Mayer Domestic Water Improvement District
Minutes of Special Session
March 21, 2024

1. **CALL TO ORDER** 10:00 a.m..
2. **ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**
   Chairman Kathy King – Present, Clerk Shasta Guthrie – Present, Member Keith Francen – Absent, Member Kevin Jones – Present via phone, Member Jacque Burruss – Absent

   STAFF
   Manager Mardi Befort – Present

   PUBLIC – No public present.

3. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
   1.1. Discussion and possible action on Racetrack Project

   Clerk King stated we are here to give direction to Mardi about getting bids for the race track project.

   Ms. Befort stated she has had a few in-depth conversations with Mike Rice this week. One thing that I was not aware of is that we need to do and because of the timeframe that we're doing this project, we have to do a migratory bird survey. If there are any birds nesting in the product area, we cannot do it. He said, it could take some time to get BLM out to do the survey but as part of our permit we have already paid BLM to do a survey in the cost recovery fee. But it could take 3 weeks to 3 months to get them out to do this or we can go to the private company, but we're going to pay for it, even though we've already paid for it. He's contacted BLM and a private company and will let me know when they get back to them. Clerk Guthrie asked if there is only 1 private company. Ms. Befort stated he is our consultant he has contacts in the industry, he contacted them yesterday and copied me in the email so as soon as he hears back from them he will let me know. Chairman King stated that doesn't really have a lot to do with getting bids. Ms. Befort stated that she was just letting the Board know that it could be an issue for when we do the project and once they do the survey, they come out once a week and redo survey. Member Jones stated there are about 21 species of migratory birds that come through the grapevine area because of the water there, and most of the ones that they would be concerned about are the western bluebirds, there is another one that is a black bird with the white under the wings, and those are probably two that you might find in the area. Clerk King stated we definitely don't want to interfere with any of their breeding patterns or anything, and so I'm glad we're getting the process started and asked if we have a motion about approving hiring a contractor for this project? Member Jones asked if this was for the migratory bird survey. Chairman King replied no this is for the project. The migratory bird survey is a separate thing and part of the process with BLM. The agenda for this meeting is to give direction. Mardi, said something about the estimates cost money, but I did see that on R.A.C.E. Excavating that they do free estimates, but we want to make sure you have direction so you can contact those excavating companies and get this process started.

   Ms. Befort stated that the direction she needs is exactly what I'm getting estimates for. Am I getting estimates for them to do the project entirely with no help from the District, or am I getting estimates with the Districts help? Because some contractors have said if we help it can bring the cost down. She gave an example of how the District could help, because there are only 2 locations where purchased

materials can be stored and 1 location of where excavated materials can be stored and stock piled it would save time and money if we transported the materials instead of the contractor. Chairman King stated this is exactly why she wants to go with a contractor on this project with minimal work from workers being involved. She might approve staff to being flag people because it can be a lot of money, but this is a very precise type of job. It needs to be done correctly and needs to be done safely and it needs to be engineered. And since we don't have a project manager, hiring a contractor has to happen in her opinion, we're responsible with this water line that provides water to Poland Junction. Ms. Befort stated it would supply water to the entire system and the engineering is fully done.

Clerk Guthrie stated there's always going to be exceptions, but she thinks generally our builds should be done by professional contractors and maintenance more for our in-house staff. This particular project, whenever we can start it and they're sounds like there could be some potential delays, All we can do now is get estimates, because a bid is going to be a 30 day or 90 day or something. But getting estimates for the whole project we can always massage it when we go to get actual bids, and look at what we want our crew to do. But looking at the worst case scenario of what we could be looking at for this project. Chairman King stated we're getting up on a very limited time period to get the project done, and there's going to be other business for these contractors, and so we need to get going on it. I do not want this to turn out to be a two or three year project. Ms. Befort stated the project deadline is July of 2025 it can't go past that. We could file for an extension, but that is the goal and the deadline. Chairman King stated she was not even going to consider that because there's going to be five other projects probably in six months. Clerk Guthrie asked if there was any reason to put it off? Ms. Befort stated the wash right now has water in it. One contractor said he wouldn't do it with any water in it, another contractor said he would get a pump and pump it out. It depends, each contractor is different on what they feel comfortable doing. Chairman King stated, It's not even a matter of that. We have to follow the strict rules that BLM set up for us. Ms. Befort stated yes, Chairman King stated we can end up with penalties, there's just so much stuff, and it's a lot of moving parts. So do you want to instruct Mardi to go get bids or do you not?

