

Minutes of the Town of Marble and the Marble Water Company
Work Session
September 16, 2021

Present from the Town of Marble: Mayor Ryan Vinciguerra, Tim Hunter, Larry Good and Emma Bielski. Also present: Ron Leach, Town Administrator and Terry Langley, minutes.

Present from the Marble Water Company Board of Directors: John Williams, Tom Williams, Greg Lucht, Kathy Zentmeyer and Dave Jones (by phone).

John Williams opened by giving some history of the Marble Water Company (MWC). Some of the highlights: John started the company in 1979 because the Williams house needed water. Lloyd Blue was mayor and acquired water rights (3 cu feet). Wright Water designed the system. By the end of summer of 1980 they had water. They began with 8 investors and the water line ran from Tom's to John's houses, to Main Street on the south and Marble Street on the north. Water ran to each of the 8 investor's properties. Once it was in, people wanted to tie in. Whoever tapped into the extensions paid for the line costs plus the tap fee. There is currently 18,000 linear feet of 6" line buried 6' deep with a fire hydrant every 500'. John explained that a low interest government loan and a grant paid for the 150000 gallon tank 200' above the town and for a fire hydrant system. This hydrant system resulted in home owner's savings on insurance. Currently 72 individuals have 92 taps.

2. Monitoring wells – Four monitoring wells were installed because Wright Water engineers said that the septic tank 300 ft away will be leaching and the pressure from Carbonate Creek and the leaching from the leach field could affect water quality. The MWC paid \$20,000 for a 30 page report that offered 3 viable solutions to the problem of possible nitrates. John explained that nitrates are measured on a scale of 1-10. If the count reaches 8, the state gets involved. If 10, the well is permanently shut down. A whole new well would have to be built and would involve much red tape, reports and testing. It would take a year to have the system designed and get approval from the state. Today lines would cost \$100 per foot and it would take approximately 2 years to get it hooked up. He reported that Wright Water is the top water engineering firm in the state with offices in Colorado Springs and Glenwood Springs. Wayne Laurents is president and he oversaw the report. Monitoring wells was the solution decided upon and, at a cost of \$20,000 and four wells were drilled. Tests are conducted every 6 months and the most recent test results showed lowest reading ever – 0.2. It has always come in well under 2. If it ever comes in 4 or 5, MWC will come to the town for mitigation.

3. Well 1 has been upgraded but they haven't got approval from the state yet so it is not hooked in.

4. The MWC is asking that anytime someone comes to the town for a building permit that the water lines are marked as part of that permit. This is to prevent the water line being broken. Ron asked that the MWC let the town know when a new tap is installed.

5. The MWC is making a significant change to rules and regulations to conserve water – landscaping particularly. Currently, 8000 gallons per month are allowed per tap, with an overage cost of \$10 per 1000 gallon over the 8000. Drought resulting in state getting involved. Water meter has to be read from outside – if not, 10 per month – going to 25. Cost of a meter is about 25 per month for a year

(350). Only irrigate 1000 square feet per lawn/garden. It is in all in rules but haven't enforced. 20 broken or inside meters. Tips on how to conserve water. Tim...

Tim has closest septic system to the well. 1988 they replaced leach field – doubled the size over what was needed. Found a tank with a hole knocked in it. Pumped every 3 years, field scoped. John: individual homes with normal useage, doesn't leave leach field. Tom – well head protection B&R pumps and inspects.

6. MWC informed by WW engineers of available grants asked for 3 million – WW 5 priorities – 1. End of Main Street, hooking up fire hydrant to form loop which increases water pressure. 2. Down 2nd street. 3. Exgtend from hydrant in NW corner and run water line through east marble – If any left over: 4. Explore new well. 5. Not viable. If less, identify priority with most bang for buck.

Ryan Vinciguerra stated that it is unique for town to have no involvement with a major utility. He asked some questions about how the MWC works and the possibilities of the town and MWC working together more closely.

1. Ryan asked who made the decisions regarding the reported changes and was told that the board of directors did. He asked about the current status of the MWC finances. Kathy explained that they were previously maxed with the installation of the monitoring wells but that is now all paid off. MWC is in the best financial position in their history. They are a non-profit private business and any funds above expenses goes into savings for future expenses/upgrades. Tap holders pay on time for the most part and they have a healthy cash flow. The paid "staff" are contract labor. A tap holders meeting is held every 4 years. Ryan requested that the town get minutes and financial reports as tap holders. Ryan asked about MWCs priorities and was told that safety of the water is the biggest priority. Ryan asked about the biggest challenge and Tom said that would be financial/expansion needs to meet future demand. John said there is low interest funding available to towns. Tim asked if the water lines could be required for houses within the town. John said they need to be given a time frame, but yes they could. This would help prevent septics contaminating wells as wells would not be used for drinking water. Reclaimed water was discussed.
2. Water augmentation – would MWC partner for augmentation? John said that he talked to the state employee who sent the letter regarding a call on the water and they agreed that, if needed, they would ask everyone to only use water for household use. Water will not be turned off. MWC does not have the capacity to augment.
3. Would MWC be open to a town council member joining the board? MWC wants to collaborate and cooperate. Membership will be taken under consideration by the board. Tom said board membership had legal and fiduciary responsibilities and there might be conflicts of interest between public and private entities.

Larry Good

1. Fire protection – Larry asked if there could be sharing of reports concerning fire danger between both town & MWC as well as results of the monitoring wells and water tests. Tim asked that the MWC consider a back up generator at the pump house. John has the data of

how often the electricity went out. He reported that, currently, the gravity feed allows 3½ hours at 1,000 gallons per minute without the need for any electricity augmentation. John will bring it up at the next board meeting. MWC was asked if they can they keep the tank full during peak months. John said it is always full – a float keeps the water pumped in when needed.

2. Water Fee Annual Payment – Larry asked for discussion around changing the annual fee, particularly by those who are not tap holders. John spoke to the disparity between how much people own, how much water is used, what is built on different properties and the fact that the annual fee is the same for everyone, regardless. He asked, if lots cannot be built on, is it fair to charge them the same as those who own houses. John suggests a sliding scale.

Ron Leach

1. Ron thanked everyone for a great meeting –he learned a lot! He asked that everyone keep communication up and suggested getting together for meetings like this more often.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Langley