

Ruhenstroth Water Planning Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes – September 5, 2007

Members of the Ruhenstroth Water Planning Steering Committee met at 5:00PM at the Ruhenstroth Volunteer Fire Department Training Room. Members present were Rick Oliver, Jim Liles, Tom Stanley, Mike Morley, Mark Gonzales and Stephanie Hicks.

The agenda was as follows:

- 1) Setting the next or a standing meeting date, place, and time acceptable to most members.
- 2) Organizational items and need for formal identity-nominations and voting?
- 3) Best forum of communication methods to reach our residents.
- 4) Questions forwarded to the county after this meeting for answers from county and meeting with them on 9/11.
- 5) Identification of strategic lots for well measurements according to map notes from last meeting.
- 6) Planning and reserving a date for making certain static water level measurements.
- 7) Next mailing subject matter. . . if, and when. . . .
- 8) Name selections from master mailing list eliminating non-respondents. . . for the next mailing. . .

Item #1: It was agreed that meetings should be set for every first Wed of the month at 5:00PM at the Fire Department Training Room. Accordingly, the next two meetings will be on Oct. 3 and Nov 7.

Item #2: Members voted and selected Jim Liles as Chairman, Rick Oliver as Vice Chairman, and Stephanie Hicks as the Secretary of the Ruhenstroth Water Planning Steering Committee. No treasurer was needed as we are an all-volunteer organization with no budget and no bank account.

Item #3: While the Committee agreed that they would like to continue to ask the County to send out mailings, they will try to utilize the website provided by Gary Swift. There is no cost for the website and the Committee has no funding source for mailings independent of the County. It may be more desirable to utilize the website for certain postings of minutes and survey results and the writer of Ruhenstroth Ramblings for announcements we need to make like our planned measurement dates. Selection of which source to use will be made as needed. We need to keep a poster visible at the mailboxes to remind residents of the correct website address so they can check back regularly. We still haven't heard how many subscribers there are in Ruhenstroth to the local paper to make

a better judgment on this. We may also be able to find out how many hits the website is getting.

Item #4: The following list of questions was compiled and forwarded to the County in preparation for the next County meeting on September 11, 2007.

- 1) The committee would like to see a written estimate of your preliminary breakdown of costs you ascertained to reach the estimated \$12M figure for a complete water system servicing the area.
- 2) How much of this cost would be eligible for grants or loans based on what little information you have in respect to the median household income? What are the particular programs (besides AB198) and funding sources you anticipate using and could you give us any kind of a timetable for applications, funding, approval, design and construction, etc. Will our data collection efforts in tracking water levels be anticipated as being useful in procuring such funding and is there more we could do in these regards?
- 3) Can they give us some figures for comparison of what other water systems in the county have paid for connection fees so that we may get used to the sticker shock ahead of time?
- 4) How many vacant lots remain in the area that would be eligible for a domestic well thru either of several methods to obtain a building permit that would add to the total pumpage from our aquifer?
- 5) What method and who does the median household income estimates used to determine our minimum water rates? Can this be determined long before we gain a consensus in favor of the project or what point in time is that set?
- 6) Can they include the committee members on a regular mailing of the pumpage reports submitted to the state engineer for the Fairgrounds well?
- 7) What is the going rate for an acre-foot of agricultural and quasi-municipal water in the valley between willing sellers and buyers?
- 8) What legal avenues does the county have to mandate connections by all homeowners in order to spread and justify the costs for a water system? Has this been done before? How difficult will that be?
- 9) Was the county prepared to fund the feasibility study proposed earlier for groundwater recharge from either surface or other groundwater? Due to the major sentiment against a water system and large number of requests for "more information" on this subject, we would like to hold this item open

- for further discussion. Is there any outside funding that could be obtained to fund this?
- 10) Since the committee has taken on a large task with volunteer efforts, can the county provide any financial assistance as we foresee future expenses that we have no way to cover except out of our own pockets?
 - 11) We mentioned at the last meeting the necessity of consolidating ownership of our Carson River water rights in order to get a large enough block to make a transfer of these rights viable to a new downstream user. Can you give us any idea of your anticipation of the county's need for this water at some foreseeable time if this could become feasible given all the issues involved with this? If so, can these rights be used to offset some of the out of pocket hook-up fees in some form or another?
 - 12) As we are planning a Saturday in late October or November to start collecting preliminary data on our water levels, is the county able to provide any of the needed equipment for our use, and manpower if possible?
 - 13) Is the County willing to participate with our committee to jointly send a letter of concern to the Nevada State Engineer's Office regarding excessive pumpage within the Ruhenstroth/Smelter Creek basin? We suggest this might also ask their office for enforcement of the maximum pumpage allowable under a domestic well of 1800 gal/day or 2.0 AF/year. The letter of concern should include a ban on transfer of further ground water rights into this basin to promote future parceling of land. Only allow existing water rights within the basin to be used.
 - 14) Would it be possible for your office to provide us a map, such as you did previously that has the well log numbers, to add the current APN numbers and the street address numbers to make our field work much easier to cross reference with the mailing list information? With so many addresses having PO Boxes and not street numbers, it is somewhat cumbersome to coordinate everything between what would take three maps and a large mailing list printout. If possible, we could use about four copies, one for each measurement crew. If you can provide it in a digital format that would be helpful as well.

Item #5: Committee Members spent most of the evening identifying the physical location of parcels of which the owners responded to the first survey and indicated that they would allow us to measure their well. These were matched to the mailing list that now shows the parcel numbers, street address, and well log numbers for use in the next mailing and selecting the parcels/wells that should be

included on the well net. This same list will be used to record the baseline measurements and updated with successive ones to chart the trends and patterns of the groundwater strata. Beginning water depths and other data from well logs will be included to make a complete historical record. We will also research the USGS database to determine which ones they have records of. It was determined that the well readings would be done in a grid pattern using east to west roads such as Pinto Circle, Palomino Lane, Arabian Lane, Sorrel Lane, and Wiseman. This should give us enough data to create profiles of the water bearing formations and hydrographs to help us understand the effects of water usage. The success of this will depend on having access to the same wells each year to keep the continuity of data recordings.

Item #6: The Committee selected two tentative dates for static water level measurements – Saturday, October 20th or Saturday, November 3rd depending on fall weather so as to make them after most lawn watering has ended. The Committee is planning on sending out notifications the middle of October and then following up with phone calls as time allows so that owners can be home and allow us access to their well site. Follow up measurements should be taken again in about March and in each successive spring after winter recharge has time to allow the wells to recover and after minimum winter usage. The members felt we needed to start this fall for good public relations so the owners know that “we’re doing something” important to keep the momentum going to find the best and most agreeable solutions.

Item #7: The Committee would like to get information back out to the community as soon as possible. We will plan the mailing at our Oct. 3 meeting announcing the dates of Oct. 20 and or Nov. 3 and include the survey results. We may need to put up a sandwich board sign the day before at Palomino and Pinto to remind them. Our next mailing should go out ASAP after our next meeting.

Item #8: The Committee will comprise a list from the database that was created for the next mailing which will have eliminated all the non-respondents of the survey to save the county postage. All who responded will be notified of the measurement dates and the survey results to keep them informed and interested in helping us out with data collection. That leaves us with about 165 names out of the 534 that were part of the first mailing in June. Anyone late respondents can be included as well if they will still complete it and it gets back to us.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.