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Board President Gerard Goven reporting for the past year of McLean Sheridan Water District progress

Annual meeting shows water district growth

By **ALLAN TINKER**

McLean Sheridan Rural Water District members met on October 29 at Turtle Lake City Hall and reviewed a positive picture of the growth and development of the district over the past 30-plus years of its operation. The district grew by 27 new users this year to 1,150. Mention was made of the days “way back” when there were only 300 users. The physical place north of Turtle Lake is 35 years old and nearing complete renovation and additions this fall.

A “Utility Charges by Year” comparison over the years showed a steady growth from 2010, with the change versus prior years’ numbers from 2011 listed. The number for 2024 showed 1,076 accounts.

The Statement of Net Position from 2022 to 2024 for comparison, showed total assets at \$27,669,349.45 for the 2022 year and \$34,282,164.10 for 2024.

Total Liabilities from the same document showed \$7,751,923.91 for 2022 and \$9,012,698.92 for 2024.

The total Net Position for 2022 was \$19,917, 425.54 and \$25,269,465.18 for 2024.

The general order of business was followed with a call to order and proof of quorum with 7 directors present. President Gerard Goven affirmed the proof of notice and only one action needed approval

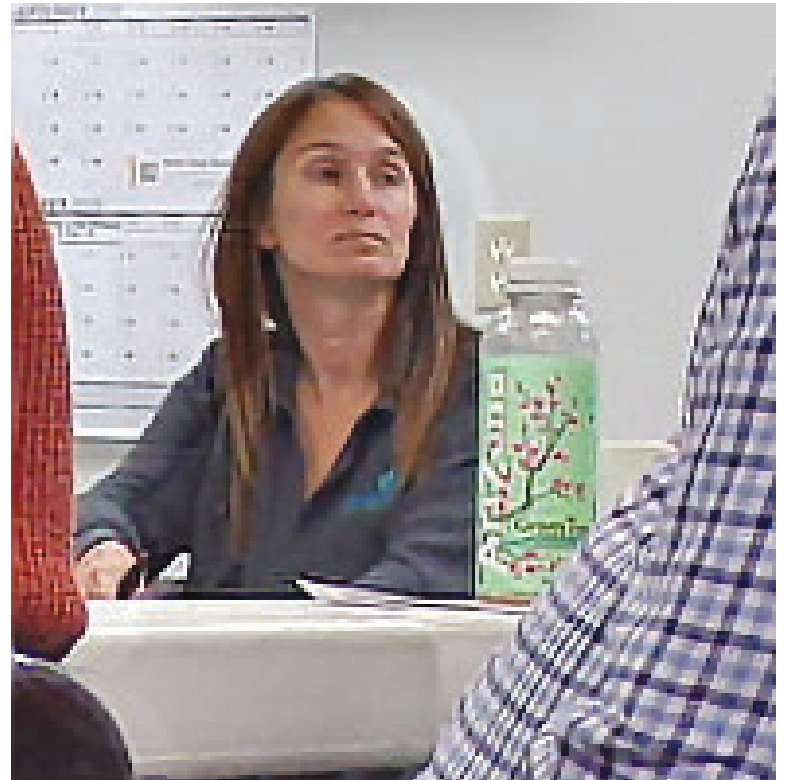
for change, with the notice of a participating member seeking election to a director position to submit a petition to the water district with at least ten signatures from participant members within their director district at least 45 days before the annual meeting. The former version listed 60 days’ notice. The bylaw change due to Senate Bill 2399 was approved by motion as required.

Goven gave a report on the positive attitudes of the current staff and board of directors; three of the four employees were present with the other tending to business that conflicted with his presence at the meeting.

A change in percentage of rate increase for employees’ salaries was able to be increased to a total of 9 percent due to the addition of PERS benefits which allowed for a mandatory 6 percent, plus an optional 3 percent, raising the total possible to 9 percent. The prior limit had been 3 percent.

Goven discussed the Red River Valley Supply to provide water to eastern North Dakota and that sites along that route will be added to the project as it expands. A cost share made it possible for Washburn to be active in that situation.

Also noted was a new board member, Joe Perslip, who replaced Darwin Saari’s position for the city of Turtle Lake.



Water District Manager Ann Broussard listens to good reports from members and staff

Melvin Leidholm resigned after 22 years of service and was replaced by Shane Wagner in field operating staff. The past year had also seen the retirement of Steve Murray of McClusky.

Manager Ann Broussard added to reports on the fourth year of the new plant construction.

The McClusky Water Tower

\$400,000 Project had allowed a needed water pressure increase. The projects are a 60/40 ownership with the city.

Broussard noted that as these funds are repaid, they are returned to ND Water Users for other districts’ use.

WATER

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McLean Sheridan Rural Water District plant under construction.