

Maury Mutual Water Company 65th Annual Meeting - April 7, 2018

10:00 AM at the Land Trust Building

Attendees:

Trustees: Jerry Balcom, Steve Brown, Stephen Hunter, Will Lockwood, Bruce Krogman
MMWC Office & Meter Clerk: Kathie Balcom, Operator: John Martinak

Members & Guests: Mimi English-Koch, Jenifer Tapley, Lilian Schork, John Ulman (Vashon Golf&Swim Club), James Christensen, Barbara & Ron Smothermon, Armen Yousoufian, Theresa Aguilera, Clark and Susan Nebeker, David Knight, Russ Carey, Glen Gray, Karen Lockwood, Robin & Grant Branstator, David Linton, Lisa Chambers, Darren Lay, Ray Konrad, Bill Riley, Joel Walters, Shanti Escovedo, Bob Keller, Paul Gilland, Scott Durkee, Duane Bedard, Charles Leahey, Tom Bangasser, Andy Amstrup, John Bender – attorney
Proxies submitted: Tom Terry (A. Yousoufian proxy). Dan Carlson (S. Brown proxy), Hedy Anderson (S. Brown proxy), Henry Perrin (J. Balcom proxy), Allan Kaplan (J. Balcom proxy)

Proceedings:

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM

Roll was taken by means of a sign-in sheet.

A videographer was hired by Yousoufian and was present at the start of the meeting. It was determined that this is a closed meeting and it is up to the membership to decide if they want to be video recorded. A vote was taken and the majority indicated they did not want to be recorded. An objection was made by a member at having photos taken without her permission. The cameraman was asked to stop recording and did so.

After the cameraman left the President (Steve Hunter) announced that due to previous requests and continued concerns that the company will be undertaking an outside professional audit. When completed the results will be presented to the company membership.

Approval of the minutes:

Minutes from the April 1, 2017 annual meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. There was an objection noted that the minutes did not include full details of the community meeting discussion. The minutes were approved with no exceptions.

Report of the President – Steve Hunter:

- In an effort to increase transparency and improve communications the company now has a website at <http://maurymutual.org>. This was helpful in communicating the status of the system during the pump failure in summer 2017. MMWC will continue to add to the site as time permits.
- King County sent out a Franchise Compensation notice to our water system. They will begin charging rent for the system pipes in the ground. This will result in about a \$10 charge added to the water bill each billing period. This will probably affect other utility bills as well. A copy of this notice will be posted on the MMWC website.
- The pump for the springs failed last summer when we were at peak load. The system had to run on the well alone. Thankfully many people cut back usage.
- For the coming year MMWC will be working on electrical, pumping and rerouting plumbing at the well and spring house to improve source reliability.

Operators Report – John Martinak

- The spring pump failed during peak usage last summer. Usage at the time of the failure was at a ten year high. It was touch and go for the first few days. The well ran for 36 hrs. non-stop initially. This is not recommended.
- MMWC continues to exceed EPA standards for water quality. Nitrates have risen to over 5 mg/L in the last year. The reason is unknown. One possibility could be the amount of alders in the watershed. Our current levels are still good. They are well below the MCL threshold of 10 set by the Dept. of Health.
- Running full-time on the well was a lesson. Close monitoring was required. The longer the well ran the higher that the chlorine levels were required. An odor of hydrogen sulfide was noted. This is not a health hazard, but is suspected to be what affected chlorine levels. After a couple days the system settled down to a more predictable chlorination rate. The lesson learned was that chlorine levels must be very closely monitored during initial heavy usage of the well
- During the time of the pump failure there were only 80 full time residences drawing water. The system would not have had the capacity to serve all 102 residencies on the well alone if all were active. Based on 102 full time residences, demand would have exceeded source capacity last year and for the past 6 yrs. We are now working on improving electrical redundancy and plumbing to allow both sources to work at the same time. The goal is to improve source capacity and reliability so that we can meet the requirement of 102 full time residencies in the future. This is what the company will be working on this year.

Treasurer's Report – Steve Brown

Brown noted that he joined the board in 2013 when it was found the reserves were inadequate. Member fees were increased as a result. The board decided to increase reserves goal of at least \$140K. The company has now met that goal and has about \$40K for system improvements as discussed by our operator. We also expect to spend about \$6K on old meter replacements per year.

New Business:

- Cross Connections - The DOH wants assurance that there is no comingling of water sources. We have tried to find out how many residences have a cross connection potential. We have heard from about 50% of the members and will be asking again. Most important is to know if there is another source of water on the property. Check valves can help but are not recognized for backflow prevention. A proper backflow device installed at the meter is what the DOH recommends. This is to be inspected annually by an outside party (not MMWC). The cost of the backflow prevention device and annual inspection would be at property owner's expense.
- Water Use Efficiency – We now have water savings tips on our website. DOH requires we poll our members for ideas on water conservation. A suggestion was made to reward low volume users with a small billing reduction. A word of caution was noted that when MMWC raised rates to incentivize lower usage, it seriously affected capital reserves.

A motion was made by Glenn Gray to form an ad hoc committee to improve communications from the board. The vote was 10 for and 16 against and the motion was defeated.

Elections:

- 5 year term: Jerry Balcom was unopposed and re-elected to his seat
- 2 year term: There were two nominees. Bruce Krogman received 20 votes, Ron Smotherman received 8 votes. Krogman was re-elected to his seat.

The meeting adjourned at 11:43 am. Board members remained after the meeting to answer questions. The discussion period ended about 12:40 pm.