

# South Toledo Bend Water District



3260 Little Flock Road • Many, LA. 71449



Malcolm Franks, President • Michael Walker, Vice President  
Anna Ferguson, Secretary/Treasurer  
Commissioners: Tim Collins • Michael Pitt

## Minutes of South Toledo Bend Water Board February 10, 2022

Board Members Present: Malcolm Franks, Anna Ferguson, Michael Walker, Tim Collins (via phone), Mike Pitt  
Others Present: Rick Leonard (Superintendent)

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Malcolm Franks. A prayer was said, the roll was called and there was a quorum to conduct business.

A motion to adopt the agenda as presented was made by Anna Ferguson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Pitt, motion passed.

No public was present.

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. The minutes of the January 27th meeting were brought to the floor for approval. A motion to accept the minutes of the January meeting was made by Mike Pitt, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anna Ferguson, motion passed.
2. The treasurer's report for January was presented by Anna Ferguson. Bank balances were read aloud. Checks written from January 28 to February 10 were #15131 thru #15151. Check #145 in the amount of \$148,050 was paid to Dennis Downs Electric and was written out of the asset replacement account. This was paid from the \$165,000 received from the insurance. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Mike Pitt, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Malcolm Franks, motion passed unanimously.
3. A motion to authorize payment of the bills was made by Tim Collins, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Pitt, motion passed unanimously.
4. Grant Funds: Members were provided with a printout of the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of grant funding. The second page is the order of people who have been awarded funds. You can see that we have been awarded for 3.8 million. We haven't received anything official yet, but that money has been approved and so has this list. That's coming from the Senator himself. We haven't received an official letter like we did on the \$720,000. Neither of these funds has been released yet. Malcolm stated that he had asked Mark McCarty if we had any idea as to when these funds would be released, and he did not know. Our co-pay would be about 20 cents on every dollar we spend. We can't spend any of that money on anything we have already done. Malcolm said what they we are looking at right now is they are getting ready to set the permanent casing and the screen and cementing the casing in and we're going to be looking at the drawdowns so they can size the pumps. What we are looking at is getting this well into production and then holding up, and then everything after that is going against the grants. We have to be mindful of the fact that if we do something ahead of the release of those funds, they may not cover it. We will work with engineering and everybody else to make sure we don't get ahead of ourselves. Mike Pitt asked if we push back on the drilling of the 2<sup>nd</sup> well, is there a downside of have the drilling contractor sitting there waiting? Rick told him that this drilling contractor may not necessarily get the next well. It has to go out for bid. This was bid as one well. Malcolm said in his mind, why don't we go ahead and move forward on the next one, since we know that we are going to do it, and this is after the next sample that we are going to take. There is one more water sample that we are going to take and if it confirms what we saw in the first round; the only difference is they did a 3-day analysis and we are asking for a 5-day, which is more representative of our water system. If it mirrors what we saw earlier, we're going with it. It just depends on how we're going to have to treat it. Other than the smell, the water was good quality. We can work out the smell issue. Tim Collins asked on the payment schedule for the people doing the drilling, do we have milestone payments or completion payments, and he was told milestone. Malcolm told him we've already done some of that and that there would be a completion payment. There is a lag on payment to the driller because they haven't submitted some of their paperwork and engineering hasn't signed off on it because they haven't submitted all their paperwork for it to go to the State for approval. We are on board to make certain payments upon completion. Tim said that he wasn't sure but that until you make a milestone

payment, and the work is complete, until you do that, is that considered to be work that is ongoing, so they can be funded by the \$720,000 grant? Anything that we haven't paid for in the milestone payment might be fundable if the \$720,000 comes through before you make the payment. Rick said it was bid as a job, not as small segments. Malcolm said that what he does know is that work done and/or invoiced prior to the release date is null and void against the grant money. Tim said, "So the bulk has already been invoiced?" Rick said on the payment schedule, you're going to have what you call milestone payments. Towards the end, you're going to have what they call a substantial completion payment and you're going to hold 10% of the payments until the punch list has been complete. Tim said that was standard. Malcolm said that what he and Mark McCarty had decided was to go ahead and set the casing, get all that set in, determine the pump that is needed and then take a look and see if that's been released, and there's a chance we could buy the pump against the grant money. That was one of the things we were looking at. We have a lot of stuff to do, subsequent to this one well. There's another well that's got to be put in and a lot of infrastructure, plus we've got a couple of miles of piping that's got to be changed out between here and Lakeside Loop. That line size has to be upgraded. It's a 6-inch now and has to be upgraded to a 12-inch to tie in to the 12-inch down there. According to Mark, in the original program bidding (this well, the completion of both wells), the 2.2-2.4 million that we were looking at, that upgrade of that line was baked into that cost as well. So, that's not additional to the 2.2-2.4. That's part of that overall project costs. There's a lot that has to be purchased and done, even after this well was one well was punched. Mike Walker asked if all the funds were 70%, 30% match? Malcolm said no, that the 70/20 that we get from the State is roughly a 20% on it and the other he believed was around 20% now.

