

EMIGRATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

EMIGRATION CANYON FIRE STATION  
5025 EMIGRATION CANYON ROAD  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

**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

David Bradford called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**1. Consent Approval - Minutes for August 15, 2019**

MOTION: Brent Tippets made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2019 Trustee Meeting as written. David Bradford 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.

**3. Private Well Water Testing Update – Next Testing Sept 27th**

Mr. Hawkes reported on the private well testing. He tested the wells of nine homes. Five of those shared the results of the test, which were all clean. Mr. Bradford mentioned that he has a contact that would allow residents to test independently for \$3 (it is not a certified lab). Ms. Stokman and Ms. McAnulty asked if the District should also test for nitrates. Mr. Barnett agreed that testing for nitrates would be good but that the state chemist had recommended to EID to not do nitrates but do E. coli instead. There was some debate about the benefit of testing for nitrates vs. E. coli. The Board thought that in the future they may do nitrate testing but for now they wanted to move forward with what was advertised and stay with the plan. In the future they will evaluate doing a nitrate component. The next testing is scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup> (at least 5 more homes).

#### **4. EID Telemetry Repair & Improvements – SKM—Mark Jeppsen**

Mark Jeppsen from SKM came to report on and answer questions about telemetry. He is an electrical engineer and has been working in this field for 20 years. He has been working with Mr. Hawkes to find solutions to the District's problems with telemetry. The first thing that he mentioned is the computer system. Currently, the District is using a computer from the late 1990s. He recommended getting a new computer system that is up to date. Rodents are an issue so sealing conduits and cleaning things was another thing he recommended. The radios in the panels need to be replaced and updated to modern standards. Because they are old it is hard to service them. The radio system (signals between sites) is pretty good. For a radio upgrade he would recommend replacing it with like hardware. He would recommend going with a cellular backup. Where the main computer is (at Well 1) he would like to add cellular backup to the DSL in case it goes down. They discussed signals in the canyon and the corrosive nature of the soil. Hosting it in the cloud is another recommendation that Mark Jeppsen gave. Chair Hughes would like to solve the telemetry problem for once and for all and urged Mr. Jeppsen to look at getting the best setup that he can. There was discussion to use a bubbler system for measuring the UFC well due to its depth. Although Mr. Jeppsen is confident that it will work, it will require some further research for our specific application. They discussed timetable. They would like to be sure to get into the queue, as SKM is very busy and booked out. Mr. Jeppsen will get a bid to the District by November so that EID can put it on the 2020 budget to be reviewed in December.

MOTION: David Bradford made a motion to contract with him now to do the labor piece of the engineering. Brent Tippetts seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor of the motion.

#### **5. Sustainability Alliance Discussion**

Willy Stokman and Mindy McAnulty have talked to Theresa Gray about the possibility of doing a partial canyon sewer line. The District pointed out that Ms. Gray is from the County, not the City, and that the City has been adamant that they will not take the waste. There isn't a way to do a sewer line because SLC would have to resize their pipe and it would be extremely cost prohibitive for them. Utah has the highest rate of sewers in the country, which explains why government entities in the state rush to suggest sewer lines. But there are other, better and cheaper, alternatives. The District is hoping to get legislation changed to approve some of the other systems that are approved in other states. The cluster system is a good solution. An engineering firm hired by EID located several possible sites. (The study is on the District's website.) The EID has not pursued the cluster systems more at this point because of time-consuming and extremely expensive litigation.

Besides the main point of Salt Lake City not taking the water from the sewer line, the other problem is that it would be extremely expensive for residents. There was consensus that the problem exists, and they would like to solve it. Ms. McAnulty and Ms. Stokman asked about the District managing the septic systems in the canyon. They suggested the District track when the septic systems were put in and send reminders to have them pumped and inspected, etc. The Board was reticent about that because the county has the jurisdiction over enforcement. Septic tanks are county issued, not the EID. There was discussion on the importance of education, especially on Sunnydale. The Sustainability Alliance is hosting a wonderful event to educate people on septic systems. The Board agreed to revisit the issue next month. In the meantime, they will follow up to see what the money availability is for cluster systems.

## **6. Water Levels Report**

Mr. Barnett reported that the data reflects how hot and dry it was in August. People have been turning off their sprinklers when it rains; when it doesn't rain, we see more water usage. Generally, July is greater than August, but not this year. Water came from UFC, Well 1, and Well 2. There isn't always such good flow from Well 1 and Well 2 so EID uses them when they can. Last month set a new high for total water usage. There are currently 308 connections; per-connection was just below median however. There were a number of leaks, and the Board discussed how to have an early warning system for leaks.

## **7. Maintenance Report**

No leaks or repairs. There is some left in the budget that could go to SKM to revamp the telemetry.

## **8. EID – Logo Design Update**

The Board discussed various logo options.

## **9. Cancellation of EID Election**

September 3 was the deadline for candidates to file. No other candidates filed so there is no need to have an election.

## **10. Any Items for Discussion from Board and/or from Visiting Public, Dismiss Public**

Ms. Stokman asked for the minutes to be updated on the website. Paul Brown asked about a joint that might need to be repaired.

## **11. 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 9:00 p.m. to 9:51 p.m. Those present included the Board of Trustees, Eric Hawkes, Don Barnett, Jeremy Cook.

## **11. Amending the Legal Budget**

MOTION: Board Member Chair Hughes motioned to make a line item transfer from the maintenance category to legal. David Bradford seconded the motion.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor of the motion.

MOTION: Board Member 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 9:51 p.m.

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Minutes Approved