



**March 21, 2022
Regular Board Meeting**

The Regular Meeting of Madison Utilities convened at the Madison Utilities' Office located at 101 Ray Sanderson Drive with Chairman Terris Tatum presiding. Vice Chairman Steve Haraway, Director Rob Szmyd, Director Keith Cook, and Director Connie Spears were in attendance. Also present were Secretary/Treasurer/General Manager Emory DeBord and Recording Clerk Jodie Parker.

Others present were Wastewater Manager Mark Bland, Finance Manager Gary Sparks, Customer Service Manager Misty Leftwich, New Development Coordinator Reece Lee, and Attorney Woody Sanderson. Water Manager Jason Leggett was absent.

Chairman Terris Tatum called the Regular Board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Registered public in attendance: None

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

2. CURRENT AGENDA/MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

a. March 21, 2022 Current Agenda

The agenda for the March 21, 2022 Regular Meeting was presented to the Board. Director Spears moved to approve the March 21, 2022 Regular Meeting Agenda as submitted; Director Szmyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. March 7, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the March 7, 2022 Regular Meeting were presented to the Board. Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the March 7, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. PLATS/BONDS

a. Preliminary Project Approval

i. Clift Farm Northern Outfall

Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the Preliminary Project Approval for Clift Farm Northern Outfall; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Dedication and Improvements

i. Clift Farm Phase 1

Director Spears moved to approve the Dedication and Improvements for Clift Farm Phase 1; Director Szmyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

ii. Clift Farm Phase 2

Director Szmyd moved to approve the Dedication and Improvements for Clift Farm Phase 2; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

iii. Clift Farm Phase 2A

Director Szmyd moved to approve the Dedication and Improvements for Clift Farm Phase 2A; Director Cook seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

iv. Clift Farm Phase 7

Director Szmyd moved to approve the Dedication and Improvements for Clift Farm Phase 7; Vice Chairman Haraway seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

v. Land Classic Carwash

Director Spears moved to approve the Dedication and Improvements for the Land Classic Carwash; Director Szmyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

vi. Bradford Station Phase 1

Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the Dedication and Improvements for Bradford Station Phase 1; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Plant Apprentices

Wastewater Manager Bland began by explaining that the MU staff had been discussing the creation of an apprentice program for quite some time due to the upcoming retirement eligibility of nearly 50% of current plant personnel. He continued going into further detail about the four potential options and associated costs. Finance Manager Sparks added that the only option that was not priced out was the potential for outsourcing to contractors. Wastewater Manager Bland added that there is also a concern about lone employees during certain shifts. After additional discussion, Chairman Tatum stated that Madison is a growing community, and we must have staffing for these critical services which will cost money, but what is the cost if we don't?

Wastewater Manager Bland stated that the utilities field is not an easy work environment to get people into. Some discussion ensued about potential avenues to take, and Chairman Spears stated that she would reach out to some education contacts to see if there are additional avenues to pursue.

Wastewater Manager Bland explained that after drafting a personnel policy change, it would be followed by preliminary Board approval at the April 4th meeting, then posting for employee review/input, and finally bringing back to the Board for final approval. After Board approval, then it would be possible to start potentially filling spots in the beginning of May. Chairman Tatum stated that he thought Option 2 seemed to be the best and the other Board members concurred.

b. ADEM Pre-application for Water and Wastewater

Wastewater Manager Bland explained that the process for applying for ARPA funds starts with the submittal of a pre-application. If MU was to be selected, then the full application would be submitted. Some discussion ensued about the process and the number of pre-applications which have already been received.

Director Szmyd moved to have the General Manager sign the pre-application forms for water and wastewater; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. **LEGAL**

Attorney Sanderson presented the final copy of the Nickelson Well agreement for Board approval. Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the Nickelson Well agreement as submitted; Director Cook seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Attorney Sanderson also presented a Sewer Service Agreement with West Valley MHP, LLC, for Board approval. Wastewater Manager Bland gave a brief account of the history of the agreement. Director Spears moved to approve the Sewer Service Agreement with West Valley

MHP, LLC; Director Szmyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Attorney Sanderson added that the easement deeds would need to be obtained.

7. **WATER REPORT**

Absent

8. **WASTEWATER REPORT**

Wastewater Manager Bland stated that the new ultrasonic water meters should arrive in the upcoming week with the radios following the next week. He also commented that another contracting crew arrived to help at the Wastewater Plant and they are making more progress.

9. **FINANCE REPORT**

None

10. **CUSTOMER SERVICE**

None

11. **GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

General Manager DeBord mentioned that the General Manager luncheon was scheduled for Wednesday.

12. **VICE CHAIRMAN HARAWAY**

None

13. **DIRECTOR COOK**

Absent

14. **DIRECTOR SPEARS**

None

15. **DIRECTOR SZMYD**

None

16. **CHAIRMAN TATUM**

Chairman Tatum began the review of General Manager DeBord by outlining five areas of consideration. He stated that he believes General Manager DeBord exceeded expectations, was responsive and did well to keep the Board members informed and concluded by asking General Manager DeBord to please continue. The other Board members shared similar comments.

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:37 p.m. the Board agreed to adjourn.

Approved,



Terris Tatum, Chairman



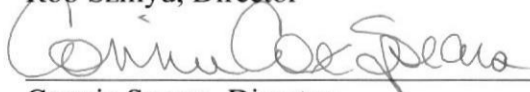
Steve Haraway, Vice Chairman



A. Keith Cook, Director



Rob Szmyd, Director



Connie Spears, Director

ATTEST:



Emory DeBord, Secretary/Treasurer