

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS EMERGENCY SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM ~ Sunday, January 14, 2024, 7:30 p.m.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Via Zoom: Michael Arion, Dan Graff, Sara Grigsby, Angie Kimpo, Kelly Piper.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: District Manager Ana Linden, District Clerk Heather McGivney, Assistant District Clerk Lynda Ronell, Utility Workers Alivia Pence and Steve Young, DRC David Jacob

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT: None

This emergency meeting was called in response to a community-wide weather event that included very strong winds, sub-zero freezing temperatures, snow, and ice resulting in multiple systemic problems. The meeting's purpose was to catch up Board Members and Staff on the events of the weekend of January 12 – 14, 2024 and coordinate the ongoing response into the work week.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order – After technical difficulties, the meeting was called to order at approximately 8:00pm. Heather McGivney read the agenda: District Manager Ana Linden would give a rundown of events since the freeze began on Friday, January 12, 2024; then Board Members could ask questions; and then we would talk about next steps going into the week.

2. Update from District Manager Ana Linden – Ana began by thanking Board Members for their support, both their well wishes and the boots-on-the-ground help. She also thanked staff for their continued efforts. Her rundown of events is as follows:

- On Friday David Jacobs and Ana were at the office to compile information for a report about a meter at the treatment plant reservoir. They began to get notices about the telemetry at the Larch Mountain Reservoir. They said that the level transducer was saying that the water level was off and not reading correctly. They decided to keep working and check out the reservoir afterwards. Then they began to get alarms that the flow telemetry was off. They went to the reservoir and unplugged the transducer, which restored the flow telemetry. Then the raw flow inlet meter, which measures the amount of water coming into the system began to malfunction, which caused the inlet valve to open all the way. This caused a high turbidity alarm, which activated the raw water bypass. David decided it would be best to call our On Call worker, Alivia Pence to check it out. As they were driving to the treatment plant in our dump truck with the snow plow, they got stuck in a drift of snow. Our other Utility Worker, Steve Young, went up

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there in his personal vehicle, and rescued them. They turned the raw inlet valve to manual operation and throttled it so that it wasn't wide open.

- On Saturday, at around 9:30am, we received a high flow alarm (over 1500 gallons per minute) out of the reservoir at the treatment plant. Ana began monitoring our SCADA information from her home, finding that all reservoirs seemed fine, the flow out of Larch Mountain reservoir was normal, the levels at Cabbage Hill, Louden, and Mershon seemed normal. However, the high flow didn't go down significantly, which indicated a leak somewhere before the Larch Mountain and Louden reservoirs, because they were not responding in the same way. Then the power went out at Larch Mountain reservoir, which meant that they couldn't monitor the level or flow out. David was dealing with problems at his other water districts, so they consulted him via phone. Steve, Alivia, and Ana took the other work truck to the treatment plant, looking for a leak on the way up Larch Mountain Rd, but they got stuck very near where the other truck was stranded. Simultaneously, the level at Cabbage Hill reservoir began to go down, indicating that it was frozen. This happened last year, and they took measures to prevent the problem from recurring, but it still froze. They needed to bring a generator to Cabbage Hill. After hiking back from where the truck was stuck, it was quite late, so Ana decided to bring the generator on Sunday. After they drove Alivia home (since her On Call vehicle was stuck) Ana and Steve discovered what appeared to be a very large leak on Pounder which was creating a very large ice sheet. Steve and Ana struggled to find a valve so that they could turn off that part of the system, and finally used a valve at the office to turn off service to Evans and Pounder. They left CWD at about 9:00pm.
- On Sunday, the level at the Larch Mountain reservoir was still going down, and they hadn't seen a leak on their way to the treatment plant on Saturday. In consultation with David, Ana decided to send an IVR, an automated phone call, to warn customers that our water supply was getting low. The call advised customers to fill up containers of drinking water, to fill their bathtub to allow for flushing toilets, and how to boil water during a power outage. Assistant Clerk Angela Bowman came in to assist with answering phone calls and the IVR. Steve, Alivia, and David were there to try to solve the system problems. The power at the office was out, but they managed to work with generator power for about 3 hours, after which the internet and wifi were not consistent. They were able to get some information out to customers, including notice to customers on Evans and Pounder about their water service being shut off. Steve went to the treatment plant with a friend to try to get the stranded trucks. They rescued the regular work truck, which contained essential supplies and the generator for Cabbage Hill reservoir. They had been communicating with emergency management from Multnomah County and Portland Water Bureau, who had already been talking to Corbett Fire District about setting up a warming shelter. They began triaging to try to solve some of the water district problems. Ana then opened the floor for questions.

