

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Board President Charln Stewart. Board directors in attendance were: Carl Jeanise, Tina Barrett, Charln Stewart and Curt Carver. It was noted that a quorum was present. Advisors to the Board, Mike Meyer and Mike Stewart were also in attendance.
2. Proof of meeting was confirmed.
3. The September 17, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes were considered and approved as written following a motion by Curt Carver, seconded by Carl Jeanise.
4. Charln Stewart introduced Board members to the eight citizens attending the meeting and thanked them for their interest in PWA.

#### 5. Directors' Reports

##### President:

- Charln Stewart thanked the outgoing Board members and serving appointees for their contribution of time and expertise to PWA.
- Annual summary
  - Critical Structural and equipment needs were determined and a grant was proposed and funded to begin addressing them.
  - While one in-training operator position was filled, the lack of available qualified candidates has been a challenge in the industry for some time. In Louisiana the average age of water treatment plant operators is 65 (???)
  - This is an aging plant that requires frequent updates to keep it in compliance. In 2001 there were 160 customers; now there are more than 800.

##### Treasurer:

- Financial reports for September were distributed and discussed. Revenues were approximately \$50K higher; expenses were about \$100k higher. Some increases in expenses are linked to the acquisition of property, with PWA cash used to back up a loan. There were engineering costs associated with preparation of the grant proposal. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Curt Carver, seconded by Carl Jeanise and approved.
- To help guests understand treatment technology and expenses better, Tony Farrell stated that, while PWA's water rates are comparable to other systems in the area, it costs more per gallon to treat lake water than well water.

##### Secretary:

- Election results. Tony Laska read the names of the three Board candidates receiving the most votes in the October election:
  - Jerry Burnaman had been DOTD Parish Maintenance Supervisor for 33 years and supervised the campus water system at LSUA for 5 years.

- Robert (Bub) Sepulvado served in the Army National Guard and is owner of Bub T's.
- Gloria Thompson is a local business owner (LTD Guide Service) and has expertise in hydrology. She had been previously appointed to fill an unexpired Board position.

## 6. Operator's Report – Annual Report to Membership.

- 2024 State Inspection
  - Tony Farrell reported responding to the State inspection. The grade given by the State has improved from "F" to "D". Rather than evaluating capability to deliver clean water, time-consuming paperwork issues and **double jeopardy** in delayed documentation drives the score down.
  - The plant site has been given a substantial cleanup and it shows.
- Grant Discussion
  - Inflation and changes in requirements have compromised PWA's ability to complete the various projects with the amount awarded. The State has quadrupled the size of the new filtration system. The bids received were deemed unacceptable. Original estimates were pre-COVID and current figures have exploded. A motion to reject all three bids was made by CharIn Stewart, seconded by Curt Carver and approved.
  - Because PWA has a grant, the government requires a rate study to determine the association's **fiscal viability**. The USDA has to sign off on the results of the Rate Study. CharIn Stewart made a motion to have PWA publish its rates on line and on members' bills. Seconded by Carl Jeanise, the motion passed.
- The lead service line inventory is 100% complete. PWA is waiting to see whether the State calls for any changes.
  - Water systems nationwide are required to determine presence of lead or copper pipes in active use. In 1999 lead water pipes were banned. More common in the North, not much was installed in the South. Fortunately, therefore, PWA isn't required to disseminate lead warnings to members.
- Trihalomethanes (THM) are a byproduct of the required lake water disinfection process. Regulators had required that concentrations not exceed 80 parts per million (ppm).
  - The limit has been reduced by 1/1000, now 80 parts per billion (ppb).
  - PWA can normally meet this requirement, but during the summer the water conditions have caused a violation of 1 ppb which poses no significant threat, but nonetheless fails.
  - PWA will remain in violation until it can test below 80 ppb THM for four (4) consecutive quarters.
- Employee hiring
  - Chris, the new employee is 42; he has been successfully completing training.
  - He has successfully passed all three Class I licenses, namely Production, Treatment and Distribution.
- The Run Rate has improved considerably. Tony Farrell explained a color-coded chart that shows number of hours of operation per day in color. Red is the most hours, blue is the fewest. A field of blue squares is encouraging.
- General updates. Tony Ferrell reported **874** meters in service for the month and 412 hours' plant operation. Average daily operation was 13.7 hours. There were 2 new meters in September and a temporary meter for an oil drilling rig off Queens. A boring leak along the highway was repaired.
- Backwashing of filters requires 10,000 to 13,000 gallons of treated water, which is metered. This helps explain figures of gallons treated vs. gallons sold to members. Flushwater is not metered.

## 7. Adjournment:

CharIn Stewart thanked PWA members for attending and engaging in a constructive dialogue with the Board. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 6:38 PM

The next meeting of the PWA Board will be at the Plant on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, starting at 5:00 PM.