## CENTRAL WYOMING REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM JOINT POWERS BOARD

## **MEETING PROCEEDINGS**

July 16, 2024

A public meeting of the Central Wyoming Regional Water System Joint Powers Board (Board) was held Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 11:30 a.m., in the Joint Powers Board Conference Room, Regional Water Treatment Plant, 1500 SW Wyoming Boulevard, Casper, WY.

**Board Members Present** - Chairman Bertoglio, Vice-Chairman North, Secretary Waters, Treasurer Cathey, and Board Members Bond, Pollock, Sabrosky and Sutherland.

City of Casper – Bertoglio, Cathey, Bond, Pollock, Tom Brauer, Bruce Martin, Mark Anderson, Andrew Colling, Janette Brown

Natrona County - North

Salt Creek Joint Powers Board - Sutherland

Wardwell Water & Sewer District – Sabrosky

**Pioneer Water & Sewer District** – Waters

**Poison Spider Improvement & Service District –** 

**Wyoming Water Development Office -**

Sandy Lakes Estates –

**Lakeview Improvement & Service District -**

33 Mile Road Improvement & Service District –

Mile-Hi Improvement and Service District –

Central Wyoming Groundwater Guardian Team (CWGG) –

Others — Charlie Chapin – Williams, Porter, Day & Neville, P.C.; Frank Schwarzrock and Steven Clark – Town of Bar Nunn

The Board meeting was called to order at 11:32 a.m.

- 1. There were no Announcements.
- 2. Chairman Bertoglio asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2024,

Regular meeting. A motion was made by Treasurer Cathey and seconded by Secretary Waters to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2024, Regular meeting. Motion put and carried.

3. Mr. Martin asked the Board to reference the voucher listing on the screen. Mr. Martin stated that one additional voucher was added to the listing that was sent out in the agenda packet. Mr. Martin stated that voucher 8710 for the City of Casper in the amount of \$16,223.13 is the second Operations Reimbursement for June 2024. Mr. Martin stated that with it being the end of the fiscal year, it takes longer to close out as these are additional expenses from June that were invoiced after the first June Operations Reimbursement, voucher 8705 in the amount of \$510,354.15.

Mr. Martin stated there are two vouchers for Xylem Water Solutions for Power Quality Monitors, voucher 8702 in the amount of \$7,377.00, and voucher 8704 in the amount of \$8,133.96. Mr. Martin stated that at the meeting last month there was discussion regarding the Ozone generators and the work that has been done.

Mr. Martin stated that voucher 8703 for Source Equipment in the amount of \$6,002.00 is for Ozone Heat Rejection Pumps replacements. Mr. Martin stated that this came out of the Critical Equipment Replacement line item in the capital budget.

Mr. Martin stated that voucher 8706 for Layne Christensen Co. in the amount of \$357,485.00, and voucher 8707 for Engineering Associates in the amount of \$4,881.64 are for the Caisson Rehabilitation Project No. 21-040.

Mr. Martin stated that voucher 8709 for Ameri-Tech Equipment Co. in the amount of \$32,491.10 is for the service body and installation of a crane for the new utility service truck. Mr. Martin stated that a couple of months ago the Board saw the first voucher for this as it was split up into two payments, one for the chassis, and one for the service body and crane.

Mr. Martin stated that the vouchers are in good order and recommended approval of vouchers 8701 through 8710 in the amount of \$943,317.98.

A motion was made by Board Member Pollock and seconded by Treasurer Cathey to approve the July 2024 voucher listing to include voucher numbers 8701 through 8710 in the amount of \$943,317.98. Motion put and carried.

4. Mr. Martin asked the Board to reference the Water Production chart on the screen. Mr. Martin stated that there were 516 MG of water produced in June, which is 10 MG above the five-year average of 506 MG. Mr. Martin stated that it was a good water sales month compared to last June.

Mr. Martin stated that the fiscal year-to-date water production was 3.61 BG, which is approximately 123 MG below the five-year average of 3.73 BG. Mr. Martin stated that water sales last year were down due to wet weather.

Mr. Martin stated that we don't have the complete Financial Report that is typically

provided by City Finance as it is the last month of the fiscal year, and the complete data has not been compiled yet so will be presented during the audit, which will be completed and presented to the Board in November or December.

