secondary source project be paired with an upcoming extension project for the Baker water system and to move forward with contacting the SCC for authorization to develop the test well to full-scale production wells that can serve as a secondary source for the Baker water system. Rose Helmick seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

PFAS Removal System Project – The need for a per/poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) removal system at the Baker water plant was discussed as part of the secondary water source project topic and continued as its own agenda item. Recent PFAS testing at the water plant showed the presence of three PFAS compounds, PFOA, PFOS & PFBS, however all compounds were found at levels below the allowable maximum contaminant levels (MCL) established by the EPA. Previous testing had only shown the presence of PFOA, however the latest results now show the presence of the two additional compounds as well. Moyers told board members that although the levels of PFAS compounds in Baker are currently below the EPA's MCL's, the District is still required to establish treatment practices that can remove the compounds by 2029 in accordance with the EPA's new PFAS regulations. Moyers also reiterated that PFAS treatment system projects are eligible for 100% grant funding through DWSRF's emerging contaminants funding pool on a first come first serve basis and suggested the District move forward immediately to develop a PFAS removal project so that it can utilize the debt-free funding that is currently available. Following a detailed discussion, it was agreed that the first objective for this project is to determine what technology is best suited to capture and remove PFAS contaminants at the Baker water plant. Moyers will work with Ms. Radcliff to evaluate the different options currently available for PFAS removal and capture and make a determination on the best option for the District. The largest concern with whatever technology the District ultimately chooses for PFAS removal is how to dispose of the waste that is generated during the process. PFAS removal systems do not oxidize PFAS compounds, but rather capture PFAS and sequester it from the finished water that is ultimately put into the distribution system at the completion of the treatment process. The waste that is generated still contains the captured PFAS compounds and must be disposed of in a manner that will destroy the captured compounds. Although new methods are currently being researched, the only current method for PFAS waste destruction is high-temperature incineration and currently there are a very limited number of facilities in the United States that can accommodate that type of disposal. A disposal method for captured PFAS will be determined and included as part of the PFAS removal system project. Rose Helmick made a motion to pursue a PFAS removal system project. Robert Harper seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Telemetry Upgrade Project – Logan Moyers provided an update on the project to upgrade to the District's telemetry system. The new vendor, C2G, will be on site tomorrow to begin work on the project. As part of this project the communication radios at all telemetry locations will be replaced with new radios. The new radios were purchased with contingency funds from the Caral Acres II tank project. Installation of new radios and other equipment as part of the upgrade will take place over the coming months. Once complete, the new upgraded telemetry system will provide consistent, reliable communication between all telemetry sites that will help to ensure uninterrupted water service for customers throughout Hardy County.

Town of Moorefield Water Purchase Contract – There were no updates on the status of the District's water purchase contract with the Town of Moorefield.

New Business:

Employment Opening – Gail Pavan, a long-time employee of the District, is retiring at the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2025. Logan Moyers is recommending that the District begin the search for her replacement now and hire her replacement before the end of 2024 so that the new employee can receive on-the-job training from Ms. Pavan before she retires. Board members agreed and directed Moyers to advertise for the job right away. The job notice will be placed in the local newspaper and will be posted on the District's Facebook page beginning next week. Board member Rose Helmick suggested that information on the opening also be sent to Potomac State College. The starting salary will be based upon qualifications and experience. Applications received for the position will be reviewed at the November board meeting.

Miscellaneous Business:

No members of the general public were present at the meeting.

There being no further business, Rose Helmick made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Robert Harper seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

The next scheduled board meeting will be held November 6, 2024 at 4:30 pm at the office of the District located at 45 District Drive.



Robert Harper, Chairman

These minutes represent a summary of the subject discussed and the actions taken by the members of the Hardy County Public Service District for the regular meeting held on October 2, 2024. The meeting and proceedings were electronically recorded. In the event there may be discrepancies or contradictions between the written minutes and the audio recording, the audio recording shall take precedence.