

HARDY COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT
JULY 9, 2025
4:30 P.M.
45 District Drive, Moorefield, West Virginia

Present: Logan Moyers, Robert Harper, Rose Helmick, Melvin Shook and Connie Sherman – HCPSD.

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m. by Vice Chairman Rose Helmick. The minutes of the May 7, 2025 regular meeting were presented. Rose Helmick made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Melvin Shook seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business:

Baker Phase II Water Project– Logan Moyers provided an update on the Baker Phase II water project. The District continues to gauge interest in the extension areas that are being considered for inclusion in the project. Moyers attended the annual homeowner's association meeting for The Summit subdivision which is located on Rocky Branch Rd. in Baker. The Summit contains approximately 35 high-end homes, many of which are secondary homes. No signups were conducted at this meeting by request of the HOA, who will be gauging interest from each homeowner and reporting that information to the District. Additionally, the Lost River Valley subdivision located on Settler's Valley Way in Lost River, a larger subdivision with over 200 homes, held its annual meeting to which Moyers was invited but was unable to attend. The president of the homeowner's association presented information regarding the water project. Following that meeting, Moyers has been contacted by many property owners in the subdivision with questions about becoming water customers. After evaluating interest in this area, the District plans to evaluate customers along Route 29 to Rio as another potential extension area to be included in the project. This section was intended to be part of the original Baker Water project, however there was not sufficient interest among potential customers at that time, so it was ultimately removed from the project.

Baker Secondary Water Source Project – Logan Moyers provided an update regarding the District's request to utilize groundwater wells to serve as an emergency backup water source for the Baker water system. The Parker Hollow impoundment, currently the sole water source for the Baker water system, experienced an algal bloom in late April/early May that was determined to be a harmful algal bloom (HAB) after the impacted water tested positive for microcystins. Although microcystins were detected in the Impoundment, fortunately none were detected in the water entering the treatment plant. The test results verifying the HAB were forwarded to the WV Conservation Agency as evidence that development of an emergency water source for the Baker system is much needed. Soon after providing that information to WVCA, the District received a letter from NRCS, who is reviewing the proposed project at the request of the WVCA, noting concerns regarding the District's proposed water usage from the wells, which NRCS felt exceeded what would typically be expected if the wells were only used in emergency situations. It was ultimately determined that there was a misinterpretation of the data provided by the District to NRCS, that was later clarified by project engineers from The Thrasher Group in a follow-up letter. Both the information regarding the HAB and the letter clarifying proposed usage were presented to the State Conservation Committee (SCC) at their quarterly meeting in early July, at which time the SCC voted to approve the District's proposal to develop groundwater wells on SCC property for use as a secondary water source. The approval was contingent on the District providing further information regarding the proposal, as requested by NRCS, and the groundwater source being used only in emergency situations. The District had been seeking this authorization for many years and obtaining it is a major step in moving the secondary source project forward. The next step will be to seek funding to develop the project. In that regard, Moyers provided another positive update, noting the District had just learned that the project should qualify for funding from the Emerging Contaminant Funding pool through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund after HAB's containing microcystins were recently included as an eligible contaminant that qualifies for the funding. Moyers will further investigate utilizing this funding for the project and will provide updates at future meetings. It is hoped that the District can secure most, if not all, of the funds for this project in the form of grants.

PFAS Removal System Project – Moyers provided an update on the District's efforts to complete a PFAS removal system project at the Baker water plant. Quarterly PFAS samples were taken and the results showed non-detect for PFAS compounds in both raw and finished water. This marked the fifth consecutive quarter that PFAS has been non-detect in the Baker water system's finished water. Moyers explained that while it is certainly good news that PFAS compounds are not present in the water, without PFAS present in some level, the District does not qualify for funding for a PFAS removal project nor could it complete a required pilot test in which the chosen removal method must show it can effectively remove PFAS compounds from the water. Moyers said the District will continue to monitor for PFAS compounds in the Baker water system, but at this time there is no reason for the District to pursue a PFAS removal project.

District Former Facility & Property – The closing on the sale of the District's former office and shop facility located at 2094 US 220 South in Moorefield is set for Friday, July 11th at 10:00 am at the law office of Walters, Heishman & Vance. Proceeds from the sale of the property will be placed in high-yield interest bearing accounts with the WV State Treasurer's Office.

Lead/Copper Rule Changes - Moyers provided an update on the District's inventory of all service lines in the District's water systems as part of the EPA's lead/copper rule revisions. The service line inventories for all seven Hardy County PSD water system's have been updated, verified and submitted to the State's service line inventory portal. The inventories will be kept up-to-date to include any new taps and will be uploaded and resubmitted annually as part of the new lead/copper rules.

Fire Hydrant Regulations – As part of the WV Public Service Commission's newly enacted regulations for fire hydrant maintenance and testing, the District must inspect and complete flow and pressure testing on all fire hydrants in the County and color code each fire hydrant nozzle according to its flow rate within 30 days of completion of the flow testing. Training on the required flow and pressure testing is scheduled for next week for all field staff employees along with Moyers. The District has over 200 fire hydrants across all water systems, all of which must be inspected and flow tested. The flow testing process requires at least two field staff persons to perform the testing. With the District having only four full-time field staff employees and the need for those employees to also oversee daily operation of the water and sewer plants as well as complete all other maintenance activities, completing the necessary inspections and testing will be a lengthy process.

District Website – The District continues to work with a consultant to upgrade its website and to bring the website into compliance with soon-to-be-enacted standards for government operated websites to be accessible for individuals with hearing and/or vision disabilities. It is hoped the new website will be operational in the coming months.

New Business:

Summer Field Staff – The District has hired a temporary employee for the months of July and August to assist with various projects including GIS mapping of all components including meters, valves, hydrants, etc. in the water and sewer systems.

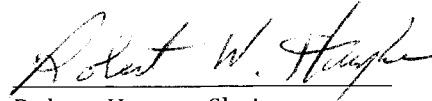
Miscellaneous Business:

PFAS Polluters Settlement – The District has received its first payment disbursement as part of the class-action settlement with PFAS polluters. The initial payment was in the amount of \$18,000. Additional checks are expected over the next few years.

Accounting and Billing Software – The District is looking into upgrading to an "all-in-one" accounting system that will include billing, payroll and general ledger capabilities. Currently the District maintains separate software systems for each facet. Upgrading to an all-in-one system has been recommended by the District's financial auditor. After reviewing several systems, Moyers said upgrading to a new all-in-one software program should result in simplifying the flow of the financial operations of the office. The software upgrade comes with a significant one-time initial conversion cost followed by an annual fee to maintain the software. Moyers said the District is hopeful to make a determination on what system best suits the District and to make the conversion to that system in the near future.

There being no further business, Rose Helmick made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Robert Harper seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 6, 2025 at 4:30 pm at the office of the District located at 45 District Drive.


Robert Harper, Chairman

These minutes represent a summary of the subject discussed and the actions taken by the members of the Hardy County Public Service District for the regular meeting held on July 9, 2025. The meeting and proceedings were electronically recorded. In the event there may be discrepancies or contradictions between the written minutes and the audio recording, the audio recording shall take precedence.