

Item 4 – Amendments to the FY 2020 District Operating Budget

Following the February 13, 2020 board meeting and at the request of the Board, the Budget-Finance Committee met to discuss possible amendments to the FY 2020 District Operating budget. Several line items in the budget reflected lower than desired amounts as a result of income projected at approximately \$637,175.77. Actual revenue to be collected in FY 2020 will be \$691,523.91.

The committee explored amending three line items:

| | <u>Budgeted</u> | <u>Used</u> |
|--|------------------------|--------------------|
| • Remote Control Access Grant (Existing Systems) | \$6,000.00 | \$6,000.00 |
| • Remote Control Access Grant (New Systems) | \$5,000.00 | \$4,268.12 |
| • Water Well Plugging Grant | \$5,000.00 | \$4,493.42 |

There are currently 39 existing remote control access units left for remuneration. The original plan was to fund an equal amount over a three year period at \$300/unit. 20 units were remunerated from the FY 2020 budget.

The District has funded seven (7) new remote control access systems from the current budget. Six (6) more units have been applied for or are aware of the grant program. Funding of these units is on a 50/50 cost-sharing basis.

Five (5) water wells have been plugged with 75/25 cost-sharing grant funds to date.

In the last three days we learned that the 3G cellular service providing the telecommunication link for the BVWaterSmart irrigation network is on longer supported by Verizon as of 12/31/19. In short, the lights are on right now but could be turned off at any time without notice. The seventeen (17) current weather station/wireless rain gauge locations need to be upgraded the 4G technology as soon as possible.

Alsion Frank, City of Bryan, and Jennifer Nations, City of College Station, have been in contact with Campbell Scientific to obtain price quotes for upgrading the weather stations and wireless rain gauges with 4G technology. A quote is being obtained for your review and will be available at or before the board meeting. From initial conversations, it appears that installation of the new equipment can be performed by local staff members.

It is important the Board have a thorough discussion regarding the upgrading of the BVWaterSmart Irrigation Network and possibly act to provide the upgrades needed.

It is the recommendation of the Budget/Finance Committee members and the General Manager to amend the FY 2020 District Operating budget adding another \$5,000 to both the Remote Control Access Grant (New systems) and to the Water Well Plugging line items.

Committee Members

Pete Brien – Chairman
Jayson Barfknecht
Stephen Cast