

Saddle Mountain Service Corporation Board Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2024

MT City Fire Station #2

Attendees:

Tom Hillesland, President

Mike Johnson, Director, Vice President

Linda Kindrick, Treasurer

Amy Teegarden, Secretary

Keith Stark, Director

Kirk Fandry, Director

Mark Zitzka, Operator

Meeting called to order at 6:37 PM

Minutes from last month's meeting: The meeting minutes are attached and become part of the minutes. Amy asked if she spelled the name of Jarrod Plummer correctly. She will make the correction. With this change, Linda moved the minutes be approved. Kirk provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

Operator's report: Mark stated that the check valves may be causing the water hammer issues. The air release valve in wellhouse #1 is leaking. Ordered rebuild kit. There was a long discussion on the technical issues and options for repair, with the preferred alternative being a rebuild kit. The valves may be stuck. Discuss with Keith and Mike to come up with a plan to fix.

Tom reported that he received a letter from DEQ stating that testing showed that manganese levels were "high" in well #1. Notice will be attached to these notes. Discussion on why this may have occurred and no need to notice members since this well is not used at this time.

The November operator's report will be updated and approved at the December meeting.

Treasurer's report: The November treasurer's report is attached and becomes part of the meeting minutes. Linda reviewed the various financial reports. Highlights include: A payment was received for the hookup fee at #2 Big Bear. An additional CD was purchased for \$10,000. Linda asked if the Board had any specific questions. Water usage income has increased within the last year. The annual report filing fee was waived by the Secretary of State. Linda also recommended transition to an Enhanced Business Checking account, there were no objections from board members.

Keith moved the minutes be approved. Mike provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

Keith Stark activities: Keith reported that 3-Brothers Plumbing hooked-up the watermain to #2 Big Bear. Well #5 vault ladder was cleared and is functional. Contacted Marty regarding the water hammer issue. Confirmed that the grounding rods were not installed last summer. The rods should have been installed. Will go back and install grounds into flow meters #3 and #5.

Keith's report does not require board approval.

Old Business:

1. **Update First Interstate Bank signatory accounts with new Board members.** Agreed to meet at the bank on November 25 at 3:30 pm.
2. **Well #3 replacement pump/motor doesn't move adequate water.** Tom stated that this is the main concern of the overall SMS water system. Figure out why and determine if wells #1 and #3 are able to pump water to equal well #5. Water Hammer noted with all 3 pumps, troubleshooting for common point of failure. Bruce's Last steps: On Saturday 7-27-2024 Validated pumping water levels in the two wells and flow rates from both wells. SMSC Last steps: On 10-12 Saturday, all 3 pumps were run for evaluation. Static system pressure was 209 psi. Well 1 was run long enough to check flow rate, GPM recorded by Matt Mudd, when it was turned off noticeable water hammer was noted. Matt Mudd recorded numbers. Well 3 was run long enough to check flow rate, which settled 140-145 GPM, when it was turned off there was significant water hammer noted. Matt Mudd recorded numbers. Well 5 was run to check for water hammer, and when turned off there was significantly greater water hammer, 450 PSI down to 50 PSI fluctuating for quite a few cycles. The decision was made to use Pump 3 to fill the system until the water hammer issue is resolved. Water Hammer problem is being actively worked. Flow low update: Will go back to the flow issue after water hammer is resolved. There are two ways of reducing flow, 1. Restricting by partially closing valve. 2. Change or modify pump to get correct flow curve for our system. Need complete hydro write up from Bruce when done. Coordinate between Keith, Matt Mudd, Bruce R., Mark and Mike.
3. **Draft Improvement List** An updated improvement list report was prepared by Matt Mudd. Tom emailed the report to directors. It was agreed to convene a separate meeting to discuss these items.
4. **Develop operations manual, maintenance manual, and maintenance schedule, maintenance records and system history** – documentation of system and maintenance repair/replacement. Mike Johnson offered to develop a spreadsheet and review the files which are located at the mid-station.
5. **SMSC Website renewal** The renewal was completed in September and is paid for until 2027. The revised website has been launched and is active. Amy reported that the new version is more user-friendly to manage.
6. **The flowmeter at mid station indicates it pumps more water out than it gets.** Reprogrammed the Well 5 flow meter. Recommendation of dedicated grounds at all locations rather than relying on system grounds. While probably unnecessary, this is preferred to reduce "noise", causing errors. Numbers are still showing that we are sending more water out of the mid-station than we are putting into it. This makes sense as the intermittent readings on Well 5 are causing low total gallon reading. Was recalibrated, appears intermittent reading is still an issue. Keith will oversee the installation of ground lines.
7. **New member system walkthrough** . Mark to coordinate with Kirk and Mike.
8. **Bylaws review and revision**. On hold.
9. **2 Big Bear curbstop bid review** Installed.
10. **Notes from the Pumphouse:** The next issue of Notes From the Pumphouse will be mailed in January. Issue will include information about the low lead survey, current and new SMSC Board members/contact information as well as invitation to tour the system in the spring.

