

**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