Mr. Martin asked the Board to reference the Water Rates Billed spreadsheet on the screen. Mr. Martin stated that for June there was \$1,195,320 in Water Sales. Mr. Martin stated that year-to-date sales are \$8,334,981. Mr. Martin stated that last year the total was \$8,206,561. Mr. Martin stated that FY24 was higher than the previous year, but not as high as was projected. Mr. Martin stated that is due to being below the five-year average for water sales.

Chairman Bertoglio asked what the Regional Water row is on the spreadsheet. Ms. Brown stated that row is the credits that were issued each month.

Chairman Bertoglio asked for a motion to approve the June 2024 Financial Report as presented. A motion was made by Vice-Chairman North and seconded by Secretary Waters to approve the June 2024 Financial Report as presented. Motion put and carried.

## 5. In the Operations Update:

Mr. Martin stated that water production has been running between 20 MGD and 24 MGD. Mr. Martin stated that production from the well field is 9.5 MGD, and the rest is being made up by the surface water plant. Mr. Martin stated that all the wells are being used except for Caisson 1, which is currently out of service for rehabilitation. Mr. Martin stated that one well was lost yesterday during the power outage. Mr. Martin stated that staff is currently working to get that well back in service.

Mr. Martin stated that the position for the additional Operator that was approved for FY25 has been advertised. Mr. Martin stated that several applications were submitted, interviews were conducted, and it is now in the selection process.

Mr. Martin stated that staff switched the sludge storage lagoons. Mr. Martin stated that there are two sludge lagoons that are switched during the middle of the season to split up the sludge, which aids in drying.

Mr. Martin stated that staff have been mowing and weed eating around the pump houses and in the well field.

Mr. Martin stated that staff have been working on the preventative maintenance work orders and keeping the turbidimeters calibrated and running.

Mr. Martin stated that the Ozone Heat Rejection Pump has been repaired.

Mr. Martin stated that the end of fiscal year inventory has been completed.

Mr. Martin stated that sampling has been completed each week.

Mr. Martin stated that there was a power outage yesterday. Mr. Martin stated that when

the power goes out like it did yesterday, it shuts down the entire plant and well field, and even though it was only off for approximately 40 minutes, it takes most of the day to get everything back up and running. Mr. Martin stated that it really messed things up. Mr. Martin stated that the Operators and Maintenance Staff did a good job of getting the plant back up and running.

Board Member Sabrosky asked about the backup generator. Mr. Martin stated that there is not a generator in the well field, but there is one main backup generator for the WTP. Board Member Sabrosky asked if the generator kicked in. Mr. Martin stated that it is not set up to turn on automatically as typically the power outages are short. Mr. Martin stated that during a power outage we lose all the equipment, and it causes a full reset. Mr. Martin stated that we typically don't run the generator unless we know it will be a long power outage.

Secretary Waters asked if a Plant Manager has been hired. Mr. Martin stated that the search is still ongoing. Mr. Martin stated that the original advertisement opened in November or December last year. Mr. Martin stated that there have been several interviews with applicants. Mr. Martin stated that a couple of offers were made that fell through. Mr. Martin stated that there were several applicants that were offered a second interview but declined at the last minute. Mr. Martin stated that the position has been closed for a couple of weeks and we are reevaluating how it's going out, and what we want to put out with it, and will be reopening the position at the end of July.

The time was turned over to Mr. Anderson for the Transmission System Update.

Mr. Anderson stated that the weekly security checks and tank sampling continue to be completed each week.

Mr. Anderson stated that the chloramine residual looks good in the system.

Mr. Anderson stated that the fence at the Wardwell Tank has been completed, so as soon as the bulls are put back in the field it will put it to the test.

Mr. Anderson stated that a 1-inch tap for 4227 Boles Road was made on the RWS line.

Mr. Anderson stated that the Metro Road Pump No. 1 check valve failed yesterday. Mr. Anderson stated that quotes were requested for repair parts. Mr. Anderson stated that he suspects that it was running when the power outage happened, and a water hammer was created that took it out.