11. **ARPA funds.** One remaining payment will be received with the final report.
12. **Power Panels for Wells 1 & 3.** Investigate and Evaluate adding soft starts and updating power panels for Wells 1 & 3 for energy efficiency and to replace Nash proprietary equipment. Matt Mudd reaching out to Tanner with LC Electric to get bid for board review.
13. **Well 1 discharge piping is 2” on a 3” well casing with eight 90 degree elbows.** GWE recommends upsizing to 3” and remove half of the elbows for better flow and less line pressure loss. Matt Mudd reaching out Marty Logan to get a price on simplifying/upsizing. *Requires DEQ approval. **NOTE:** Mike Johnson can draw up.
14. **Locate isolation valves:** After much effort and determination from Keith, only a few valves were located in 2024. Effort is on hold til spring 2025. May require a new approach.
15. **Make copies of original plans for wells 1 & 3 diagrams and schematics,** and also digitize for electronic records. Plans with Matt Mudd, waiting for return to digitize

New Business:

1. Review, authorize and sign updated **ATS contract** for accounting services (Due Jan. 1 of each year). Tom and Linda will do this.

Capital Repairs:

1. **Crazy Mountain Homes-** effort to check for pressure.

Additional Discussion Items:

NONE

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Submitted by: Amy Teegarden, Secretary

Next meeting December 16, 2024 via Zoom

Operator's Report

11/17/2024

1. Matt and I averted an interruption in service when we found mid station empty and the reservoirs low in the early morning. Contractors had left the well turned off after working the previous day. I monitored and diagnosed and Matt interrupted his work schedule to reset the switch.
2. The well 5 check valve does not operate smoothly and I can hear water passing the well 3 check valve before it closes, both indications that the check valves are not working properly.
3. I discussed water hammer, with the following people:
 1. Dennis Eaton, MWRS.
 2. Ben Rigby, Executive Director, MWRS.
 3. Marty Logan, Contractor.
 4. Tanner, Lewis and Clark Plumbing (VFDs).
 5. Matt Mudd, GWE.

The most common recommendations were to replace check valves and install vfds.

Marty gave a price of \$5,500 to replace the well 5 check valve with the same model. I highly recommend replacing with spring assisted "silent" check valve, or one specifically designed to reduce water hammer.

4. I replaced the light socket for the phase indicator light, Panel 1, well house 1&3.

Mark Zitzka

Operator PWS MT 0000057

Treasurer Report – 11/18/2024

Statements sent out to homeowners 11/7/2024

Lynette Hecker payment – 10/03/2024 and 10/30/2024

Checks written in October:

- Northwestern Energy – \$1,619.74
- Hawkins - \$20
- DPHHS - \$25
- ATS - \$659.87
- SMS Water - \$1,698
- MW LLC - \$500

Financial statement reviews as of 10/31/2024:

Checking account – at suggestion of Marissa Lovely at First Interstate Bank-Montana Avenue branch – will change checking account from Classic to Enhanced business checking. Enhanced business banking offers tiered interest rate (currently we receive no interest on checking as well as 300 free items per statement cycle. In October, we had 204 items, over the limit of 200, so we were charged .25/check for a total of \$1.00. This was a very rare occurrence but does allow an opportunity to upgrade our accounts. There will be no charge and everything else will be the same.

Ordering (ordered) a \$10,000 CD 11/16/2024 – funds to come from checking – balance in checking is presently \$42,527.09 with plans to transfer some of that to our savings account

No significant changes on balance sheet from last year other than reduction in restitution receivable to \$6,155.

Credit card was used in October to pay for Wix website renewal and purchase of credits for callmycontacts. It has since been paid.

Notable changes in P&L – Postage cost down from 2023 to \$979; engineering costs down to \$15,417, late payment fee increased to \$550 from \$470.

A/R aging as of 11/7 – amount of past due for one customer (2-075) is now \$1,121.07. Payments received in 2024 – on 3/15/2024 - \$500 and on 4/14/2024 - \$250 for a total of \$750. Most all other accounts are less than 31-60 days or current.

Other:

Statement received from Jefferson County for taxes – Total due - \$126 on 11 Evening Star

Received check for \$20,000 from Witham Companies (thanks to Keith for his help) as partial payment for providing water service from SMSC tap to property line and provide connection at existing curb stop and curb box. Total bid from 3 Brothers Plumbing & Heating price - \$27,373. We will get remainder from Witham once the job is complete and provide payment to 3 Brothers.