5. Esto well project/rebuild update: Rick said the piping is set in for the input of the pump. Got the pump set. The VFDs are on site. He has yet to do all the discharge piping coming out of the pumps to feed the system. Unfortunately, there was a holdup for some things we found in the ground that we didn't know was there. He still hasn't done any of the electrical work yet on there. Still a couple of months out, at least.
6. Update on drilling process: Rick said they brought the casing pipe yesterday. He hasn't seen the screen yet. That's probably still with the manufacturer. Mike Pitt asked if we had ever gotten an update on our sign. Rick told him it was up there. They got it about a week ago. It is not out at the road. It's up against the chain link fence for the actual booster station right now. It's not at the road.
7. Well project/2<sup>nd</sup> phase: We're going to look at delaying for right now.
8. Plant infrastructure: We've talked about moving everything, operationally, up the hill and having a building there, which will be the office and the work facility would be housed from that point. We had asked Rick to draw up a sketch of a building that they felt would be appropriate. Malcolm said he checked into it a little more and found that since it's a public building for the public, we have to have an architectural stamp approval. We have to have a stamp stating that we've made all the concessions from the fire marshal, the handicap, and on down the list. He contacted the people at the permitting office, and they said if it's a public building you've got to have all of this. That's #1. #2, the 15-20% that we thought we could save, we can actually bill this against the grant money. We were talking about doing it that way prior to getting the grant money. The grant money will allow us to do the building as part of the overall project. Not only that, if we have to go and try to do all the permitting, what we can do for 9.5%, for the total of the building, we can have our engineering group do all of that and accomplish everything, even taking it to bid. The other thing we looked at was maybe a 40 x 60 might be good. But there is some instrumentation that needs to go in there. Let's move that to 50 feet instead of 40. Now you're into an engineered building instead of a standard. Malcolm asked the members to consider a 50 x 60. That would give us the room for the office area and the instrumentation lab and a bigger meeting room. That's part of the admin area where we would have enough table space for a few visitors to come in and we're not elbow to elbow. We need to open it up so we can have more reasonable meetings and all. Mike Pitt said that extra 10 feet is not that much of an expense increase. Malcolm asked if everyone would be agreeable to allow our engineers to start working on this. Mike Walker said that for one of us to go through all of this to get the permitting, it would be too much. Rick recommended holding off contacting the engineers about this until we have confirmed we will get the money. Everyone is in agreement to let the engineers do this at the appropriate time. We will make sure the funds get released before we start the project.
9. Communications tower: Malcolm spoke with Mr. Jarvis, the man with the company procuring the site on behalf of AT&T. He let Mr. Jarvis know that the board of commissioners had passed a resolution allowing that company to construct a tower on the water district's property, as per the contract provided. He submitted the paperwork to FCC. They don't submit that paperwork until the land owner gives consent. Also, he has contacted AT&T and informed them that we consented to leasing our location and that they can proceed. He said there are a lot signatures within AT&T that have to happen. Malcolm asked for a time table and Mr. Jarvis said that he would be back with some more paperwork for him in about 60 days but we may be looking at about 8-9 months before they start construction. He said a lot of that holdup is the FCC. He said by the time everything is done it could be 6-8 months. They also surveyed it when they were here. They have a legal survey of it. Malcolm said he followed up with him by email confirming their discussion, so he'd have a paper trail to submit to both AT&T and the FCC that the land owner has given consent. He said the day that they come in to start doing anything at all, putting up a fence or anything, that's the day that rent

commences. It said it could be a partial for the month, but that will be the day the rent commences. That's where we are at this time. That \$750 a month will be an extra boost.

10. Rick Leonard presented the Superintendent's report for January 2022 to the Board:

- All monthly State reports and samples sent to LADHH.
- For the month of January, the plant processed 8,332,000 gals of water @ an average of 268,774 gals. per day and shipped out 8,270,441 gals. of water @ an averaging of 266,788 gals. per day. Used 61,559 gallons for backwashing.
- Plant usage for production (chlorine, caustic, & polymer carrier waters) estimated @ 50,000 gallons.
- 12 x 24 building was delivered to park site
- State park meters...2 meters are not reading.
- GMC truck...ball joints need to be replaced, brake job, alignment.
- Swift911-Rave

A motion to accept the superintendent's monthly report was made by Mike Walker, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Pitt, motion passed.

11. Announcements/Comments: Next month, we should have more information on the wells and the grant funds.

12. There was no other business and a motion to adjourn was made by Mike Walker, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Pitt, motion passed.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING: Thursday, March 10, 2022, AT 5:30 PM**

South Toledo Bend Water Plant – 3260 Little Flock Road, Many, LA 71449

Prepared by: Betty Maupin – Administrative Assistant

Published Sabine Index – March 16, 2022

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