

EMIGRATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021
ELECTRONIC MEETING

Regular Meeting

Board Members in Attendance: Mike Hughes – Chair, Brent Tippets – Co-Chair, David Bradford – Secretary/Clerk

Ex Officio: Eric Hawkes—District Manager, Jeremy Cook—Legal Counsel, Don Barnett--Barnett Intermountain Consulting

Chair Hughes called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Consent Approval - Minutes for April 8, 2021

MOTION: David Bradford made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2021, Trustee Meeting as written. Brent Tippets seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor of the motion.

2. Financial Considerations & Report

Mr. Hawkes gave a summary of the monthly financial considerations and reports. The maintenance repairs on Well 2 cost approximately \$30,000. There were no further questions or comments.

3. Notice of Candidacy for November General Election

One office is up for election. Anyone who would like to file for that election would need to file between June 1- June 7th. Mr. Smolka pointed out that the Metro Township elections follow the same timeline and there are two seats open.

4. Water System Report

Mr. Barnett reported that the water usage last month was remarkably high, likely due to the unusually hot month. Emigration Canyon Creek has an exceptionally low stream flow forecast this year. It will likely be a tough water year this year. Mr. Hawkes reported that Well 1 is at 125, which is typically a level seen in the fall. Well 2 has been the main well for the system the past month and is at 190, an unprecedented low level. On the positive side, the Upper Freeze Creek Well is at 899, which is where it would normally be in the spring (although the District has not been using that well due to repairs), and Brigham Fork is still artesianing.

5. Maintenance Report

Mr. Hawkes updated the Board members on the repair on the Upper Freeze Creek Well. The pump was stuck, and they are still in the process of removing it. They are now going to finish pulling it with a rig instead of a crane. Hopefully, it is simply a hole in the production pipe. They have pipe on hand so it can be repaired quickly. The pump should be out early next week, and then they will repair it as speedily as possible.

Last month there were several fire hydrant repairs. Ms. Stokman asked if the District would be able to detect those kinds of leaks once the new meters are installed. The meters would alert the District that there was a leak, but they would not know where in the system it was. Most of the leaks are found when residents see a leak and alert Mr. Hawkes.

6. Continued Discussion of Brigham Fork Well Repair or Alternative Sources and Funding

Discussion ensued about options for new sources. One option that Larry Hall came up with was to drill next to UFC because the infrastructure (road, electricity, etc.) is already there. The EID has never pulled that aquifer down, any problems the District encounters with UFC have been mechanical. Doing this would provide nice redundancy. The only cost would be the cost of drilling the well and equipping it. However, even though it would be good to have redundancy, the Board members worry that doing so might provide some well interference with the Upper Freeze Creek Well. Mr. Barnett and Mr. Hawkes will evaluate the benefits and costs. The conversation shifted to Brigham Fork. As part of the discussion, they mentioned the desire to have a gravity source. Mr. Barnett responded to a question from Ms. Stokman that it is unknown how long the aquifers will take to recharge, particularly the Upper Freeze Creek because it is so deep.

7. Any Items for Discussion from Board and/or from Visiting Public, Dismiss Public

Ms. Stokman asked if the gravity source referenced earlier in the meeting meant some kind of spring. The Board responded that yes, it would be a source higher in the canyon. Steve Hook asked how Well 2 is holding up. Mr. Hawkes responded that it is down very low, but he has throttled it back to slow the flow. It has been used a lot and is wearing thin. The tanks are full. Mr. Hook asked how long the District could run on Well 2. Mr. Hawkes did not know for certain but remarked that it is taking longer and longer for the levels to get back up. Paul Brown said they have noticed differences in taste and color of their water. Eric Hawkes said others have reported the same issue and they are investigating it. It may be due to the six fire flow tests that have been done in the last two months, which tends to disrupt sediment from the bottom of the pipes. It also might be due to Well 2 picking up some sediment. There are no more fire flow tests scheduled. Steve Hook made the comment that during the very dry summer two years ago, the Upper Freeze Creek Well was at the level of about 906. Even then, after being used all summer, it did not draw down very far. Ms. Stokman mentioned that Eric McCulley from River Restorations will be writing the watershed plan and he would also like to have a grant ready at the same time. Along with that, the Sustainability Alliance would like to include solutions to septic problems in the canyon. Mike Hughes agreed to look at what they have and speak to the technical representative, not just for cluster systems but for potential replacement of faulty septic systems.

8. Closed Session – Pending Litigation

MOTION: Board Member David Bradford made a motion to convene in closed session to discuss pending and imminent litigation. Brent Tippets seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor of the motion.

The Board of Trustees met in closed session from 7:52 to 9:03 p.m. Those present included the Board of Trustees, Eric Hawkes, Don Barnett, Jeremy Cook, Joe Smolka.

MOTION: Board Member David Bradford made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Hughes seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor of the motion.

The regular meeting of the Emigration Improvement District adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Minutes Approved