

Blue Ridge Domestic Water Improvement District (BRDWID)
Summarized Record of Water Rate Hearing
August 7, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.
Starlight Pines Community Center, 2740 Arapaho Drive, Happy Jack, AZ 86024
Call-in number: 630-424-4734; Toll free 800-920-7487, Pin 76217278

1. Call to order, Roll Call, and Quorum

Chairperson John Ritter called the Water Rate Hearing to order at 9:00 a.m.

Board Members Present: John Ritter, Ronald Krug, Sue Davis, and Michael Bourne were present in person.

Board Members Absent: Paul Schmidt was absent.

Quorum: Chairperson John Ritter determined that four of five Board Members present constituted a quorum to conduct business.

Others Present in Person per Attendance Sign-In Sheets:

Dave & Suzi Janecke, SP Lot 409

Mary Colbert, SP Lot 410

Dave Wang, PC Lot 80

Dave Lutz, SP Lot 341

Randy & Susan Wood, SPR, Lot 34

Jeri & Laird Mason, SP, Lot 342

Pam & Tom Overlay, SPR, Lot 64

Don Wetter, SP, Lot 608

Steve Yeary, SP, Lot 351

Naila Erwin, SP, Lot 407

Frank & Pam Perno, SP, Lots 319 & 320

David Peters, SPR, Lot 16

Rick Richter, SPR, Lot 47

Kirby Wisgerhof, SPR, Lot 41

Becky & Frank Pettit, SP Lot 366

Shannon Scott, SPR Lot 37

Dick Wheelock, SPR Lot 24

Joe Graham, SP Lot 1

Richard Holdsworth, SP Lot 400

Bob Marley, SP Lot 211

Lee-Ann McCoy, SP Lot 213

Cassie Langford, BRE Lots 38 & 193

Karen Noblitt, TP, Lot 34

Rosey & Jack Trummer, SPR Lot 69

Bert Stevenson, BRE, Lot 120


Catherine Rogers, BRE Lot 15

- 2.** Chairperson Ritter welcomed those in attendance and reported that on June 28, 2021, as required by Arizona Revised Statutes, he had notified Coconino County District 4 Supervisor Judy Begay that the Blue Ridge Domestic Water Improvement District (BRDWID) would be instituting a new water rate structure on October 1, 2021, and would be holding this hearing today to explain the new water rate schedule to district members and customers, receive input, and answer questions. The Board believed that the new water rates would encourage water conservation which is vital during this prolonged draught. Cards were available for attendees to write down their questions and comments to be handed to the meeting Chair.
- 3.** BRDWID Board Treasurer Michael Bourne presented a PowerPoint presentation beginning with the District's Mission "to assure safe and available water at the lowest possible cost to the Blue Ridge Community," followed by an overview of water system data, a budget plan, and current and proposed water rate schedules and their affect on customers.
- 4.** Chairperson Ritter opened the Hearing to comments and questions from Water District members and users in attendance in person or on the phone. Speaker cards were available at the sign-in table. The following questions and comments were documented. Answers from Board members are in parentheses.
- Will BRDWID sell water to the Forest Service to help fight fires? (Yes)
 - Did Starlight Water want to sell to a Domestic Water Improvement District? (That was their preference.) Is the sale final? (Not yet, we are only waiting for a few documents.)
 - Is BRDWID going to continue contracting with Southwestern Utility Management and is that contract in place? (We are waiting to receive final deliverables from SWUM to finalize an agreement.)
 - Why is BRDWID receiving initial operating capital from Starlight Water? (It is part of the agreed-to sale agreement. We will be operating on a cash basis and need initial operating funds).

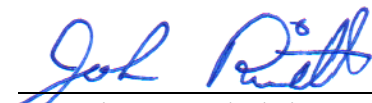
- How did BRDWID arrive at a base rate of \$47.00? A 47% increase of \$13.30 to the base rate is high. (The last rate hike was in 2003. In 5 of the last 6 years Starlight Water has recorded a loss. Rates support operations and build reserves.)
- Water bills should be emailed to customers. (Board will take under advisement.)
- A member expressed appreciation for all that the Steering Committee and Board had accomplished. (Thank you for your support.)
- Have any applicants responded to the job openings? (Not yet, but we are distributing the information statewide through advertising and networking.)
- Will Lee Thompson stay on? (Yes, Lee will stay on for a year to train new personnel and share his knowledge about the system.)
- What is the age of the underground water lines and what kind of pipe is it? (The oldest PVC pipe was installed in about 1988 in Starlight Pines.)
- What will be the charge for new water installations? (To be determined.)
- Are you going to install electronic meters eventually for all customers? Which community will be installed first?
- At the last Corporation Commission rate hearing in 2003, the Commission gave Starlight Water a higher rate increase than they asked for. (Local Blue Ridge decision-makers will make BRDWID rate decisions. We are having this Rate Hearing to gather input from our customers.)
- What is the amount of the WIFA Loan and for how long? (\$2.9M with \$400 thousand principal forgiveness. The loan is for 20 years.)
- What is the BRDWID website address? (BRDWID.org) It is not posted on the Tamarron Pines bulletin board.
- The Website subscriber link does not work for me. I have tried it three times. I never get an e-mail blast. (We will report that to the BRDWID Webmaster.)
- Send out the PowerPoint presentation. A 45% rate increase is \$13.30.
- Are all 4 wells working? (Yes, the Ranchettes did have a well down, but it has been fixed.)
- Can Blue Ridge property owners who do not claim Coconino County as their primary residence vote for the BRDWID Board and run for the Board? (Yet to be determined.)

8. Adjournment.

Chairperson Ritter thanked all for their questions and comments and adjourned the meeting at 9:57 a.m.


 Sue Davis, Board Secretary and Clerk
 Blue Ridge Domestic Water Improvement District

Prepared on August 16, 2021


 John Ritter, Board Chairperson
 Blue Ridge Domestic Water Improvement District

Board Accepted on: August 21, 2021