**EAST RANGE WATER BOARD**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

**City/Town Government Center**

**Following Re-organization Meeting**

***Appointed Board Members for City of Aurora Present:*** *Doug Gregor, Chairman of the Board; David Skelton; Dennis Schubbe;*

***Appointed Board Members for the Town of White Present:*** *Jon Skelton, Vice Chairman of the Board; Clark Niemi;*

***Other Team Members Present:*** *Kimberly Berens (*COA);*Jim Gentilini (COA); Jodi Knaus (TOW); Miles Jensen (SEH); Mia Thibodeau (Fryberger Law);*

*Others Present: Robert Rutka*

1. **A board meeting was called to order by Chairman Gregor at 4:38 p.m.**
2. **Consent Agenda:**
   1. Approval of December 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes
   2. Treasurer’s Report – Fund Balances: Interim Financing: $324,435.75; Biwabik Fund: $109,606.87; Total: $434,042.62
   3. Approval of Disbursements
      1. Fryberger Law Firm - $668.00
   4. Correspondence - None

**MOVED BY DAVID SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY CLARK NEIMI APPROVING CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED**

1. **Legal Matters**
   1. Scenic Acres Land & Facility Title Clearance – Board directed Fryberger Law to move forward with this
   2. Rosa Easement Status – Fryberger will send out to Rosa’s with a one-week deadline to respond
   3. Project Labor Agreement Review Status – Donald Erickson at Fryberger Law is working on this document
   4. Creation of New Legal Entity Timeline & Guidance – EIN establishment, Checking Account, Accounting

**MOVED BY DAVID SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY JON SKELTON TO KEEP ON AGENDA AND TABLE TO NEXT MONTH. MOTION CARRIED**

1. **Guests** – None
2. **Engineering Updates** – SEH
   1. Funding Initiatives & Cumulative Accounting – Updates by Doug Gregor were given; $4 million in Congressionally Direct Spending Funding is being awarded to the Joint Water Project. Gregor will meet with Lislegard and PFA to ensure everything is on track for funding for the Project. It was discussed Shannon Sweeney probably wants an update from us on the Project relating to this new funding and we will need a new rate analysis with the new interest rates. Gregor will reach out to Sweeney.
   2. Engineering Work – Miles Jensen
      1. January Status Report was verbal this month.
         1. Draft Archaeological Environmental Review was approved by SPHO; now we wait for MDH approval
         2. Bat Nesting Sites – Tree removal tabled to Spring. No new updates.
         3. Technical Committee Meeting was not held
         4. Emergency Water Service Interconnects Agreement Status - No response from Biwabik to date. Miles will reach out to DNR and Chad Kohlstad regarding the Water Appropriations permit and will have Chad re-run the model for 600 gallons per minute. David Skelton indicated the mutual aid agreement needs to be done first and then the remaining technical issues can be resolved about the booster station.
         5. Miles will update the Project Schedule. It will be a two-year timespan and it depends on availability of items.
3. **Community Outreach Plan** – The “need” article was published in the East Range Times. This is the first of three articles. A bulk mailing can be distributed also and then a Community Meeting in March.
4. **St. James Pit & Current Water Plant updates** - None
5. **Next Meeting date: February 15, 2023**
6. **Adjournment**

**MOTION BY JON SKELTON, SUPPORTED BY CLARK NEIMI TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 5:22 P.M. MOTION CARRIED**