Hoback Drinking Water Stakeholder Group
Meeting 4: Finalize Recommendations
Monday, March 9th 6-8:15pm at Hoback Fire Station
Meeting Minutes

● Introductions 6:00
  ○ Stakeholders: Max (scribe/facilitator), Ty R., Mark K., Kevin C., Bill R, Janet P., Todd F., Mike T.,
  ○ Steering committee: Carlin G, Kristin W., Heather O., Ted V., Jodie P., Sara B.
  ○ Public: Bert, Glenn, Mickus family, Bob
  ○ Guests: Dick Shuptrine, Keith Gingery

● Agenda review, follow up from public meeting 6:05 pm
  ○ Review process for making recommendations to County Commission
    ■ Will set up a meeting with BoCC in a workshop style
      ● Suggestion to do preliminary outreach to Chairwoman to ensure format and content are useful for commission
      ● Max will work with Jodie to set this meeting up and workshop
        ○ Bill, Mike, Todd are all available to present to Natalia
    ■ Health Department board, TCD board will also be invited and plan to attend
    ■ Need to make these recommendations as quantifiable as possible with responsibilities and timelines
  ○ Review input from public meeting
    ■ Comments are almost all supportive of process and recommendations outlined by stakeholders
    ■ Comments are generally supportive of a water system
    ■ Cost is a clear concern and the make or break for participation
      ● Clear request for more information about price
      ● Would it be competitive with Town water costs? Probably not, but potentially in line with other special district water costs
      ● Would a special district require fees to join?
        ○ Lots of options for that and special districts almost always require it
        ○ Typically charge a higher rate to join later rather than earlier in order to incentivize initial participation in the district, also reflects the risk and early cost borne for district formation

● Revisit and review draft recommendations 6:30
  ○ Specific edits and revisions, please see amended recommendations

● Finalize special district questions 6:40
  ○ Dick Shuptrine, Squaw Creek district
Pursued water district because of a lack of supply in the area, recognized need to protect property values with assured water

Formed a water district, considered ISD, but decided against it. Water district operates much more effectively and efficiently than road services because district ensures everyone pays

Have regulations and test for water quality in line with EPA requirements

- Hired a water operator to run their system that assures adequate flow and quality as well as upkeep of the system

Have made three improvements to district over time, including installing water meters to ensure that all utilized water is accounted for

- Have a $25 per month base rate, plus utilized water
- Pay a yearly assessment of roughly $359 per year
- Have accessed subsidized loans (2.5%) to pay for improvements to the district; have a loan repayment fund, R/I account, and O&M account

District structure

- Roughly 75 users in the district
- 5 person board
- Vacant lots can hook in with a hookup fee required ($8,500), some have already joined and just pay the monthly fee

Decision on type of special district

- Keith Gingery available for questions

  - Water districts can be noncontiguous, examples of ISD doing that but state statute isn’t as clear on that
  - Can choose to charge rates however they choose, Squaw Creek example demonstrates flat fee not based on assessment
  - Districts can assess government entities, but only if they are truly providing a service to that entity
  - ISD provide flexibility in terms of what it can provide, but can be a bit more complex
  - ISD has more capabilities, but can confuse purpose of the district for potential members
    - Can restrict ISD function and purpose within the board

Startup for special district carries costs

- Engineer, attorney, bookkeeper, ongoing administrative costs
  - Hog Island estimate was $25-30k which included significant donated time
  - Likely to cost $40k for this one based on the increased size and extent of the district, plus $20k per year in administrative costs after that

  - Reminder that the district, once formed, doesn’t see revenue until the first property tax bill, can take a year to see funds
- Look to county to bridge that time period
  - Ty and Carlin will work to refine estimated costs for district formation and administration to present to the county

- General guidance from Ted Van Holland
  - Extent of special district
    - Process to determine district boundaries
      - Can be informed by engineer, attorney working on this
      - Will need a committed core of volunteers to push this forward
        - Ty, Mike, Janet, Todd, Glenn, and potentially Mark can all serve in this capacity

- Finalize recommendations 7:40

- Next Steps and Process
  - Present recommendations
  - How does group move special district forward?
    - Important deadlines, responsibilities
  - County role moving forward will be defined based on feedback from County Commissioners
  - Max will finalize edited recommendations and circulate for review
  - Thank you to everyone who volunteered time and participated in this