Mr. Anderson stated that the Metro Road air conditioner stopped working and HVAC technicians discovered there was a broken refrigerant line, but they were able to patch it and recharge the unit. Mr. Anderson stated that the air conditioning is back up and running.

Mr. Anderson stated that Meter Room staff started the annual testing of the wholesale water meters last week. Mr. Anderson stated that will continue throughout the month.

Mr. Anderson stated that mowing and weed eating at all the tanks and booster sites continues.

- 6. There was no Public Comment.
- 7. There was no Old Business.
  - a. There was no Other Old Business.
- 8. In New Business:
  - a. Mr. Martin stated that when the Caisson Rehab Project went out, we anticipated that each of the Caisson wells had two laterals going out under the river. Mr. Martin stated that once the contractor pumped down Caisson No. 2, the one they started with, they realized that it had three laterals. Mr. Martin stated that preliminary investigations into Caisson No. 1 showed that it has five laterals. Mr. Martin stated that Caisson No. 3 most likely has six laterals, but they won't be sure until they start working on it.

Mr. Martin stated that there are more laterals than anticipated, and more than what is shown in the drawings from 1950. Mr. Martin stated that when they were first looking at this project, they knew that there are valves on the laterals and staff looked at the possibility of bringing valve stems up through the floor in order to operate them inside the well house. Mr. Martin stated that now that we are faced with the option of having more laterals, it will increase that cost. Mr. Martin stated that the project was reevaluated, and it was decided to remove the valve stems as having that many valve stems in the well house would cause a problem. Mr. Martin stated that there will be money savings by not installing the valve stems, so those funds could be put towards the extra work on cleaning of the laterals to offset the cost. Mr. Martin stated that there will be an increase in the cost with the additional valves that will need to be purchased and installed.

Mr. Martin stated that Layne Christensen Company did the full rehabilitation on Caisson No. 2 with the extra lateral cleaning and extra valve, and the valve stems taken off, there is a change order in the amount of \$7,800.

Mr. Martin stated that Mr. Andrew Colling, who is working on the project for City Engineering, is in attendance today to answer any questions the Board might have on the project change order.

Mr. Martin stated that there is \$82,000 in contingency funds for this project and the \$7,800 for the change order would come from those funds.

Mr. Martin stated that looking at Caissons No. 1 and No. 3, staff is recommending that the additional laterals be cleaned under a day rate pricing up to the allowable contract amount that the Board approves. Mr. Martin stated that moving forward, and when we have more information on that, we will look at the day rate.

Mr. Colling stated that they were originally bid as a lump sum as it was anticipated that each Caisson had two laterals. Mr. Colling stated that now that we are finding additional laterals, we don't have enough funds to do the laterals as a lump sum. Mr. Colling stated that is why the contractor proposed moving to a day rate in order to rehabilitate as many laterals as possible until that lump sum cost is exhausted.

Chairman Bertoglio asked how many laterals that would be. Mr. Colling stated that he is unsure as he asked for an update this morning on Caisson No. 1, and they are just finishing it up. Mr. Colling asked Mr. Martin if he recalls how many laterals they got done. Mr. Martin stated that he knows they did three, and we were going to have them do all the laterals.

Mr. Martin stated that he thinks it would be beneficial to rehabilitate all the laterals. Mr. Martin stated that the possibility was discussed that they run a first pass through cleaning them, and then do a second pass through at a slower rate and see how effective that would be. Mr. Martin stated that on Caisson No. 2 it didn't seem to be very effective, but that well isn't proven to be high production, so we don't know that that was a good test. Mr. Martin stated that the contractor was told to go ahead and do a full rehab on Caisson No. 1, and we'll see what kind of recovery we get, and will evaluate if the second, slower pass is adding any benefit, and if not, we can take that option to Caisson No. 3. Mr. Martin stated that his thought is that they are in there working on them, let's get the best rehab we can as the Caissons haven't been touched since they were put in.

Mr. Colling stated that the Caisson No. 2 pre-test was 80 GPM, and it is now approximately 360 GPM, which is not back to the original rate, but the others were over 500 GPM to begin with. Mr. Colling stated that we still aren't even at capacity that Caisson No. 1 and No. 3 are pre-rehabilitation.

