

Mason County PUD 1
Public Meeting- Canal Mutual Water System
November 4, 2011

The public meeting for the Canal Mutual Water System for Public Utility District No. 1 of Mason County was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on November 4, 2011 at the Mason County Fire District No. 1 Fire Hall.

Present

Ron Gold – President
Karl Denison – Secretary
Jack Janda – Vice President
Rob Johnson – District Counsel
Steven Taylor- General Manager
Jocelyne Gray- Director of Operations-Water
Kristin Masteller- HR/Communications/Exec. Asst.

Visitors (see attached roster)

Riqui Sedoris Lauren (Mike) Danforth
John Haas Leo Morand
Renee Menig
Carol Heminger
Dan Bolender
Dan Adams
Jerry Eckenrode

Steve thanked the public for attending and gave an overview of the purpose of the public meeting. Jocelyne gave a brief history of how PUD 1 came to acquire the Canal Mutual Water System and the existing agreements between that entity and the PUD upon acquisition. She also discussed the improvements that the utility has made to the system since the acquisition, the process for approving connections through the Department of Health and the capacity of the system as it currently stands.

Two existing water connections are available and the PUD is seeking input on the most fair and equitable way to allocate those two connections. The list provided to PUD 1 was in alphabetical order based on last names and only denotes which lot owners are exempt from system development fees. The list did not establish any sort of priority for hook-ups. The PUD needs to establish a priority for current owners who desire a connection.

Jocelyne estimated the engineering cost of all the improvements. Steve stated that owner-paid system improvements may be a viable option for owners who are not selected for the two existing options.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- ***Allocations should be made based on longevity of ownership.***
- ***There was a question about the timeframe of approval by the DOH if improvements are made. Jocelyne stated that the timeframe depends on the weather allowing improvements to be made this winter.***
- ***A question was made about latecomers agreements. Steve stated that staff could recommend latecomers agreements to the board if someone decided to do major system improvements.***
- ***A suggestion was made for the PUD to look at the county's records to determine who has paid and applied for design approval for septic systems. Priority could be given based on the date of approval for the septic design. Mason County approved these***

Mason County PUD 1
Public Meeting- Canal Mutual Water System
November 4, 2011

permits and the lot owners were told at time of application that they had eligible water connections, which was not true and was refuted by the State Department of Health.

- *A suggestion was made that all members of Canal Mutual should bear the cost of the improvements.*
- *A suggestion was made to set priority based on the purchase date of the property by the current owner.*
- *Dan Bolender and Renee Menig stated that they felt that the Haas' should receive the first connection. They both stated that they also eventually want water.*
- *A suggestion was made to take a hybrid approach of spreading the costs of the improvements amongst all 51 connections on the system and then take the five that have the septic and/or design approval and use the lottery method with them to establish priority. He said that improvements would benefit the entire community.*
- *Right now, the two connections are immediately available. If owners make the improvements, more connections will eventually be available.*
- *There have been issues in the past which pose a slight risk of the DOH making changes to the regulations, which over any kind of time span, could lead to the improvements not being approved in the end. Rob stated this is a low likelihood, but is still a possibility.*
- *A suggestion was made that there should be some priority given to people who have no water before it is given to people that are trying to hook up their second lots.*
- *A suggestion was made that the PUD borrow the funds to upgrade the entire system and that the costs for this be spread out in the base charge to either all Canal Mutual customers, or to the second group of Canal Mutual customers who haven't had water connections before.*
- *A comment was made that the people who have not been hooked up have not been paying into the system fund, so those that have been paying all this time may not be happy with having to pay more for these non-payers to connect.*
- *Maybe implement an additional connection fee for the previous non-payers.*
- *Steve reiterated that PUD's priority is to address the two available connections and one possibility is prioritizing the five lots with approved septic designs based on the date of their septic approval. The remaining people would be lottery picked on a priority list.*
- *The PUD will need to do another search for parcels to determine who all wants to be on the list.*

Public Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Ron Gold – President

Karl Denison –Secretary

Jack Janda - Vice President