

TRANQUILLO PINES WATER USERS CO-OP
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Meeting minutes for TPWUC Special Member Meeting February 6, 2025

The meeting called to order at 6 pm in the Gym at Los Vecinos Community Center

77 members in attendance

Board members in attendance

Gary Ashcraft, President

Richard Rondeau, Vice President

Carl Walker, Secretary/Treasure

Harvy Peel, Member

Chuck Davidson, Member

Special Guest County Commissioner Olivas

Gary Ashcraft called the meeting to order and recognized a quorum of the membership present. The meeting started with a discussion of our efforts for leak detection. We began to experience leaks on November 1, 2023. The wells could not keep up with the leak rate. We have been using the isolation tests trying to locate leaks. Gary gave a description of how the isolation tests work and how they have evolved over time.

Gary contacted the New Mexico Environment Department to engage with their new program Hydro Delta Project. This project works with satellite technology to locate leaks in the system. On October 21, 2024 the director of the program along with several support staff came to our office. They had several locations, identified by satellite, as potential leak sites. We visited these locations but results were inconclusive. Nonetheless we will keep these locations on our radar. We have solicited the use of other technologies as well including various "listening" devices and drone flights.

The January cold snap was devastating to the water system. We had 10 reported frozen meters with 9 needing to be replaced. We had 6-member side leaks resulting from frozen pipes with estimated losses of 6000-12000 gallons each.

Jack Sanders-Reed presented the Coops efforts in monitoring water supply, demand, and shortfalls from numerous isolation tests. Isolation tests will continue as needed.

Delinquent member accounts are up to \$21,000. The board is renewing efforts to collect from unpaid accounts by issuing timely disconnect notices and follow-up.

Management restructuring continues to reduce cost, however, water hauling has had the opposite effect. A 25% increase in assessments will be put into effect immediately to offset the cost of hauling water.

Three of the four wells have consistently been reporting high fluoride levels. Elevated Fluoride levels can put certain populations at risk. The board is recommending those populations use bottled water for drinking and cooking. We have an ongoing effort with NMED to find solutions and funding.

After a discussion of pros/cons of becoming a mutual domestic Commissioner Olivas commented there was only so much assistance the state could give a private entity without violating the Anti-Donation clause (Article IX, Section 14 of the state constitution) and acknowledged a difficult decision facing the membership. A show of hands from the membership directed the board to further investigate and prepare documents for member review in preparation for a vote to reorganize as a Mutual Domestic to be held at the 2025 Annual General Meeting. The board unanimously supported the reorganization effort.

Meeting was adjourned by Gary Ashcraft at 8:00pm

How can you get involved?

The Board has a call out for volunteers with knowledge of Accounting, Civil/Electrical Engineering, and Water Law. If you would like to volunteer please reach out to the Coop office.