

WRWSD Board of Trustees Saturday Meeting – 9/14/24

President Levermore called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

Roll Call: Present: Armstrong, Feil, Harper, Kost, Levermore, Moore, Wales, Mgr. Cahall

Minutes: A motion was made by Wales and seconded by Armstrong to approve the 8/26/24 minutes as distributed and read. A yea/nay vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

President's Report (Levermore):

- President Levermore reminded residents to register their email with the WPOA Office so they can be included in emails blasts detailing urgent information.
- Election Nominating Chair, Dawn McNees, presented the following information. There are two positions available on the WRWSD Board of Trustees.
 - Monday, September 25th Candidate applications must be received in the Admin office by 4 pm
 - Tuesday, October 22nd Last day for members to settle outstanding fees/dues to be eligible to vote
 - Wednesday, October 23rd Mailing labels and list of eligible voters printed
 - Thursday, October 24th Ballots mailed by this date
 - Monday, December 2nd Ballots must be received in Admin office by 4 pm
 - Friday, December 6th Ballots counted by this date
 - Candidate applications are still being accepted with a deadline of September 25 at 4 pm. The applications are available online at lakewaynoka.com then News & Notices. In order to be eligible to vote, you need to be in good standing so please make sure all your dues/fees are paid by October 22nd. Please make sure the Admin office has your current address. This year after the October and November WPOA monthly meetings each candidate will be invited to use 5 minutes to introduce themselves.
- President Levermore read the following statement from the WRWSD Board that was reviewed and approved. This information will be included in your monthly WRWSD billing statement so everyone is notified of sewer rate changes beginning 2025. *The WRWSD Board of Trustees is focused on controlling costs and keeping water and sewer charges competitive. Currently, a homeowner's combined water and sewer bill is \$76/month for a minimum usage of 3,000 gallons. This includes \$29.50 for water and \$46.50 for sewer, which can be found on the back of your monthly statement. With community growth pushing our sewer system to over 80% of its annual capacity, we have begun the process to identify necessary upgrades. An engineering firm has been hired for this purpose, but we expect a significant increase in sewer charges to fund the work. The engineering, permitting, and bidding process may take about a year, and construction could go through 2026. The WRWSD is now not eligible for grants due to the community's median income exceeding the qualifying threshold. To reduce the amount we need to borrow for the project, we plan to increase our reserves starting in 2025. This will likely result in a sewer charge increase of around \$20 in 2025, with an additional increase the following year. The exact loan amount, term, and future sewer assessments are still undetermined. While building reserves can mitigate the impact of future fee increases, it will not eliminate them entirely. Expanding the sewer plant is necessary as there are no alternatives—septic systems are not permitted, and Brown County does not offer sewer services to our area. Water reserves may also need to be increased due to rising demand, requiring additional changes to the water production side of the plant. Brown County Rural Water (BCRW) is a short-term solution for Lake Waynoka and not a sustainable option, as its production capacity is committed elsewhere for the next 15 years.*

Treasurer's Report (Feil): None

Manager and Plant Superintendent Report (Mgr. Cahall/Supt. Wilson):

- We plan to begin draining the lagoon in mid-November. The lake will be lowered by 2" per day. Please consider removing your boat from the water before this time.
- We received an email from Jones and Henry regarding the sewer construction timeline. Construction would begin in 2026 and be completed in 2028.
- We have a full WRWSD staff.
- Signing up for the email blast may be completed online. This email is only used to communicate urgent issues and to distribute the monthly reports. You will not be inundated with emails.

Old Business: None

New Business: Motion #2024-18 concerning WRWSD Water Plant Contract Operations Agreement for Class II coverage when our Class III is on vacation/unavailable was discussed. Class II coverage is permitted by the Ohio EPA. The Class II Operator will receive a monthly retainer and an additional hourly wage for hours worked in Supt. Wilson's absence. This contract may be amended at the end of the first term or if either party provides written notification of terminating the contract. WRWSD employee, Dan Pike, is working towards his Operator license.

Motions and Resolutions: Motion # 2024-18 was made by Wales and seconded by Moore to approve the attached WRWSD Water Plant Contract Operations Agreement. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Concerns: None

Membership Concerns: None

Adjournment: The motion to adjourn was made by Kost and seconded by Wales. A yea/nay vote was taken. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:59am.

Rhonda J. Maybriar, WRWSD Assistant Recording Secretary