

President's Report

The previous fiscal year was one of many reports, and the Board members and other volunteers stepped in to fill the gap, so thank you to everyone that contributed. As we all may or may not know, as regulations change regarding rural water companies changes, it is generally with new or more stringent requirements. This is in an effort by the County and/or State to ensure that everyone has safe drinking water.

In this effort, with more stringent requirements and/or enforcement, H&J has awarded employment to a new water operations company, Tim Guishard Enterprises, which has many years of experience in the area of compliance, both new and existing.

With experience and competence comes cost, and so expenses have increased. These expenses are an investment in the community's future. It is of the opinion that this can't be kicked down the road - at some point this needs to be addressed, and what better time than now.

The company has also been challenged by multiple failures of aging infrastructure, which should be expected in a system of this age. The company has had to perform excavations to locate wires and cables, replace critical components, repair pipe leaks, and remedy long-standing issues that were previously addressed through manual operation and intervention. Much of this remediation has been through volunteer work, which is arguably not tenable.

The Company has also been challenged by the loss of several Board members, notably 2 Secretaries. In my opinion, this is a signal that volunteers are in short supply, and any volunteers are appreciated.

The company has been challenged by financial constraints of the issues mentioned above. To this end, the Board has universally decided to decline stipends to Board members from the Company. In addition, because of the need to address both emergency repairs and deferred maintenance (meaning upgrades for end of life equipment and systems), the Company savings account has been impacted.

One can refer to the 2024 President's Report regarding aging infrastructure. The existing system remains in place operating as intended with quality water being provided. This was facilitated by an experienced water operator that understands the fundamentals of water treatment, and the funds intended to replace the existing system were instead diverted to the experienced operator.

Further efforts, forward-looking rather than reactive, have been taken to improve infrastructure. The Board has applied to multiple grants from the State and the County to improve the reliability and quality of the water that is available to the community. These take time, however the progress in the process is occurring. For example, an emergency generator for Well #2, which

is the primary source of water for the community, will be acquired from a grant awarded from Supervisor Joel Anderson.

We have had two work days this past year, and thank you to everyone that attended (especially prior to the inspection). This avoids the cost of an additional party to come in and resolve issues and I and the Company hope to see everyone participating in the future as you have in the past.

Regards,

Peter Girten