

MEWA Meeting Minutes

Mount Elbert Water Association Board Meeting 2025

Tuesday, March 11th, 2025, 5:37 PM MST

Zoom or Ross Well House in Twin Lakes, CO 81251

ATTENDEES:

Brian Nevans, President, Zoom

Chris Brandewie, Vice President, Zoom

Olivia Brandt, Secretary, Zoom

Laurie Dusenberry, Treasurer, Absent

Paul Terranova, General Manager, Zoom

Brent Groenke, System Operations and Maintenance, Absent

START Zoom recording

Call to order: 5:37 PM

Additions/changes to the agenda

Thank you to Paul, Jeremy, and Patrick for dedicating so much time and effort in solving.

General:

Brian, Paul

-
1. Approval of board meeting minutes from February. - APPROVED
 2. General Manager updates.
 - a. Leakage - huge problem, We are doing everything we can to make it right.
 - b. Showers available and emergency services.
 - c. Annual Meeting reserved for July 19th Fire Station. Updates to follow.
 - d. Drafted an updated line extension policy - for review and vote.
 - e. Emergency response plan - Add steps if there is a huge leak and include in well houses. Example: Close off sequoia courts, determined unit abc, etc. This would be for future boards and general managers to follow. Flow charts - laminated and include in well house. Legacy maps are somewhat reliable, but not to scale. Metal detector wand is necessary for MEWA supplies to find valves; it is impossible without it. Lessons learned to shape emergency response plan.
 3. Line Extension Plan - defer to next board meeting.
 4. Lake County Comprehensive Plan: Twin Lakes kickoff at Fire Station II Wed Feb 5th - update from meeting. Resilience of people here.

Financial Reports:

Paul, Laurie

-
1. IS, BS, SOCF through January 2025, A/R aging (*through March 1st*).
 2. 2024 taxes in progress - Engaging Onward & Upward PC (Trevor Hunt).
 3. Q4 invoicing & 2025 Annual Membership: collection of A/R ongoing - \$16k
 4. All 4 bank accounts have been reconciled for February. Members to review February financial reports, including a Budgets vs Actuals P&L. -

5. Pelino, Inc: Werderitch owes them \$3300 for materials/hauling from 2024 Mt Massive line work (Pelino provided material and hauling) - defer.
6. Water Court Attorney bill and BBA water consultants bill - APPROVED.

Well Pumping & Meter Readings:

Brent, Paul

-
1. Website, SCADA technology, water quality updates: Will, Tony, Jeremy(*ORC: Operator in Responsible Charge*). PFAS testing Jeremy. SCADA transition meeting from EPPI to Blackbird. (Gives us functionality for remote valve control). They will follow up with a proposal with scope of work.
 2. Pumping volumes - Leak detection - high priority. February 2025 @ 25,000 gpd, 27% more than Feb 2024. Huge spike in early March - find genesis of massive leak.
 - a. Leaks implications
 - i. Alternative location shower plans at Fire Station II to include private residences and/or rentals inside and outside of the MEWA service area as well as Lake County owned facilities.
 - ii. Box Creek well on Lodgepole up the western edge of Unit A on San Isabel to feed higher elevation properties particularly on Juniper, Birch, Peakview, Cedar, Spruce, and now Hemlock between Gold and Silver. We were not successful as a couple of critical valves that need to be closed on Lodgepole are either stuck open or have so much dirt and debris in the valve riser that we couldn't get a valve key on them. We will work again on these tomorrow.
 - iii. Repair plan/schedule for the Huntzinger leak location. There MAY be other major leaks in the system, however we may not know that until this first leak is repaired and we start refilling the approximately 8 miles of underground pipe (of all different sizes) that collectively hold around 30,000 gallons by themselves.

MEWA Equipment and Property:

Brent, Brian

-
1. Augmentation Plan amendment update:
 - a. Comment resolution Zoom meeting scheduled with Aurora and their attorneys/team/hydrologist/etc. for **Monday March 10th 1:30-2:30pm**.
 - b. Our official response to the attached Aurora's 4th round of comments from Jan 24, 2025 to be sent out.
 - c. The next status conference call with the Water Referee is now scheduled for **Tuesday March 18th either 1pm or 2pm TBD**.
 2. Tank inspection 2025: proposal from Western Water Solutions being revised to include option for tank cleaning. Updated proposal was received. If bypass is successful, then we may do both tanks at once. To be scheduled.

Line Extensions and Replacements:**Brent, Brian, Paul**

1. Schedule of work for 2025: investigate 2 leak locations ASAP in spring, #1 system priority
2. List of Repairs/Extensions:
 - a. Leak Detection work and repair at Hutzinger.
 - b. 750' Mt Massive line extension Phase 2 - 2025
 - c. 250' Spruce line replacement – MEWA funded - 2025
 - d. Mt Elbert - line replacement/ valve at Ross well house (where it connects with Mt.Elbert). It might be too shallow and not insulated, add insulation and deepen. Mt Elbert may have lost some road cover over time and that may have contributed to that freeze.
 - e. Back-up power for pumps.
3. 2025 Curb Stop Installations:
 - a. Larsen 474 Peak View curb stop - 2025
 - b. Walker/Young 470 Juniper curb stop - 2025
 - c. Kirkpatrick 550 Juniper curb stop - 2025
 - d. Heart 160 Peak View curb stop - 2025 (maybe 2 pending ADU application)
 - e. Brennan 701 Peak View curb stop - 2025
 - f. Duncan 398 Peak View curb stop - 2025
 - g. Cedar/Spruce & Cedar/Ponderosa (far east end) valve riser repair work- 2025
 - h. Repair leaking Test Hydrant #2 west end of Juniper (currently turned off) - 2025
4. 2025 Work
 - a. Address suspected underground line leaks on Sequoia and San Isabel
 - b. Repair 2 test hydrants and valve risers in 2 locations
 - c. Perform routine scheduled tank cleaning and inspection on all 3 storage tanks
 - d. Install approximately 1400 LF of 6" water line extension and/or line replacement on Lodgepole, Mt Massive, and Spruce to include possible new fire hydrant
 - e. Install an estimated 6 to 10 new residential curb stops and water taps
 - f. Start making improvements to MEWA's SCADA computer system and backup power capabilities

Fire Hydrants & Life Safety:**Brian, Paul**

1. GM to install hydrant markers summer 2025.
2. Place boulders on Mt Hope/Twin Peaks utility easement; move extra rocks at end of La Plata Peak - 2025

CRWA**Chris**

1. The 6th CRWA Source Water Protection Workshop is 31st of March 5:00pm..
2. Emergency response plan
 - a. Updated pending new language from CRWA Source Water Protection Workshop.
 - b. New response plan for any major line leaks.
 - c. Annual reporting - send verification letter to USDA.

Misc:

Paul, Olivia

-
1. Next Constant Contact - MEWA message for Mid-March, Leak update - summary, Q2 billing April 1st (folk who are using water - usage for the remainder of the year), CRWA Source workshop, annual meeting save the date July 19th, next board meeting info, Building.
 - a. Website updates - Feb meeting minutes & March newsletter.
 - b. Thank you note - in the future.
 2. Next board meeting - April 15th, 2025. 5:30pm.

Adjourn 6:22 PM Tuesday, March 11th, 2025
STOP Zoom recording

Respectively,
Olivia Brandt, Secretary