

**Annual AMWC Board Meeting
July 1, 2006**

President Lew McConnell called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Introductions of the Board Members and self-introductions by the attendees were made.

All participants observed a moment of silence in honor of Jim Archer. Lew announced that a plaque in honor of Jim and Lois Archer would be placed on the Aspendell sign after the meeting.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of July 2, 2005: Joanne Schneider requested any comments and a motion on the minutes of the last annual meeting. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Jeanette Schneider and seconded by Charlene Reed. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Tomko reported that 3 property owners continued to be delinquent in their AMWC payments (total amount approximately \$5500). Bob indicated that liens on the properties had been filed, and that an attorney had been consulted for advice regarding other actions that might be taken to address the problem. Bob reviewed the bank accounts and advised that AMWC funds are moved to gain the best interest, while being insured.

Fire Chief's Report: Ken Kuencer reported on the status of the fire engines, which are running well. New batteries were installed in the Crown and Jeep engines.

OLD BUSINESS

Disposition of BLM and County Grant funds: Lew McConnell reported on the status and usage of grant funds obtained from BLM and the County. Taken together, the grants awarded totaled \$20,269; with the 10% match required to obtain the BLM grant, the net funds totaled \$18,632. Lew reviewed the purchases that had been made using these funds. The remaining balance is \$3418. Lew reported that he had applied for an excess attack fire engine that would be particularly useful for wildfires. It appears that that request will be approved. The grant balance would then be used to provide needed equipment for the attack engine. Bill Donaldson inquired about the plan for the other engines if we obtain the attack engine. Lew indicated that the plan would be to sell the Jeep engine. The attack engine would be kept in Lew's garage for the

winter, as is the current practice for the Jeep. Bill suggested that it might be advisable to put the attack engine in the fire house to make it more readily available for rapid response. Pat Morgan asked whether the grants included Tract II. Lew advised that the AMWC grant requests were for Tracts I and III, and for Cardinal Resort, which pays for fire protection.

Maintaining the ISO rating: Ken Kuencer emphasized the importance of training to maintain the ISO rating and the insurance benefits associated with it. Ken reiterated his offer to provide individual training if attendance at the scheduled training is infeasible. Bill Donaldson asked about the specific training requirements for the ISO rating. Ken responded that there is nothing specific and that the ISO rating is contingent on a number of factors, including training. Joanne Schneider emphasized the importance of training for fire protection itself, as well as the ISO rating. The suggestion for a training video on the engines was discussed and there was general agreement that this would be a good idea. Roy Harthorn and Peg Blankenship offered to help make the video.

Home fire retardant: Ken Kuencer reminded members that Barricade and shake roof fire retardants can be purchased. Bill Donaldson noted that to maintain the shelf life of Barricade, it is advisable to shake the containers periodically. Tess Cruz asked whether any standard marker identifying the location for Barricade storage had been identified. No such marker has yet been explicitly identified.

NEW BUSINESS

Status of water system and testing: Lew McConnell reported on the biannual water system inspection and testing performed by the County. A copy of the 2005 Consumer Confidence Report (dated May 15, 2006) was distributed. Lew reported that the AMWC system was found to be one of the best rural water systems in the County, and that the analytical results showed excellent quality. Lew reviewed the list of recurring costs. Regarding the emergency generator, he noted that the system for activating the generator automatically had caused a lot of problems and that it is not repaired or used. Instead, Ken runs the generator periodically, when the engines are run. Bill Donaldson asked how many people are certified to operate the water system and suggested it would be advisable to have multiple people certified in case of emergency. Lew responded that he was certified and that Ken Kuencer was a logical candidate to be certified.

Lew reported on the abandoned water line between Iris and the Columbine/Highway 168 intersection. He advised that the valves at either end of this section of line had been closed 25+ years ago, due to a leak whose location could not be identified. Lew described the extensive but unsuccessful efforts that had been made to locate the valve near Iris. He also indicated that he had

spoken with Kathy Barton of the County and with a representative of the California Rural Water Association about the matter. Both raised the concern about how and whether the line could be cleaned out properly to avoid contamination of the system if the leak was found and repaired. The California Rural Water Association representative prepared a letter with his recommendations. Lew advised the members that the Board had held a special meeting on June 29, 2006 to discuss this and other matters and had agreed, based on a review of the information and a site visit, that it was best to simply leave the line in place.

