

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
EAST DILLON WATER DISTRICT

March 6, 2023

The Board of Directors held a regular meeting at the East Dillon Water District pump station on Grey Fox Lane. Present were Directors Joe O’Malley, Don Clark, and Dan Hendershott. Angel Oberriter and Bryan Webinger attended the meeting remotely. District staff members present were Administrator Tom Oberheide, Financial Manager Jan Geiss, and Operation Manager Ron Mentch. Brandon Howes with the County Housing Department was in attendance upon request.

1. CALL TO ORDER. President Joe O’Malley called the meeting to order at 12:39 p.m. after verifying that a quorum was present and notice of the meeting had been properly posted.
2. PUBLIC COMMENTS. No public comments were made.
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. The board approved the December 5th, 2022 meeting minutes as presented (BW/DC, 5-0)
4. WORKFORCE HOUSING. Brandon Howes with the County Housing Department attended the meeting upon request to provide information on local workforce housing options the district and contractors can consider. The “Housing Helps” program offered by the County which will pay property owners 15% of market value for a residence in exchange for a permanent workforce housing restriction that requires inhabitants to meet local workforce restrictions, including no max income requirements but needs to work 30 hours a week or more in Summit County. Other workforce housing projects and options were discussed as well but the “Housing Helps” program would be the quickest option for the District or its contractors to obtain workforce housing for District staff. The board thanked Mr. Howes for the information and his informative presentation.
5. OPERATIONS REPORT. Ron presented the attached operations report. Water quality and water use information were reviewed and discussed briefly before turning to a discussion on **Fluoridation.**

Director O’Malley asked if there is a Fluoride recommendation from a governing entity or prominent health organization.

Director Hendershott said that every major health organization recommends optimal fluoridation in drinking water systems, with the exception of the Chiropractic Association, which does not endorse it. It is unclear whether they oppose it. Hendershott discussed that evidence suggests that below 0.3 parts per million (ppm) Fluoride does not show any health benefit, and that the current recommendation for an optimal level is 0.7 ppm. Four ppm is the maximum contaminant level (MCL). Levels approaching 10 ppm can cause mottling of teeth and skeletal fluorosis, according to Hendershott. Dan cited the meeting minutes from 2011 when then Director Rex discussed a

study showing no health benefit, and Dan warned against using single studies that may not agree with a large body of evidence. Dan recommends that the district add fluoride to the water but wanted to discuss further any operational concerns.

Ron Mentch offered his opinions from an operator’s perspective on fluoridation. From a material handling perspective, operators in general prefer not to have to handle toxic chemicals, and the process requires daily testing and additional operational reporting. Ron also said that he did not think it was the role of a water provider to choose to add chemicals to drinking water for medicinal purposes.

Director Oberriter said that there are other sources for children and people in general to obtain fluoride from other sources through prescriptions and oral care products. Angel said that the district had large *required* expenses in the next year or two and that the district should focus on meeting those requirements before adding optional expenses to the budget. She also said she agreed with Ron that the district shouldn’t force people to ingest a chemical through drinking water if an individual resident does not want it in their water.

Director Webinger said he felt that “less is more”, and that adding additional chemicals that are not required is not always the best practice.

There was a general discussion that resident/customer input would be required, and that there would need to be several reasons for justification of adding fluoride.

Director O’Malley said he did not want to take it off the table but asked for a motion to table the discussion until the March 2024 meeting of the East Dillon Water District Board of Directors. The motion was approved with 4 for and one person (Hendershott) against.

Summerwood Pump Station update: Tom and Ron reported that they are still working with AE2S to get their draft engineering report for options and considerations to replace the failing fire pumps in the Summerwood Pump Station. Tom was able to get fire flow requirements from Summit Fire and Tom and Ron had a few more requests to be included in the final report from AE2S. Tom reported that the additional items would cost a few more thousand dollars for the additions/ changes.

6. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT.

- a. **Financial Reports.** Tom and Jan had provided financial reports for board member’s to review. There was a short discussion but no questions.
- b. **2023 Election.** Tom reported that there were not more nominations than there were board seats up for election and therefore the 2023 would be cancelled. The board approved a resolution to cancel the 2023 election (BW/AO, 5-0).

7. MEETING ADJOURNED: Meeting was adjourned at 2:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Tom Oberheide
District Administrator