

Dear Board of Directors,

My public comments are listed below. Since I am unable to attend the meeting, I have included some observations/comments about specific agenda items.

Public comment June 6, 2022

Carol Rose

Is the District moving forward on hiring for the vacant Field Position? I think the Board needs to put a hold on salary increases and making new positions until the framework of the 218 is established and the groundwork is determined for presenting it in a viable way to the ratepayers. The employment upgrades are getting the cart before the horse.

What is the status of the HydroScience bill?

Has DPMWD formulated and started an outreach to inform ratepayers of upcoming upgrades and costs? I do not see a summary in the GJ report of our needed upgrades and guesstimations of costs to individual ratepayers. I know this is early, but it seems the GJ is pushing us quickly toward that goal.

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Item # 5B, May 3 minutes: I did NOT express concern over rate increases., as stated in the draft minutes. My question had to do with what are the immediate plans to start the education of the rate-payers on the costs of upgrades. Please correct.

Item #8A, Budget to Actuals: I think the Board should know about line items that are 150%+ over budget? I would like to know. I am aware that legal fees are high because the previous Board would not pay counsel to attend meetings. Since that Board made a lot of legal mistakes, the ratepayers are now paying to clean those up, i.e., Grand Jury report responses. Director Matteoli has suggested in the past that excessive overages on Budget to Actuals be footnoted to make the discrepancy clear. Board should constantly explain to public why these numbers are so far apart.

Item #8C, GJ report: I don't see a timeline for forward motion in this GJ report. Shouldn't there be a list of major infrastructure improvements which would also "transparently outline costs"? Is it too soon to introduce to ratepayers options of paying for these upgrades? Potential costs, worse case scenario with mention of possible modifications. I.e., grants, loan forgiveness, Fed grants, etc. Where is the "strategic communications plan" in our reply?

Item # 8C, Staffing addressed in GJ report: I believe at the last regular meeting upgrading the Office Manager's job with a 50% salary increase was not approved. One Director asked for an independent survey and staffing level analysis before new positions are created.

Item #8D, Further Guidance for Public Relations Firm: This may have been discussed at the May meeting, but will this firm be paid only when used or monthly regardless of use?

Item #8F, Completion of Intertie with Suburban: Kudos to the staff for picking up this item again. The previous Board (in their limited wisdom?) dropped this venture. I have limited knowledge of this agreement, but have been told by people who should know that it is a good thing for DPMWD.

