

MINUTES of the SPECIAL MEETING for the **BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF LA PLATA WEST WATER AUTHORITY**

The Board of Directors of the La Plata West Water Authority held a special meeting Wednesday, September 24, 2019, at 6:30 pm, at the Breen Community Hall. In attendance were: Ken Spence, Renee Lewis (RGL), Barb McCall, Paul Gray, Deb Flick, Roy Horvath (tele), Frank Smith (tele), Gabe Preston (RPI).

The minutes for the meeting are as follows:

Call to order at 6:35 pm by Roy Horvath, with quorum confirmed.

Approve agenda: Motion to approve by Paul, Ken seconded, all approved.

General Overview of Water Rate Study : RPI Consulting, Gabe Preston, presented a revised proposal (Approach and Scope of Work). Understands the tight turnaround for our type of project, easy spreadsheets, just a call away to answer questions and help prepare and upkeep products for our use. RPI has quality standards to bring to the table, and the capacity to get working on it immediately to meet the upcoming deadline. Total cost projected is \$19,200, with additional tasks billed at hourly rates. Roy asked for drop dead date from Gabe. Gabe suggested middle of next week to give them 6 weeks. Roy suggested that we would vote at the next Board Meeting in two weeks, unless we vote to go sooner, and give RPI notice to proceed. Deb asked about excess work; Gabe stated that the work would be complete with this price. It is a not to exceed price list. Gabe suggested contacting DOLA for grant funding opportunities. He will get contact info to Renee. Barb asked about researching other similar systems for data to plug in regarding O&M, billing, water usage, etc. since we have no history to just tap into. Gabe stated that is the biggest challenge to the whole study. It will get easier each year in the future once we have some history

logged. Gabe left meeting. Roy stated we heard back from Scott Thomas at CRWA, but their service is not comparable to RPI's plan of attack, and it doesn't include a report at the end. EFN, Tom Roberts, has not gotten back with Roy. Paul asked about reasons from Renee why to not go with a firm from the front range. Renee stated locality and familiarity are key factors. Well use research for our area will be important that Gabe slightly touched on for water usage estimates. Frank asked if this is a reimbursable expense from USDA. Mardi stated not with USDA, but we could maybe go with local grant funding opportunities if we hit the cycle correctly. Paying for the study is a big concern, but members are in support of hiring RPI based on future considerations. Renee stated we will have a better idea of funds available at the October board meeting to be able to tap into reserves, but Mardi sees it as a priority in the budget.

This item will be on the agenda for the October board meeting.

Amendments to general manager contract: Changes were emailed to board members by Renee to include transition to acquire B & W documents, getting familiar with the **customer base**, communications with the community and the contractor, and other items. **A motion** was made by Ken to amend the contract for RGL Consulting as general manager as presented; Paul seconded; all approved. No tribal members were in attendance during this open session section of the meeting.

Executive session for discussion on contract negotiations and possible meter extensions entered at 7:52pm with a **motion** made by Mardi; seconded by Ken; all approved. Executive session ended at 9:00pm.

No further actions were taken.

Adjourned at 9:04 with a motion by Ken; second by Deb; all approved.

Submitted

by:

Bucall

Barb McCall LPWWA
Board Secretary