**HorseThief Reservoir Benefit District Minutes – May 26, 2020**

The regular monthly meeting of the HTR Benefit District was called to order by Chairman, Gilbert Benton at 8:34 am on May 26, 2020. The meeting was held at the HTR Lodge due to the Covid-19 restrictions and members practiced social distancing. HTR Board Members present were Gene Webb, Sam Seybold, Chris Law, Henry Reed, and Randy Wehkamp. Others present: Josh Hobbs, Manager and Heather Mihm, Administrative Assistant. HTR Board Members absent: Troy Brown and Steve Seibel.

Consent Calendar: Sam made a motion for the $9,791.48 fee for the Asphalt Millings for campsite and road improvements. Sam had a question regarding the increase in our Workers Comp coverage. Josh and Heather will visit with Insurance planning regarding the increase. Also, Sam inquired about the payment for the Air Med Membership. Josh discussed with Air Med and negotiating lower rates. Air Med service was implemented into the employee wage review as a benefit instead of higher raise percentage.

New Business: None

Old Business: The DWR permit to build HTR dam was handed out to Board Members present. Discussion was held regarding the issues of food plots with the PWS, conditions listed in the permit.

A discussion was held regarding the property taxes for the quarter of land that was purchased in 2019. The Board will move forward to pay the property taxes on SE1/4 of Section 9 in Township 23 South, Range 25 West of the 6th PM, Hodgeman County Kansas. Payment of this property tax will be reviewed in the future.

Other Business:

Chairman’s Report: Gilbert stated that the PWS Board had not met due to Covid restrictions. He will keep us to date on when the PWS meets again.

HTR Manager’s Report: Josh reported that he has been working on dressing up the muddier camping sites and road ways with asphalt millings from US Highway 156 road project. He has more work to do, but did get to some of the campsites that have erosion issues before Memorial Weekend.

May 2020 has been a record-breaking month. We are at a $9,000.00 increase from the same time last year. Memorial weekend was a huge success with many night and day campers packing the park. Day use as well was full. Fisherman also had a very successful weekend as the crappie bite was on.

Covid has increased park use but has also increased the daily cleaning and sanitation of facilities. Between the State of Kansas recommendations as well as HG county we are sanitizing the restrooms and showers twice daily. Playgrounds were also closed. The office was also closed to walk-in customers for a time.

August 15, 2020 is a date Josh is discussing with Friends group for a 10-year anniversary event. We are looking at a meal, bands, raffles, tournaments and fireworks. Plans will be falling together soon and will be announced.

The motion to go into executive session pursuant to the personnel matters of nonelected personnel exception found in K.S.A. 75-4319(b). The justification for closing the meeting is to protect the privacy of the individual(s) to be discussed. Sam made a motion to go into executive session at 9:50 for 20 minutes to discuss personnel matters. Gene seconded and the motion passed. AT 10:20; Sam made a motion to continue the Executive session for another 20 minutes. Henry seconded and motion passed. Sam made a motion to continue executive session for another 15 minutes; the session will end at 10:40. Gene seconded and the motion passed. The open meeting resumed at 10:41 am.

After the executive session Josh returned and regular session resumed. The board discussed with manager Hobbs to continue regular updates to the board, make an employee compensation break down for the next meeting as well as discussed other items of park management. Overall the board is pleased with performance and management of HTR. The board offered Manager Hobbs a 3% increase in salary. Manager Hobbs discussed the future of HTR, budgets and thanked the board for appreciation. Manager Hobbs asked to discuss further at the July meeting. Manager Hobbs let the board know he is very appreciative of the board support but with the long term of HTR, budgets and current economic conditions he would like further discussion before accepting any raises at this time. The Board decided to cancel the June meeting. The next meeting will be July 28th at 8:30 a.m.

Gene Webb made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. Chris Law seconded; meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Randy Wehkamp, Secretary