3. Questions from Board Members – Angie Kimpo and Kelly Piper reported that they had been working with county and state agencies to coordinate help. Kelly was contacted by Jeff Martin from the Health Department, who offered to help with customer communication. At

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this point it was decided that we can handle communication, but it might behoove us to see if he's got any pre-prepared information.

- Kelly acknowledged the IVR to customers telling them that we were losing 1300 gallons of water per minute, and asked if that is still the status? Ana responded no. She and David finally made it to Larch Mountain reservoir, from which they haven't had data since Saturday. David found that the overflow was releasing a large amount of water. They determined that the control valve was frozen in the open position. This could be the primary explanation for our large amounts of water loss. They returned to the office to look at plans and try to find a valve that they could throttle to at least slow the water loss. David and Alivia returned to the reservoir. Around this time, former District Manager Jeff Busto called David to offer help. Jeff told them the location of the valve, so they could throttle it. As Steve was freeing the work truck, Emergency Management passed him and they plowed Donohue Road, which made rescuing the dump truck possible. Kelly clarified that the large loss of water was not a leak, but was in fact this massive overflow because of the frozen control valve, and asked if the problem was solved? Ana replied that the problem is triaged (the throttled valve), but not solved, because the control valve is still frozen open. We are monitoring SCADA. However, since the power is out in Corbett, they can only monitor SCADA at home.
- There are two places that are without water: customers on Evans and Pounder who are downstream from the valve closure at the shop, the second is unconfirmed because no one has called us, but the customers served by the Cabbage Hill reservoir may be without water because the reservoir is empty. If they are not without water completely, they probably have very low pressure and we will need to issue a boil water notice.
- Kelly then asked a question about whether Corbett School is without water. Ana hadn't heard about that. Sara Grigsby jumped in to say that she had talked to Corbett Schools Superintendent Derek Fialkiewicz today, who is wondering if all of the Corbett school locations have water so that they can resume school on Tuesday. Ana responded that we have no way of knowing if a particular place has water unless CWD has had a request to turn off a particular customer's home, or if they have shut off a valve that isolates an area, like on Evans and Pounder. She is unaware of any valves that have been shut off that would affect the schools, except for their irrigation line on Evans. Angie Kimpo mentioned that she had coincidentally spoken with someone who lives across the street from the school, and they have water. Ana reiterated that we have no reason to believe that they don't have water, and school employees should physically check each location to see if they have water, because there is no way for us to know remotely. Ana also speculated that if they don't have water, it could be because of frozen pipes on their end. Sara responded that she would call Derek to inform him that the schools would need to check each facility.
- Angie Kimpo said that on Sunday she had made a request to Multnomah County for help. This is how they came to help get Donohue Road plowed so that we could get our vehicles unstuck. They also had a conversation that pulled in Corbett Fire Marshall Dave Flood, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Stewart, and Seargent Gerkin the

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Emergency Operations Chief for Multnomah County to discuss trying to get water for people who don't have access right now. Oregon Emergency Management will provide two 1500-gallon water tenders that hold drinking water, who may come to Corbett as soon as Monday. Community members will have to bring their own containers. We need to figure out who will staff the water tenders, how to communicate this information to customers, and where to station the water tenders. Dan Graff pointed out that the majority of our water system is still online, so we can also have customers come to the CWD office to fill up their containers.