Mr. Martin stated that one of the possible theories is that Caissons No. 1 and No. 3 are robbing the flow from Caisson No. 2. Mr. Martin stated that when they get done with Caisson No. 1, it will give us a good indicator of how to proceed.

A motion was made by Treasurer Cathey and seconded by Secretary Waters to approve Change Order No. 1 for Caisson Wells Rehabilitation and Pump Discharge Piping Modifications Project 21-040 in the amount of \$7,800.00. Motion put and carried.

Treasurer Cathey asked if all the laterals would be cleaned out on all the Caissons and if it was just a question of whether or not to do the second pass on Caisson No. 3. Mr. Colling stated that was correct. Treasurer Cathey stated that he was concerned about Mr. Colling talking about a certain dollar amount and he was thinking that if they are already on the well with all the equipment, we need to go ahead and clean them all out. Mr. Colling stated that there was some discussion about exhausting the contingency if it comes to that, then come back to Board if additional funds are needed to complete the wells.

Chairman Bertoglio stated that if they are on the well and they exhaust the costs, but are seeing good results, the Board will adjust the budget.

b. In Other New Business, Mr. Brauer stated that for months City staff have been working on a deal with the Casper-Alcova Irrigation District. Mr. Brauer stated that that in 1988 the City of Casper entered into an agreement with the Casper-Alcova Irrigation District where the City went in and lined some of the irrigation ditches. Mr. Brauer stated that through that lining process, they were able to save some water that was being lost and captured 7,000 acre-feet of water. Mr. Brauer stated that this isn't an insignificant amount of water that was basically created by lining those ditches. Mr. Brauer stated that water is storage water in Alcova and Semino. Mr. Brauer stated that storage water is like a battery, it is worth the most as it is there when you need it.

Mr. Brauer stated that was a forty-year agreement, which expired in 2018. Mr. Brauer stated that Mr. Martin sent prompt notice asking for that agreement to be renewed. Mr. Brauer stated that it has been a bit of a challenge with the Bureau of Reclamation since then to try to get the agreement renewed. Mr. Brauer stated that we were given conflicting advice or information from the Bureau of Reclamation under two different leadership roles there, but we are moving ahead right now and renewing that agreement.

Mr. Brauer stated that as part of that agreement, over the forty-year period that we had the 7,000 acre-feet of water, we never had to use it. Mr. Brauer stated that we chose to exercise it two of the very latter years just because we wanted to utilize the water right. Mr. Brauer stated that it prompted a lot of questions such as "if we haven't used the water right, do we really need it". Mr. Brauer stated that the immediate reaction is that the North Platte River is an over-adjudicated river, and the last thing we want to do is give up water rights. Mr. Brauer stated that there are other people that are interested in this water right.

Mr. Brauer stated that as part of this process, a lot of discussions took place and he realized that for a lot of years they have never really looked at our Water Resources Master Plan. Mr. Brauer stated that there has been a lot of Master Planning on the WTP, tanks, pipes, etc., but a Water Resources Master Plan is where you evaluate what water rights we have, and when they may be subject to some problems. Mr. Brauer stated that "gold platted" water rights are Pathfinder or before, which is a 1904 priority date. Mr. Brauer stated that the Upper Rock Creek Reservoir is a pre-1904 water right. Mr. Brauer stated that those are almost bulletproof water rights. Mr. Brauer stated that he believes that the Alcova Reservoir is 1935 or 1936. Mr. Brauer stated that there are these different water rights that are staged down depending on time. Mr. Brauer stated that ultimately for the Regional Water System, which did not exist in 1988, the City of Casper was trying to figure out how to manage, and what kind of water rights we have.

Mr. Brauer stated that today, member entities have provided water rights to the Regional Water System Board to utilize. Mr. Brauer stated that the City of Casper has retained their water rights in their name, but they're allowed to be

used by Regional Water. Mr. Brauer stated that it is the same thing with Wardwell and the Salt Creek Joint Powers Board. Mr. Brauer stated that he thinks it is very important, because we think of Regional Water as being the administrator of water for all the Regional entities, to know how much water we have and what it looks like.

Mr. Brauer stated that Cheyenne has some interest in this water because part of their water comes from the Colorado River Basin. Mr. Brauer stated that as part of their basin transfer, they would like some water rights on the North Platte River in Semino and Alcova, so they are very interested in these water rights as well.