Plan for wildfire containment: Ken Kuencer described the clearing last year by Forest Service and Department of Corrections crews. He reminded everyone to clear around their homes. A weed whacker is available in the fire house to assist, and Skeet Wilkins donated a chain saw. It was noted that some “kids” at Cardinal are willing to work on this for about \$10/hour.

Use of dumpster: APPLAUSE!! Lew noted that a second dumpster is now available for use during the summer months. Pat Morgan asked about the cost (\$58.10/month/dumpster) and suggested that the process for using the dumpster should be identified for newcomers. Tim Reed pointed out that this information was provided in the AMWC newsletter.

2005 Annual Report and 2006 Budget: Elfriede Geiger reviewed the 2005 financial statement. She noted that money has been lost for the last 3-4 years in the fire department. The BLM and other grants have helped, but there is a need to address this situation. Elfriede noted that there had been no extraordinary expenses in 2005; the insurance rate increase was 20%, which was less than expected. Since there was no 2006 budget handout, Elfriede summarized the budget briefly. Money will again be lost in 2006 to maintain the fire department. The 2006 budget assumes about \$2000 for repairs to the fire hydrants on Iris and Cataract and a 5% increase in insurance. Dave Tanksley indicated that the fire hydrants should be considered part of the water system, not fire department expenses. Elfriede responded that she will reclassify the \$2,000 for the estimated fire hydrant repairs to the water department in a revised budget. Dave Archer asked what is recommended to address the fire department financial issue. Elfriede recommends raising the rates. Dave asked how much of an increase would be necessary. Elfriede estimated that it would take close to \$70 annually for each of the 114 property owners. Bill Donaldson asked what the dumpsters are charged to and Elfriede replied that they are funded by the Water Company. Pat Morgan indicated that she had reviewed old documents concerning Tract I and III servicing Tract II for fire protection. She suggested that if Tract II paid the fees, they would cover the fire department deficiency. Roger Wilhelm recommended that this discussion be moved to “Other” on the agenda.

Elfriede stated that in 2003, the membership had approved a \$25 semi-annual assessment to replace water pipes (20% of the system). She indicated that

about \$66,000 is in the fund (this is not shown directly on the financial statement). Dave Tanksley stated that the current cost to replace water line is \$154/lineal foot, which is about an \$85/foot increase since the time of the assessment. Elfriede does not suggest an immediate increase in rates, but that the Board should review the assessment situation more frequently than once every five years given the increase in replacement costs. Bill Donaldson agreed.

Lew McConnell briefly described the contractual issues regarding fire protection for Tract II. He indicated that there was no protection for AMWC and that there had been no requirement that the Tract II residents provide actual firefighting assistance. Lorin Soderwall noted that he had rewritten the contract but that it had not been renewed by Tract II. Lew stated that he had talked with Peter Tracy regarding options to provide fire protection for Tract II. He indicated that he had been advised that it might be possible for Tract II to join the fire department and have the fees put on the tax bill. He has asked Linda Arcularius to investigate this option.

Election results for Director: The vote was unanimous to appoint Lew McConnell as an AMWC Director.

2007 Nominating Committee: Paula Coombes, Tim Reed, Roger Wilhelm and Tom Morgan volunteered to serve on the nominating committee for Board member positions open next year.

Fire training: Ken reminded the members that fire training was scheduled for 1:00 p.m.

Archer picnic: Ed Slingluff and Joanne Schneider advised the members of the Archer picnic and the logistics.

Adjournment: Roger Wilhelm made the motion to adjourn and Betty Yerxa seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Subsequent to the meeting, the Secretary conferred with the Board members regarding officer's positions. The Board members agreed to maintain their current positions: Lew McConnell – President; Ron Coombes – Vice President; Bob Tomko – Treasurer; Elfriede Geiger – Board member at large; Joanne E. Schneider – Secretary.

Joanne Schneider
Secretary