

Ruhenstroth Water Planning Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes – June 25, 2008

Members of the Ruhenstroth Water Planning Steering Committee met at 5:00PM at the Ruhenstroth Volunteer Fire Department Training Room. Members present were Chairman Jim Liles, Vice Chairman Rick Oliver, Secretary Stephanie Hicks, and members Mark Gonzales, and Cameron McKay. Tom Stanley, Mike Morley, and Vicki and Rob Bates were absent.

The committee discussed the following items:

- 1) Welcome to New Member – Cameron McKay.
- 2) Recent Newspaper Article.
- 3) Applications to Expand Existing Place of Use.
- 4) Spring Measurement Results.
- 5) Percolation Testing.
- 6) Petition for Transfer of Water Rights.

Item 1: Welcome to New Member - The committee welcomed Cameron McKay as a new member. Since the meeting attendances have gone down, the committee expressed their appreciation of any residents who are interested in volunteering for the committee.

Item 2: Recent Newspaper Article - The committee discussed the most recent article in Ruhenstroth Ramblings from Gail. Everyone agreed that the article was good and included some good information about the measurements. The committee expressed their thanks that Gail does a great job reporting the committee information.

Item 3: Applications to Expand Place of Use - Rick advised the committee of some recent applications filed by Douglas County to expand their place of use. The permit numbers are 76953, 76956, 76958, 76959, and 76960. The committee discussed whether this fell in line with what Carl Ruschmeyer told the committee they would be doing with usage of the Ruhenstroth well. Mark advised that in about March of this year, the well at the Ruhenstroth Fire Station was shut off completely because they have 3 wells now that supply water to the fairgrounds. There are two wells off East Valley (Sunrise Estates) and a third well of which the location is unknown. Pumpage on the Ruhenstroth well last year was only about 3.92 million gallons and thru March 08 was only 0.20 million gallons total. The committee recalled the report that Carl originally provided explaining the County's long term plan for the Ruhenstroth well. Rick indicated that he would bring a copy to the next meeting for review.

Rick asked the committee whether or not they wanted to take any action on the permits. The 30 day protest period had started but there would still be time to file a protest if we act quickly. Rick will verify the deadline to protest. Mark indicated that he would try to call Carl and ask him about the permits.

Item 4: Spring Measurement Results - The committee discussed the success of the first well measurements. 37 or 38 wells out of 55 chosen were measured. The measurements so far are inconclusive, because it is only one measurement. However, everyone was pleased and concurred it was a good start. The committee set tentative dates for the next measurement to be October 25 or November 8, 2008. Any wells where we had difficulties in measuring will be removed from the list so we will not revisit them. The committee will send letters out to those who have U.S.G.S. wells that we were not able to measure the first time. Rick will draft the letter and modify it to thank those who we were able to measure and then ask those who were not able to measure to call us for fall measurements.

Item 5: Percolation Testing - The committee also set a tentative time frame to perform percolation testing on Smelter Creek. It was decided that the percolation testing could be done prior to the next measurements in early October. The pre-soak would occur on a Friday afternoon and then the percolation test could take place on the following Saturday.

Item 6: Petition for Transfer of Water Rights- Rick explained to the committee that recent developments in Ruhenstroth have moved water from the Town of Minden's water rights. It allows them to pump out of the Ruhenstroth aquifer but does not actually bring anymore water to our aquifer. New domestic well parcels cannot be created without the relinquishment of water rights for lots not existing prior to July 1, 1993. (A parcel split of more than 4 new lots is subject to state laws while less than 4 is subject to county ordinances.) Rick suggested we may want to consider petitioning the State Engineer to request that anyone who wants to develop new lots must utilize existing water rights within Ruhenstroth. The committee suggested that a petition be drafted and available for collection of signatures at the annual fire station barbeque. Mark advised that he would check with the Fire Chief to see if the committee could have a table with the petition at the barbeque. Cameron was assigned to draft the petition.

Due to the timeframe for a potential protest, as well as the circulation of a petition at the barbeque, the committee decided it may be necessary to have a meeting in June, otherwise maybe just before the fall measurements in October. Date of next meeting to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.