- Angie, Kelly, and Ana talked about making a second round of requests to Multnomah County or Oregon Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (ORWARN) for assistance with experts or crews to help us work on our problems. Ana responded that she and David Jacob went to Ana's home to look at SCADA information and spoke with Jeff Busto to compose a list of three main problems.
 - First is the Larch Mountain reservoir overflow problem because of the drain lines and the frozen valve that is wasting water. They also need to figure out the lack of telemetry readings, which they believe is caused by a malfunctioning flow meter and level transducer.
 - Second is the Pounder leak, which they believe to have been caused by a car that accidentally drove into a ditch. The car is now surrounded by a large frozen puddle.
 - Third is Cabbage Hill reservoir being offline. We must figure out if anyone is without water. If they are not, it might be nice to be able to flush the reservoir and lines before we bring it back online to avoid dirty water coming out of customer's pipes.
 - They are also composing a list of all of the large ice patches that CWD staff have observed, which may indicate mainline leaks.
- Angie asked if anyone was familiar with ORWARN requests, whether since Multnomah County is likely to declare an emergency if the financial aspects are reconciled through a process similar to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's process? Ana replied that it is her understanding that ORWARN responses are entirely voluntary and the helping agencies don't make any money from these incidents. Dan said that his understanding is that, unless there's an official emergency declaration, the costs would need to be absorbed by the District. Angie reiterated that if there are official governmental sources of funding, we should try to access those funds as we reconcile our expenses.
- Dan asked about the loss of level control for the Larch Mountain reservoir overflow: do we know when it started overflowing? Ana responded that they lost telemetry readings at Larch Mountain on Friday, and at 9:30am on Saturday was when the high flows at treatment plant began. Dan asked about the type of valves at Larch Mountain and Cabbage Hill. David responded that both valves are hydraulic. The Larch Mountain valve froze open, and the Cabbage Hill valve froze closed. Dan recommends that we issue a boil water notice for all customers affected by Cabbage Hill because at the very

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least they have lost sufficient pressure. David agreed. Ana reported that as the Cabbage Hill reservoir was emptying, we did send an IVR that told customers that if they ever lost pressure to consider themselves on a boil water notice. However, Ana speculated that, since we haven't had customer complaints about no water from Cabbage Hill, she thinks that the lines from Mershon are servicing those customers. Dan felt that, due to the elevation to the top of Cabbage Hill, he doesn't think that the Mershon lines have the hydraulic power to feed the customers at higher elevations. David responded that, according to his understanding of our system maps, the people who are serviced by Cabbage Hill reservoir are not connected to anything else. Ana said that we would work on getting a boil water notice to the Cabbage Hill customers ASAP. To prevent Cabbage Hill customers getting water service before we can issue the boil water notice, Ana has turned off the valve that feeds Cabbage Hill reservoir. Dan asked if we know of any overflows for Cabbage Hill and Ana responded that she doesn't know. It is part of our request to ORWARN.

- Dan reiterated that we need to be pursuing the knowledge of whether the system is functioning and whether we have pressure throughout the system. After we determine that, we will know that anyone without water has probably got frozen pipes. However, once we start to thaw, and the frozen pipes thaw, there may be several breaks which could cause a large increase in demand on the system.
- Kelly will draft a post for Facebook updating community members on our situation. She wants to be generic, without naming specific roads for boil water notices, and proposes that she post something along the lines of "if you've received a call about a boil water notice, continue to boil your water until you are notified that you can stop." Ana responded that customers can also follow updates on our website or try to call us for specific updates. Dan suggested that any communication contain clear and concise information so that people don't misconstrue or begin to make assumptions.
- Dan suggested that Ana and David sit down at the conclusion of this event to document what happened, which can help you understand how the system works. This information could help to plan for the future.

4. Plan for Monday & Tuesday – Ana said that both she and Heather will be working from home on Monday, but the crew will be back out there trying to solve problems. She also proposed postponing the Regular Monthly Board Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING – the Board Members extended heartfelt thanks to CWD staff for all of their hard work over the weekend. The meeting closed at 9:05pm.

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