

*Alleghany County Water District General Manager (GM) Report August 2019*

- Weedeating at pumphouse: After I learned that this item was tabled at last month's meeting I contacted Tobyn to see if he knew of any volunteer labor available to get the job done. At that point it was overdue, so there was a time constraint and Tobyn was not able to find a volunteer. After that, I then went ahead and authorized Edward Snyder to do it at a rate of \$12 per hour plus \$3 per hour for the use of his weedeating equipment. I explained that this was a one-time deal until the board has time to come up with a long-term plan. The following day Edward notified me that his weedeater could not handle the blackberries that have grown up behind the pumphouse and he could not finish the job. I then asked Chris Coons if he could finish the job under the same terms, and he got it done. **I DO wish to point out that the request on last month's agenda did NOT represent an increase in the budget. For many years the district paid a \$250 flat-rate for this job. Now that the weedblock fabric is covering a significant part of the property it should cost less than \$250 even at \$15 an hour. The cost to do this is already built into our adopted budget.** I agree that if we can find volunteers to do this in the future that would be great but we need to get commitments in advance. We can discuss the long-term plan with the budget adoption in September.
- Labor Compliance, related to the topic above: I put in an inquiry to the labor compliance attorney asking about the rules regarding having an employee use their own equipment and about the legality of paying a flat-rate for certain jobs. The attorney's fees for this will be billed to the tank project because it does relate to using our own labor for State Funded jobs. I did learn that minimum wage is \$12 an hour for employers with 26 or more employees and \$11 an hour for employers with 25 or less (such as ACWD). In January of 2020 it will change to \$12 an hour for smaller employers.
- Website Our free 15 months of website service expired last month. The cost to keep the site is \$300 per year. I did extensive research on this prior to getting the site and this is by far the best deal I found anywhere. As of January of this year special districts are required by State law to have a website, so this will have to be incorporated into the final budget to be adopted in Sept. I would like to authorize Edda to pay the bill now so that it will not incur any late fees. The payment would then be on the August treasurer's report for board ratification. If anybody objects to this bill being paid they should speak up at the August meeting and we can put it on the Sept. agenda for further discussion, otherwise I will assume that it is OK to pay it. (I don't see that we have much choice but to pay it) **Yes, this does represent a budget increase. DARN IT!**

## **State Revolving Fund (SRF) Projects Update:**

For ACWD BOD Meeting Date: 8/13/19 Prepared by Rae Bell

**The second quarter reports for both the Planning Project and the Tank Project were submitted to the State in July. If anybody wants a copy please let me know.**

### **Planning Project**

Budget Up to \$500,000 amount billed through 5/31/19 \$357,300 Budget remaining: \$142,700

We finally gave up on the environmental consultant that we thought was going to work out. Kip has contacted another firm but as of this writing they have not committed to the job or provided a quote.

Our State Funding Division Rep: Gary Chan is supposed to be preparing a time-extension request for the project.

### **Tank Project**

Budget: Up to \$900,000 amount billed through 6/30/19 \$811,249 The two change orders below combined = \$51,804 which will bring the billed amount to \$863,053 leaving approx \$36,900 to cover the remaining engineering work/administration plus the small shelter for the pressure switch at the water tank. Barring any unforeseen circumstances we should be able to finish on time and under budget.

- The contract for the vents was finally executed on July 30th. The contract states that the job must be “substantially completed” by Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>. The entire job needs to be finished no later than Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. Contract amount: \$33,592.30
- Emergency expenditure This is official notification to the ACWD board of directors under PCC 22050 that on July 25<sup>th</sup> I requested having the control panel for the pumps added to the tank construction project as an “emergency item” justified by the facts that: 1. The pumps are not rotating properly which is critical to keep them from burning out. 2. The district cannot wait for the future construction project to do this. 3. The district does not have the funds to do this work on its own. Contract amount \$18,211.69. Contract executed on July 26, 2019
- Both jobs above were registered with the Dept. of Industrial relations as required on July 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Tank Leak, Thompson tank is planning on fixing the leak when they are here to install the vents.
- Shelter for pressure switch at tank site: We need to find a contractor willing to build this. I asked Derek the carpenter who recently put new railings on the deck at Casey’s Place but he had to turn it down because of the time-constraints we are under. As of this writing I have not found a contractor willing to do it. If anybody has ideas please let either Bruce or me know.

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