Mr. Brauer stated that he is not here to say that we should relinquish those water rights, because he does not think we should. Mr. Brauer stated that he thinks we need to look at what our water rights portfolio does look like. Mr. Brauer stated that when you look at a water rights portfolio, you want a very broad portfolio, and you want a portfolio that will last you decades because they are not going to make any more water rights on the North Platte River.

Mr. Brauer stated that he believes we need to move forward with a Water Resources Master Plan. Mr. Brauer stated that there has been a lot of debate and discussion on whether this should be a City of Casper issue. Mr. Brauer stated that he thinks it really should be a Regional Water issue because Regional Water provides the water to all the entities that are represented here today and not just the City of Casper. Mr. Brauer stated that the City of Casper has the preponderance of the water rights that are utilized by Regional Water. Mr. Brauer stated that the WTP doesn't mean a hill of beans if we don't have the water rights to feed the water to the WTP. Mr. Brauer stated that he really wants to proceed with a Water Resources Master Plan that looks at what our portfolio looks like, what our risks are.

Mr. Brauer stated that the meeting he attended on Friday included Mike Purcell and Jeff Fassett, who were two members of what was called the Gang of Six that helped settle the Wyoming v. Nebraska lawsuit. Mr. Brauer stated that they reminded him that Casper and the Regional Water System are in the sweet spot on the North Platte River, where the Bureau of Reclamation, during irrigation season, is transferring large amounts of water down to Glendo. Mr. Brauer stated that they told him that there had never been a call on the river for Casper during the irrigation season. Mr. Brauer stated that he doesn't have any proof of that, but he trusts those two sources very well.

Mr. Brauer stated that he is proposing that Regional Water help fund the Water Resources Master Plan. Mr. Brauer stated that this is not part of the budgets, and we will have to bring forward a budget amendment, a scope of services, a proposal, and the fees for doing the Water Resources Master Plan. Mr. Brauer stated that he is anticipating getting a scope of services from HDR Engineering because they have done the vast majority of our water rights work over the years, and they are looking very closely at that. Mr. Brauer stated that he would bring forward an agreement to the Board for the Water Resources Master Plan. Mr.

Brauer stated it is his recommendation that we move forward with this as it is a part and parcel of the foundation of this facility as if we don't have the supply, the Master Plan for this plant, the transmission and storage, and pumping doesn't mean a lot if we don't have the water to put in the system.

Mr. Brauer stated that is his proposal, and he wanted to solicit some input from the Board to see if everyone thinks it is a good idea, and if so, they will proceed with working on the scope and getting a fee proposal. Mr. Brauer stated that this will be a risk assessment for if there is an extended drought, when we will be at risk of not having enough water, and ultimately, what will the long-range look like, 20, 50, 100 years down the road, will there be enough water. Mr. Brauer stated that if the City and region continue to grow, there will be a point where we will have to decide what to do to provide water. Mr. Brauer stated that if it looks like we will need more water rights, we can be out there looking and trying to assess where water rights are available.

Vice-Chairman North asked that with the growth of Casper, why would the City sell those water rights to Cheyenne. Mr. Brauer stated that in his opinion and per Mike Purcell, he stated that Cheyenne could use them on a temporary use basis, but do not sell them. Mr. Brauer stated that he told them at the meeting that his first responsibility is to the City of Casper and Regional Water, but his second responsibility is to the State of Wyoming, and if they can be used with a temporary water use agreement that would allow Cheyenne to use them, that is good for the State and it beats them going down the river to Nebraska, or sitting in Alcova.

Board Member Sabrosky asked if you can sub-lease water rights. Mr. Brauer stated that it is a temporary water use agreement. Mr. Brauer stated that is part of the ongoing contract negotiations with the Bureau of Reclamation, to make sure we have the ability to do that. Mr. Brauer stated that the other thing that is interesting with the Casper-Alcova Irrigation District is the City of Casper had to pay for the lining of those ditches, and then they had to pay their pro-rata share of maintenance. Mr. Brauer stated that there is a cost each year. Mr. Brauer stated that it cost \$2 M to line the ditches to start with. Mr. Martin stated that Casper's total investment was \$4 M. Mr. Brauer stated that it was a significant cost, so the idea being if someone else can use the water rights when we aren't, they can help carry that cost.

