

WATER COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 14, 2009 - 6:00 P.M.
City Hall – 1840 Second Street, Columbia City, OR 97018

Members Present -

Chairman Josh Fromm
Finos Lunsford
John Burdette
Robert Campbell
Charles Garman

Members Absent -

Bill Guy

Attendees -

City Administrator Leahnette Rivers
City Engineer Matt Hickey

Meeting Called to Order at 6:46 p.m.

A Water Department Meeting was called at the urging of City Administrator Leahnette Rivers to begin educated discussions on exploring reasons why our city well sounded a low level alarm in June. The well's pumping capacity dropped by 30 gpm in mid-June and was discovered by Micah Rogers. The well is now pumping 115 gpm and is down from 175 gpm. This drop forces us to purchase additional water from the City of St. Helens.

Matt Hickey contacted GSI, our hydrology expert, to brainstorm our options prior to our meeting and is still currently working with GSI engineer Eric Collins. After much discussion the following plan was crafted by the board:

STEP 1 - The City will re-video tape the well as soon as possible to investigate corrosion, mineral buildup and sand collapse possibilities. This has to be our first step as it will determine the next one. The video taping will be scheduled by Micah or Leahnette for as soon as the contractor can arrive. Crow Water will pull the well's pump.

STEP 2 - Depending on our findings we will either commence preventative maintenance on the well to mitigate our video findings or if our findings are stable we may begin discussion on bringing the Maintenance Shop's mothballed temporary well on line.

In closing we discussed the City of St. Helens' 38% water rate increase. It is apparent that St. Helens has several water systems on Columbia City property and are not currently paying customary easement royalties. This may be a

bargaining chip against St. Helens' audacious water rate increases. A new meeting will be scheduled when the new video has been taken of the well.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.