



THE SPOKES SPEAK - GEARED TO SERVICE

Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley

POB 1543, Paonia, CO 81428

WEB SITES: www.rotary.org www.rotary5470.org www.paoniarotary.org

Meeting Thursdays at Noon in the Paonia Town Hall

District 5470

Club 1180 - Chartered 12/20/22

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LAST MEETING: March 14, 2019

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- NEED PRESIDENT ELECT for 2021-2022
- Hello from Doris Danielsen. She's flying in tomorrow.
- The updated Rotary of the North Fork Valley Bylaws are on the table in front.
- GoCo grant for the Town of Paonia was not accepted.
- The Board decided to deny Paonia Tree board's request for \$300 to fund a tree.

No Key Guest today

Program: Paonia Water Emergency Update

Program: President Heck introduced Travis Loberg – head of Paonia Public Works

Travis began by noting that the Town of Paonia has 40 miles of water transmission lines from the reservoir to the treatment plant and there are more distribution lines from the head of Minnesota Creek to Highway 133 and some lines to Bell Creek, so it's a big distribution system. There are two water treatment plants, both of which are membrane-based, which has very good filtration. There are more than one kind of filtration system: ultra and micro. The Town of Paonia has pretty good water treatment plants.

He then opened up the discussion to questions from the group...

Q: Is there no system to send an alarm when the tank is about empty?

Travis: Yes, when the water level in the tank reaches 25% an alarm goes off. Travis was watching the tank the entire time (he checks both tanks daily). He started looking for leaks immediately.

Q: What has been learned so issues like this can be addressed more quickly next time.

Travis: Paonia's system is good and has alarms in place. Once the tank started leaking, crews were out every day trying to find them. Leak detectors would have been brought in sooner so they could find the leaks faster.

Q: Would you have turned the water off sooner?

Travis: They cannot turn the water off when there is a leak because they need water running through the pipes to find the leak.

Q: How long did it take to find the biggest leak?

Travis: The biggest leak was a loss of 100,000 gallons per day and the tank leaked for 3 weeks prior to being detected. We found that water was running under the school into a French drain, so the water never surfaced which made it extremely hard to find.

Q: What would you have done differently?

Travis: Nothing really. We can now bring more water into the system so that greater loss can be compensated for. We have an agreement now to have permanent piping from Roeber reservoir instead of temporary piping if the need arises again.

Q: Are the tanks full now?

Travis: The 1 million-gallon tank is full and Roeber Reservoir was shut off this past Saturday. The 2 million-gallon tank will be full by this evening.

Q: Are there leak detectors on all companies that get water supplied? Do all 28 companies need to be checked individually?

Travis: That was one of the first things done—he checked all the master meters.

Q: What was the nature of the leak?

Travis: The leak on 4th street was an abandoned service that had not been capped properly. The leak under the school was "hooked" into for the Elementary School and was not done properly. It's not so much a problem with old pipe but rather are the lines abandoned and sealed improperly.

Q: How are meters read—electronically or manually?

Travis: A mixture of both. There are 800 meters manually read still and all the others are electronic. All 3 large leaks were before where meters were installed or were at fire hydrants that were not metered. A radio read-back will alert the Town where there is a leak.

Q: What is weakest link in current system?

Travis: It's not old pipes. It's more a question of incorrectly installed pipes, such as using electrical conduit instead of proper PCV. Installation is the biggest concern and there's no way to know in advance.

Q: Is the system still running increased chlorine?

Travis: It's now back to normal.

Q: Had the big leak not happened, would we have had a water crisis?

Travis: No

Q: What would you do if money were no object?

Travis: Main line replacement is top priority. The service lines are good. We would look at the increase storage for raw water (surface water storage).

Q: Is increased money available due to water crisis? Can the State help?

Travis: The City is applying for grants. Ken is working with the State.

Q: Is there a price tag?

Travis: Last meeting, about \$98K, but that amount may be higher by now. Lots of time was donated. There is a meeting March 28, 2019 to come up with final number.

Follow-up: Might be in our best interest to have high number to take to funding sources to justify more investment.

Q Was money released when Polis declared an emergency?

Travis: We did get resources from other areas.

Q: What about redundancy, since right now you are the only guy?

Travis: Bringing younger guys along with training and certification.

Q: How is pressure regulated?

Travis: There are 10 pressure zones in Paonia. Some higher than others to push water uphill where necessary, like Apple Valley.

Q: What is ideal pressure?

Travis: Most zones have pressure between 100 and 110 psi. Some are 165psi and one is close to 200 psi.

Q: What are the different types of filtration being used?

Travis: There are a few reverse osmosis systems in Colorado, which mostly removes arsenic from the water. Nano-system filtration is a step below reverse osmosis, mainly used for taking MgCl and special minerals out. Ultra and micro filtration systems are really similar--the only difference is the way the water goes through the membranes. This is what Paonia uses. They do a scrub cycle every 30 minutes to clean the membranes. Those membranes have a 10-year life expectancy.

Q: (on another topic) What does the temperature need to be to fix pot holes?

Travis: Temperature is not so much the problem as needing for the holes to dry out.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- 3/21/19: Lori Lenhart – PACE (Karri Polson)**
- 3/28/19: Robbie LeValley speaking about Ranching in Western Colorado (James Schott)**
- 4/4/19: TBD (Glenn Dahlgren)**
- 4/11/19: DCMH: Jason Cleckler, CEO and Jacque Davis, head of Marketing and Communications (Marsha Grant)**
- 4/18/19: TBD (Mike Heck)**
- 4/25/19: TBD (Ulli Lange)**
- 5/2/19: TBD (Bob Lario)**
- 5/9/19: Business Meeting**
- 5/16/19: TBD (Norm Lewark)**
- 5/23/19: TBD (Jackie Parks)**
- 5/30/19: Potluck**
- 6/6/19: TBD (Kevin Parks)**
- 6/13/19: TBD (John Coombe)**
- 6/20/19: TBD (SEI)**
- 6/27/19: Swearing in of new President and BOD**



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