Board Member Bond asked if all the water rights that Regional Water uses are owned by the City of Casper, or if there are other entity owned water rights that are used as well. Mr. Brauer stated that of the ones that he knows of, Casper is the preponderance, because this was a Casper water plant before Regional Water, and then when certain member entities came in, Wardwell and Salt Creek, and they had water rights, they are used by Regional Water. Board Member Bond asked if that is all of them. Mr. Brauer stated that is all that he is aware of.

Mr. Brauer stated that Mr. Martin brought to his attention that there was a previous Water Resources Master Plan from 1993. Mr. Martin stated that it was

from 1992 and Chairman Bertoglio is aware of something that was done in the early 2000's. Chairman Bertoglio stated that he brought all of his papers, but Mr. Fassett did a study in 2001. Chairman Bertoglio stated that the only thing that has changed since then is Upper Rock Creek Reservoir was added. Chairman Bertoglio stated that Mr. Fassett already has all the basic water right information available so he won't have to reinvent the wheel.

Mr. Brauer stated that he believes it is very important to update this because the other thing that has happened since the early 2000's was the Wyoming v. Nebraska settlement. Mr. Brauer stated that as part of the settlement, the Pathfinder Modification Project was done and the trade was the Deer Creek Reservoir was not built out by Glenrock, which had a 1985 priority right. Mr. Brauer stated that when they moved the right to Pathfinder, it changed it to a 1904 water right.

Board Member Sabrosky stated that we could go ten years and double the town. Board Member Sabrosky stated that a long-term risk for temporary water use agreements for financial gain is that if we try to get the right back after a long time and it puts a community at risk and it goes to court, the judge will side with the other community. Board Member Sabrosky stated that he thinks it is a good idea to go forward with the Water Resource Master Plan.

Board Member Pollock stated that she agrees we need to move forward as well as she thinks it will be beneficial to the Board when making decisions.

Chairman Bertoglio stated that there have been a few things have changed since 2001, such as the Amoco water rights associated with the Refinery, and Upper Rock Creek Reservoir. Chairman Bertoglio stated that the City paid a lot for Upper Rock Creek Reservoir, but it is mostly iced over when the water is needed. Chairman Bertoglio stated that we will need to go to Congress to get a storage right so we can use the water when needed or sell it. Chairman Bertoglio stated that there are many things that a Water Resource Master Plan could do, such as giving the Board some direction on some actions that could be taken.

Mr. Brauer stated that something he thought about during his drive back to Casper from Cheyenne is all the water users along the North Platte River and if there is one community that is hoarding water when some other community could use it. Mr. Brauer asked if there could be a Water Users Consortium where they talk about what everyone's water rights look like and how if one of these members are in a bind and another member is sitting on an abundance of water rights, does it make sense to do a temporary use agreement. Mr. Brauer stated that Mr. Purcell stated that the potential that Cheyenne and Casper share this water right with Casper-Alcova Irrigation District, the risk of both of them needing it in the same year is infinitesimal because rarely do you have a problem in the Colorado River basin that you have in the North Platte River basin. Mr. Brauer stated that we need to have a good amount of time dedicated to some workshops on the water rights to make sure that we have enough water for the future.

Chairman Bertoglio stated that if Mr. Fassett works on the this, it is incredible the amount of knowledge that he has regarding the North Platte River system. Chairman Bertoglio stated that everything we have is connected to the North Platte River. Chairman Bertoglio stated that there are other things out there that have been looked at that are not connected to the North Platte River.

Chairman Bertoglio asked the Board if they would like Mr. Brauer to bring a scope of services and fees forward for the Water Resource Master Plan.

Board Member Sutherland stated that this is something that the Board must have done in order to move forward.

Treasurer Cathey asked if a motion is needed, or just a consensus. Chairman Bertoglio stated that only a consensus of the Board is needed at this time.

It was the consensus of the Board that a scope of services, agreement, fees, and budget amendment for the Water Resource Master Plan be brought forward for consideration by the Board.