Welcome letter sent to Kyle & Kimberly Myhre – 41 Saddle Mountain Drive (revised letter information re dialmycall.com and phone number)



November 7, 2024

TOM HILLESLAND
SADDLE MOUNTAIN CORP CLANCY
919 BIG DIPPER
CLANCY MT 59634

RE: - Elevated Manganese Levels, Saddle Mountain Corp Clancy, PWSID MT0000057

Dear Tom Hillesland:

This letter is to inform you of a recent manganese (Mn) sample at Saddle Mountain Corp Clancy that is elevated and could be a health concern for infants. A Mn sample was taken on 09/30/2024 at WL002 WELL 1 GWIC 58673 with a result of 0.208 mg/L. While this result is below the Environmental Protection Agencies (EPA) health advisory limit of 0.3 mg/L it is above 0.1 mg/L which the best available information indicates is a health concern for infants.

Manganese is a naturally occurring element found in soil, water, and air. While our bodies require small amounts of manganese to stay healthy, too much is a health concern. Adults and children get sufficient manganese from the foods we eat, and infants and young children from breast milk, food, or formula. As stated in the EPA's health advisory limit, elevated levels can pose significant health risks, particularly to infants and young children. High Mn exposure can impair brain development, leading to learning and behavioral issues, reduced intellectual function, and impaired motor skills. The general population may experience symptoms such as fatigue, muscle pain, and mood changes do to overexposure. More information can be found at <https://deq.mt.gov/water/Programs/dw-rules>.

Based on your sample results, DEQ recommends:

- Issue public notice informing customers of Mn levels so they can make decisions about their health. This will ensure that the public is aware of the potential health risks, especially for vulnerable populations such as infants and young children. A copy of the public notice is enclosed for your convenience.

Funding eligibility: There is funding available to address elevated levels of manganese. Community (public and private) and not-for-profit Non-Community Non-Transient Water Systems are eligible for funding. Whereas federally owned systems are not eligible. Eligible projects may include treatment, new sources, connection to a nearby PWS, and the creation of a new PWS, but must primarily address an emerging contaminant (manganese is an emerging contaminant).

How to Apply:

1. Get on the Project Priority List: Complete the SRF – Emerging Contaminant (EC) Project Form and submit it to Emergingcont@mt.gov. Project scope and costs can be estimated.
2. Funding Determination: The DEQ will determine which funding option works best for the project.

3. Submit the Uniform Application: Once the project is more defined, complete and submit the Uniform Application. Forms and applications can be found under the "How to Apply" tab on <https://deq.mt.gov/water/programs/eng>.

If you have questions, please contact me at 406-218-7418 or ella.gaffney@mt.gov.

Sincerely,



Ella Gaffney
Manganese Project Manager
DEQ Public Water Supply Bureau

Enclosed: PN with instructions
cc: PWS File
Jefferson County Sanitarian

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Saddle Mountain Corp Clancy Has Elevated Levels of Manganese

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Water samples taken on 09/30/2024 showed manganese level of 0.208 mg/L. While there is no enforceable maximum health limit for manganese in drinking water, the EPA has issued a lifetime health advisory level of 0.3 mg/L. It is recommended that infants (under the age of 1 year) do not consume water with manganese over 0.1 mg/L.

Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know about your drinking water. While manganese is an essential nutrient, too much is a health concern. Manganese can come from natural or industrial sources.

What should I do?

- Do not boil the water. Boiling the water concentrates manganese as it remains behind when the water evaporates.
- Infants, elderly, and people with liver disease are at increased risk and should use a different source of water for drinking and preparing foods.
- Parents, guardians, and caregivers should use a different source of water for preparing infant formula. The FDA requires a minimum amount of manganese in infant formula because it is an essential nutrient at very low levels. However, adding manganese in drinking water to the formula that already contains manganese increases an infant's exposure to this metal and risk for developing harmful health effects.
- It is okay to use the water for bathing, brushing teeth, and washing dishes. The small amounts of manganese absorbed through the skin or left on clean dishes are not expected to cause health concerns.
- If you are concerned about the water, consider using bottled water or other water sources low in manganese.
- If you have specific health concerns, consult a healthcare provider.

What is being done?

Our system is actively posting public notices.

Where can I find more information?

<https://deq.mt.gov/water/Programs/dw-rules>



For more information, please contact Saddle Mountain Corp Clancy at Tom Hillesland at 406-696-4272.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Saddle Mountain Corp Clancy: PWS ID#: MT0000057.