

Notes from Water Project Committee meeting:

When: 1/4/11...9:15 to 1:30 PM

Where: Community Center

Attendees: Al Moren, Claudia Ellsworth, Steve Chapin, Mike Davis, Judy Greinke, Kathy Deuster, Jester Purttleman (Northwest Water Systems engineer)

Jester began the meeting by providing a brief review of the RFI response. We had three reasonable responses as construction estimates and one ownership proposal. From these responses Jester presented a five page side-by-side analysis including a sample ballot. After making some changes/adjustments suggested by the committee he will forward a final draft to Claudia for presentation to the Board on Saturday. This discussion lasted all morning with the goal of getting Jester on the noon ferry.

Following Jester's presentation, the committee discussed several items:

- Community outreach: Upon Board approval of the ballot and supporting analysis for distribution to the members, we will distribute the information to all via several avenues: Beachcomber, Website, Voice mail tree (thru Tootsie), and a community meeting on February 26th with Jester and Todd Krause in attendance to answer questions. We also understand Janet Podell is preparing a letter for the January Beachcomber regarding communications. The timeline will be as follows: Feb. 12th—Board approves the ballot and ballot is mailed; Feb. 26th—Community meeting; March 19th--ballot count and special meeting; April 9th--Board meeting to approve forward steps on the basis of the ballot results.
- Bonding discussion: Some members feel HMC should float a municipal bond to finance the project. Per member Robert Hayman (who is in the business), this is probably not a marketable issue for HI.
- Finance committee/legal: The WPC feels the finance committee should begin "thinking" about forward steps should the membership elect to retain the water system. Regarding bylaws and our ability to operate a water system, our auditor has advised that it would be simple to set up a water utility to assure members that water revenues support only water related expenses. We also need to address the procedures involved and financial consequences for those who wish to pay "up-front" for their connections.
- Contiguous lot issues: A letter will be reintroduced to the Board on Saturday that will be sent out to those members identified as having contiguous lots. A copy of this letter will also be included in the Beachcomber.
- Ballot clarification: The Board will be asked to help clarify the wording in the proposed ballot. The issue of retain or release ownership is clear, but how should the wording be in the event the membership chooses to retain ownership? Should the ballot say, "If you choose the retain ownership option would you prefer to vote for financing via the USDA avenue, or would you prefer to have the financing made through conventional means"?

Next WPC meeting: Tuesday, February 8th, Community Center, 12:45 PM.

Steve Chapin
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