Mr. Brauer stated that it will take six to nine months to have the Water Resource Master Plan completed. Chairman Bertoglio stated that most of the work has already been done and information is already gathered.

Board Member Bond asked if part of the Master Plan would be considering whether Regional Water should own the water rights instead of the entities. Mr. Brauer stated that they had not anticipated that. Mr. Brauer stated that when Regional Water was formed the water rights were not transferred.

Secretary Waters stated that just for clarification for him, the City did not transfer water rights to Regional Water when it was formed, and all the water rights are utilized by Regional Water, but the water rights belong to the City of Casper. Mr. Brauer stated that Wardwell and Salt Creek Joint Powers Board also own a portion of the water rights utilized by Regional Water. Treasurer Cathey stated that he believed Bar Nunn has some water rights that will be utilized as well. Mr. Brauer stated that the water rights did belong to Wardwell, but now that Wardwell is dissolved, the water rights belong to Bar Nunn.

Chairman Bertoglio stated that part of the Amoco water rights is co-owned between the City and the County. Chairman Bertoglio stated that the Amoco water rights are huge, around 10,500 acre-feet or more. Mr. Martin stated that there was a decision on the Amoco water rights with some coming to the City of Casper.

Board Member Sabrosky stated that was an interesting point, and asked if Bar Nunn had some water rights prior to Wardwell dissolving. Chairman Bertoglio stated that Wardwell and Mills shared some water rights, and when they split when Wardwell joined Regional Water, he believes the water rights were split 50/50.

Chairman Bertoglio stated that Regional Water does own some very junior water rights from 1995 – 1997.

Mr. Brauer stated that years ago Wardwell and Mills had an Impact Joint Powers Board, but then when Wardwell decided to join Regional Water, they split. Mr. Brauer stated that he believes Brooks Water and Sewer District used to serve Pioneer Water. Mr. Brauer stated that even more years ago, Paradise Valley had their own water system.

Board Member Sabrosky asked how long Evansville and Mills water systems will last. Board Member Sabrosky stated that he assumed that sometime in the future they would need to join Regional Water and asked if their water rights are valuable enough to bring them into the system and cover a plant expansion to handle it. Mr. Brauer stated that they do have some water rights of value. Mr. Brauer stated that in the old days Evansville used to be fed off Elkhorn Creek. Mr. Brauer stated that when the Mills Wardwell Impact Joint Powers Board Plant was built, they transferred water rights from a ranch down in Douglas that was the Cannon Land and Livestock Ranch. Mr. Brauer stated that Cannon Land and Livestock sold off all their water rights, which he believes were territorial. Mr. Brauer stated that Mills does have a very senior water right on the river, and they have some groundwater rights from the 1960's and 1970's.

Board Member Sabrosky stated that he can understand why Mills and Evansville chose not to join Regional Water in the beginning as they would have had to give up control of the water, and no one wants to give up control of anything. Board Member Sabrosky stated that he has followed governmental stuff for a while, and it is mind numbing how much waste and inefficiency there is in government. Board Member Sabrosky stated that this place, Regional Water, with the Board and staff is an efficient machine. Board Member Sabrosky stated that the Board is given great information down to the penny for what this place needs. Board Member Sabrosky stated that the fear of giving up control has proved there should be no fear as it is well taken care of.

9. In the Chairman's Report, Chairman Bertoglio stated that the next Regular Meeting will be held on August 20, 2024, and asked that if any Board Member will be unable to attend the meeting, to let Ms. Brown know.

Mr. Schwarzrock asked when he would officially be on the Board as the representative for Bar Nunn, as he thought it was supposed to happen at today's meeting. Chairman Bertoglio stated that the Board is still waiting on the RWS entities to approve and sign the Joint Powers Agreement so it could be sent to the State for approval.

Vice-Chairman North stated that the County voted on the Agreement at their meeting last night. Secretary Waters stated that Pioneer would be considering the Agreement at their meeting tonight. Board Member Sutherland stated that he believes the Agreement is on the agenda for the Salt Creek Joint Powers Board meeting tomorrow night.

A motion was made by Secretary Waters and s	seconded by Vice-Chairman North to adjourn the
meeting at 12:24 p.m. Motion put and carried.	
Paul C. Bertoglio Chairman	Segretary L Walto