

Hello Neighbor,

I received the documents that I requested from the district and an answer from Mr. Jones on the question that I had asked. I will be looking at those and will provide some analysis of that information in some emails over the next couple of weeks.

November 19, 2009 PSWID Meeting

Next regular PSWID Meeting: Thursday December 17, 2009 7:00 PM at the Pine Cultural Center

1. District Engineer Selected
 - a. The board received eight responses to its Request For Qualifications for a District Engineer. TetraTech was selected and Mr. Tanner Henry will be the engineer.
2. Operations Update
 - a. Brooke would read all of the meters at the end of the month. The district is working on shifting to reading about 25% of the meters each week and the bills for those will be sent out shortly afterwards.
 - b. Problems were encountered with the “postcard” bills that were sent out tearing in half during the delivery. The district is changing the bill being sent out so this won’t be a problem in the future.
 - c. Comment: The base rate is charged monthly. It isn’t clear how they are going to keep from charging extra base rates during this transition. Especially since the bill doesn’t breakout how much of the total is due to the base rate.
3. District Rules and Regulations
 - a. Board is still reviewing the rules and regulations document.
4. Well Acquisition
 - a. The district prepared a request for proposals for the acquisition of water sources. It has been published twice in local papers. Idea is that people with wells that they might want to sell can submit a proposal which the district would look at and decide whether to pursue.
 - b. Some of the criteria are that the wells be at least 400 feet deep, 4 inch casings, and at least 10 gpm.
 - c. Pricing will be determined based on an independent engineering appraisal. There won’t be negotiations in order to avoid conflict of interest issues.
 - d. Proposals are due by December 4th, any proposals received would be addressed at the December PSWID meeting.
 - e. Discussion indicated that Strawberry Hollow might be interested. No mention of the Milk Ranch well.
 - f. Discussion that the deep well currently being drilled in Portals IV will provide a lot of hydrological data and if it pans out, the district has sites that they could drill their own deep well at. Comment: Of course there is always the K2 site.
 - g. Discussion of increasing storage. One of Mr. Henry’s tasks will be to look at whether additional storage is needed.

- h. Mr. Haney thinks that district needs to own its own water sources. Is concerned that water sharing agreements can be stopped by the well owner at any time.
 - i. Comment: It seems that the “We Have Water Now” slogan was a bit empty.
5. Strawberry Main Failure
- a. Discussed what went on during the Strawberry main break and the challenges that they had. A written description of the events and activities can be found here: www.pswid.org.
 - b. The pipe that broke was a six inch PVC pipe and it split down its length of 22 feet, damaging the connections as well. Speculation that the stress that ultimately caused the pipe to fail was due to Gila County having raised the roadbed above it by three feet. Other contributing factors could have been improper installation and age of the pipe (speculated at 35 years).
 - c. There were 308 calls to the call center. One lesson learned is that they need better communication between the field and the call center as to what is going on and when service is anticipated to be restored.
 - d. The district would like to be able to send email alerts. If you would like to be on the email distribution list, please let the district know. They have tried to match email addresses provided by Brooke to accounts, but there has been limited success in doing that.
 - e. There are very few valves in system (at least those that are known) so breaks can't be isolated and the impact of breaks becomes wide-spread.
 - f. The PVC pipe is a thin wall irrigation pipe, which is about half the thickness of a standard water main pipe. The pipe diameter is different than a standard water main pipe, so standard valves won't fit. This makes it difficult to add valves to the current system.
 - g. A master plan will be developed to identify what needs to be done and to prioritize the order in which it is done. The plan would look to break things down into manageable pieces on a cost-benefit basis. The public would be informed of what needs to be done and the cost and then revenue bonds and property tax assessments would be used to pay for it. The board hope is to start the capital improvements in two years.
6. Freedom of Information Act Requests
- a. The process is to go to the district office and fill out a form with the specific requests. Requests are either considered to be personal or commercial in nature. Personal requests are charged at \$0.25 per page. Commercial requests can also be charged for the time spent by the district to assemble the information.
 - b. Questions need to be submitted to the board and they will determine whether staff time will be used to answer the question.
 - c. Comment: The district removed all of the board contact information from the PSWID website, so it isn't clear how you are supposed to submit questions to the board. The email address for the chairman is Chairman@pswid.org. It was still working last week.

- d. Comment: I got a great deal of crap when I tried asking a simple question. I suspect that it is because I was the one asking the question. Let me know if you encounter similar reluctance to answer questions.
7. Inter-Governmental Purchasing Agreement
 - a. Board approved establishing an inter-governmental purchasing agreement with Gila County.
 - b. Agreement allows the district to utilize Gila County's bidding process to purchase items that Gila County also purchases, for example a backhoe. This reduces expenses to the district because there is no need to go through the effort of soliciting and evaluating bids.
 - c. Helps to avoid sole sourcing of items and keeps costs down.

This email is from the group Water For Pine Strawberry. We will be sending out an email after each of the PSWID meetings with a summary of what the board did, additional facts that are relevant to what went on, and some commentary. Please forward this email to friends and neighbors that are interested in the local water issues. If you would like to be added to or removed from the list for these emails, please reply to WaterForPineStrawberry@hotmail.com. Emails on earlier meetings are available on our website: www.WaterForPineStrawberry.com.

Water For Pine Strawberry is a group of residents who are concerned about the communities water issues and how they can best be resolved. Visit our web site, www.WaterForPineStrawberry.com, for more information. The website for PSWID is www.pswid.org.

Clarifications can be submitted by anyone who is explicitly named, implicitly identifiable, or a board member to items in this email. Clarifications will be posted on our website. We reserve the right to post a response. Clarifications must deal with the topics discussed in the email that relate to the individual or the board. They must be in family friendly language and be non-abusive. When the clarification is accepted, it will be posted to the website and notice of that posting will be added to the next email.