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WATER RESOURCES  
WESTERN REGION

**Water District 55B**

**Annual Meeting Minutes**

**March 18, 2025**

**Pleasant Valley School**

All in attendance: Forest Fretwell, Doug Rutan, Tara Echave, Wyatt Stanford, Dennis Stanford, Kenny Kershner, Bryce Kershner, Josh Bruce, Teo Maestrejuan, Tal Troutman, Tyler Johnson and Mike Hanley. IDWR representatives were Nick Miller and Jes Erling.

At 6:05 p.m. the annual meeting was called to order by Nick Miller. Josh Bruce moved to nominate Nick Miller as the meeting chair and Wyatt Stanford seconded. Nomination passed. Dennis Stanford moved to have Tara Echave serve as the meeting secretary and Wyatt Stanford seconded. Nomination passed.

Nick Miller provided background information... in summary: In 2022, Justin Shearer helped Forest get a measuring device; a few others as well. In 2023, a \$2,000 budget was adopted, of which only \$1,000 was collected. In late 2023, Justin took a new job and in 2024, Jared Adamson was to take over for Justin as watermaster/treasurer, then Jared left IDWR, leaving the watermaster position vacant for the district. Nick said he was remiss about reappointing and sending out assessments. At the end of July/early August, Teo called and said he was running out of water. Nick came out a couple of times and took measurements. Today Jes Erling is here from IDWR to be the new watermaster. He has a good background for the job and is very knowledgeable, able to take on this job and do it right. The purpose of the meeting today is to look over resolutions adopted last year, elect a watermaster and adopt a budget as the department is still providing watermaster services.

2024 meeting minutes were presented and looked over by all in attendance. Dennis made a motion to approve the 2024 minutes. Josh seconded. Motion passed.

Nick presented the Treasurer's report. Last year we didn't take any money in or pay any money out; however, the bank took various fees throughout the year. Currently, there is \$748.87 available.

Nick gave the watermaster report stating that US Bank in Homedale will not work with him as Justin's name is still on the account. Nick has tried repeatedly to fix this issue to no avail...very frustrating. The group is losing money from monthly bank fees, which is also frustrating and certainly not what the money was intended for. Furthermore, there are issues regarding the water in late summer. Nick said we need to collect data so that we know when each water source dries up; we need to document water so that there is research to show why we may be shutting people off. People need to also be notified ahead of time. Treating people fairly is key. Teo added to this that he doesn't know what to do with users who won't communicate. He has made multiple attempts to contact some users and has gotten no response. His concern is that nothing gets done and people are not working together. Nick said he came to Jordan Valley last summer and took measurements at Gluch's (roughly 1.5) and Guzmans (roughly 6.5). Below Gluch's, the measurement was 5.5. These measurements may not be totally accurate, and the fact that some users push up big berms

to collect water at depth for their pumps, some water comes back into the system and some water is return flow, etc. It is tough to figure out accurately how much water is really there at a given time.

In the review of 2025 proposed resolutions, budget, vote to adopt, amend or reject, #6-Treasurer duties. The problems (taking fees and not working with us after Justin Shearer left) are an issue. A motion to adopt the following resolution was made by Doug Rutan and seconded by Wyatt Stanford: Close the US Bank account in Homedale. Motion passed. Remove Justin Shearer and put the watermaster and treasurer as Jes Erling, in charge of the account and refund all remaining monies to those that originally paid into the account.

#10-The group decided the budget for 2025 should be zero dollars; nobody will be charged. Dennis made the motion; Wyatt seconded it. Motion passed.

#12-Appoint Jes Erling as watermaster. Dennis made the motion; Wyatt seconded it. Motion passed.

#11-Change Rob Mullener of DeLamar Mine to Doug Rutan of Integra DeLamar Mine. Dennis made the motion; Wyatt seconded it. Motion passed.

In open discussion, Nick asked what we can do better. Work together was discussed at length. Josh said he gets his hay up early, so when Teo is haying, Josh can use the water. This type of relationship works well; if more users worked together, we could better use the water for all users to benefit. The group discussed meeting later this spring and looking at each other's water issues to see how places and properties can work together better. Some said they were not in favor of the meters. Dennis said his water is mostly gravity and a flow meter would just fill with sand and wash out. Jes said there are better measuring devices that are easy to put in and take out as well as use. Getting Jes on a regular schedule to collect data would help find answers to solve some water issues possibly. Gathering inventory and data is important. Tal said cutting down the tree and decreasing shade will affect the water as well.

Next year's meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2026, at Pleasant Valley School at 6:00 p.m.

At 7:10, Wyatt made a motion to adjourn, and Dennis seconded. Motion passed.