**Laclede Water District September 9, 2015**

**Roll Call:**

The meeting was called to order. Present were Board Members Paul Horgan, Roland Harter and Gene Courtney. Chris Geise was absent.

The Board accepted the resignation of Paul Horgan as chairperson. Roland nominated Gene to be chairperson while Paul seconded the motion. Motion carried. Gene Courtney is now the new chairperson.

The August minutes were approved as read. Roland motioned to approve the minutes and Paul second. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

Chris Giese was not sworn into office as he was absent.

The open Board position was discussed. The Board and users present suggested various peoples’ names to ask if they would be interested in serving. Several people will ask some community members and we will continue talking to community members. Many users are either not residents or not here in the winter months even though they are registered. No one has expressed an interest.

Paul is still waiting to meet with Frank from another district to get information about their meter reading system. Gene talked with the city of Clark Fork, whose district is very close to our size, about their electronic meter system. The system is very expensive that transfers the data and reads the meters. (around $100,000). The technology is getting better. Gene will talk to Water System Management

(WSM) to determine if they have any of the necessary equipment that might save us up front costs and what the costs might be.

Roland needs the approved minutes from August to confirm with the bank for the signature cards. He now has those.

**New Business:**

The monthly base fee payment for the first month of a new hook up to the system was discussed. Roland moved that the district prorate that first base fee depending on the days left in the month after installation. Gene seconded, motion carried.

A letter from a water user requesting a reduced water bill was presented. He claims to be disabled and cannot come to the meetings. After reviewing the users payment and use history, the Board still had questions for the user about the last three years regarding his billing history. A decision will be made after Gene reviews his file and talks with the user to gets more information. A request to verify his repair bill for his water leak will also be requested of him. It was noted that the user has occasional high water usage and apparently has been forgiven fees multiple times in the past.

There was no report from WSM this month. Gene reported that there was a new customer hook up. A line was broken putting in a meter then fixed and that more work is being done at the launching ramp. Two water meters were relocated by home owner contractors that were too shallow. The plant functioned well this month. Gene researched the options for dealing with the usage of the wastewater that is 30,000 gallons a day. He advises that we are better off to get the permits from the EPA at this time. The permit cost is $250/month. The intake that needs to be cleaned by a scuba diver was cleaned at the same time as the mill, thus saving the district money. Kudos to Mike from WSM for alerting the district of this opportunity. The Mill has had a water leak for years and they tell Gene that they are attempting to find the leak and repair it.

Katy has made several calls to Kevin Needs to get his certificate of liability with no response. We need to be the named insured on the certificate. Roland will follow up on this.

Roland shared that Katy prefers to work on Friday and Saturday. It was decided that the web site and the statements will continue to reflect that Katy is available on Fridays. She will be remote accessing the phone so she can keep the phone message updated.

The Bills were all reviewed and most paid. The Public Drinking Water System Fee for assessed connections from the DEQ was questioned as it states that the district has 340 connections and the district actually has 260 connections. Payment on this statement was held until more information is obtained. Also, there was a question about the Password billing. Roland will follow up with how Password functions. Roland moved that “all the bills be paid except for the DEQ bill”. Gene seconded. Motion carried.

Roland gave the treasurers report as follows:

Columbia Reserve Account $26,629.76

Mt. West Flex Account $98,548.70

Columbia Bank Checking $111,319.00

**Water User Forum:**

One of the water users that had their water meter moved asked if the water district had signed off on the placement of the meter. The meter is still not deep enough. There is confusion regarding if the placement is signed off. This will be researched by the home owner and hopefully resolved**.**

A request was read from a user regarding a $10 late fee on a $1.49 balance. The Board agreed that the $10 fee should be forgiven in this case. Roland made a motion “to amend the rule that customers must attend the meeting to question a billing issue. Explanations from the customer via a letter or in person regarding billing issues is allowed”. Gene seconded the motion. Motion passed. Roland will inform the Bookkeeper of this change.

Paul moved that the Board go into executive session per Idaho Code 74-203 (5) b. Roland seconded the motion. Paul yes, Roland yes, Gene yes.

Into executive session.

Paul made a motion to return to the open meeting. Gene seconded. Motion carried.

The discussion regarding the personnel issue is being tabled.

 The meeting was adjourned after a motion was made by Roland and seconded by Paul. Motion carried.