Member Jones said I think when it comes to safety, we need to use shoring, any shoring that's above three feet. We need to have a supervisor who says that its safe. I don't want anyone to get hurt. I want our crew to pitch in and do the flagging and all that stuff, but we can get a price on using our manpower with their manpower, Member Jones asked Mardi how many different types of contractors are out there to do that type of work? Ms. Befort stated she has worked with a couple of different contractors; she would send it out to them and there are two new ones she was made aware of that she would send it to as well. Clerk King stated there's actually way more than that. Ms. Befort said yes there are. Clerk King said there's copper state, RACE, earth resources. We can discuss this other stuff when we're picking out who we want to do it. We don't have to make that decision today. I wouldn't expect that we'd be talking about that today. All we're doing is giving Mardi direction to go get bids. That's all we're doing today. As far as picking out who it's going to be or how many of our people are going to be working, that's a whole different thing. I find it really difficult to believe that a licensed and insured contractor would be willing to take on people that are working for the District other than flag people because they're not sure about their experience and especially around heavy equipment. We have the consideration about, are we going to get one contractor who has got all the capability of the equipment No matter what happens, while they're digging that trench, something comes up, there's a big rock. They need a crane in there, and you contract it out with a company that has limited heavy equipment and access. so now we're delayed and fiddling around with more issues. We have to look at all aspects of it. And I think that that as soon as we get those bids, then we need to sit down and look at exactly what it is that we can do to save money on our part and how much it's gonna cost and what the time period is. And especially on my part, what the heck is their expertise? Do they have the engineering and experience to be able to implement this? This is not a project that we can go borrow somebody's backhoe and start.

Approved 3/28/2025 Board Member Signature and Title Kathy King, Chair

But we're gonna get into a lot of big trouble with BLM. Member Jone stated that we understand that and asked Mardi if they've done an archaeological study on the area where we are going to go through. Ms. Befort stated that we've done all the studies we need to do according to BLM and the Army Core of Engineers, the only thing we have to do now is the migratory bird, otherwise everything else has been completed. Member Jones stated that when they were doing I-17 and the 69, that job was held up for four and a half years because they found something while digging. Ms. Befort stated that is another thing. If we do find any archaeological things, we do have to report it immediately, that's part of it. I have all the information that the contractors need to know exactly what the limitations and the rules are for all of the different agencies we're dealing with. When I send out the bids, I'm going to give them all that information so they can take all that into consideration when they're giving us our bid. Chairman King stated and the blueprints? Ms. Befort stated Absolutely and the blueprints.

Member Jones moved to ask Mardi to get more bits on the racetrack project. Chairman King asked if Member Jones gave a limit on those? Member Jones asked what's the amount in the budget to do the job? Chairman King said that is a whole other thing. Clerk Guthrie stated part of this is to build our budget once we know what it's going to cost. Chairman King stated this is why the work sessions are so beneficial that we found out that the money has been budgeted all over the place. It's been put in there under labor when it should have been under a project we're going to have to dig around. We might have to approve this by pulling it out of maintenance operations. I did talk with Tom Thurman regarding that, if that was a possibility. And he said, absolutely, that that's your responsibility to make sure that that project gets done we have to find the money wherever. But we can't really talk about it because we don't have the bids. So I'm trying to do this in a orderly fashion. Member Jones stated that he wanted to get a clear picture of how to do that. Chairman King stated that she wants to get bids from all available excavating companies because I think that there is a diverse amount of experience and equipment availability between the companies, not to mention the time periods, you know? Ms. Befort asked the Board if they are wanting bids for the entire project start to finish including tying in the well site? Chairman King said Yes. That is exactly. We can't mess around. I had an extensive discussion with Mike Rice about this as well. I'm the one who instructed him to put in an application on our behalf for the migratory bird applications and he started doing that immediately yesterday and he supports my way of thinking about this project 100%. Member Jones said he thinks we are making a lot of headway here. This is a good project to get off the list for sure. Chairman King asked so in your motion, did you set a limit to how many? Member Jones No, I want to leave that up to Mardi's discretion and your discretion. Chairman King so it's been noted to hire a contractor for the racetrack project. Clerk Guthrie corrected her that it was to get bids. Chairman King asked if we have a second? Clerk Guthrie 2nds the motion. It's been moved and second. All in favor say aye.

Member Jones moved to ask Mardi to get more bits on the racetrack project, Clerk Guthrie 2nds, Vote – Chairman King – Aye, Clerk Guthrie – Aye, Member Jones – Aye – PASSED

4. **ADJOURNMENT**
   Member Jones moved to adjourn at 10:17 a.m. Clerk Guthrie 2nds, Vote – Chairman King – Aye, Clerk Guthrie – Aye, Member Jones – Aye – PASSED