MINUTES OF MEETING OF McKOWNVILLE WATER DISTRICT CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The ninth meeting of the McKownville Water District Citizens' Advisory Committee was called to order by Chairman Marion L. Henry on Wednesday evening, August 24th, at 8:25 P.M., at the Guilderland Town Offices. 1956

Members present: Drs. Alfred Yankauer
M. E. Becker
Messrs. James A. Choules
Fred B. Abele
William J. Eabler
Marion L. Henry
Frank E. Miller

Members absent: Messrs. Roy H. Myers
John J. Feldmann

Also present: Messrs. John J. Welsh
Kenneth Fraser
George Bigsbee
Hall

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted as corrected.

The Sub-committee on Long Range Planning requested some more specific information from Mr. Fraser concerning costs of rehabilitating our present filter plant as compared with the use of shallow wells. Dr. Yankauer read the following questions, requesting more information:

1. Breakdown of the comparative figures for capital outlay, as between rehabilitating the present filter plant and drilling of shallow wells.

Mr. Fraser gave the following estimated figures: New screened intake - $1,000. New low lift pump station and pump - $8,000-$10,000. Baffle or improve the mixing basin - $1,000. Baffle in sedimentation basin - $1,000. Change the controls - $1,000. Arrange for pre- and post-chlorination - $2,000. The total is some $15,000 to $20,000--rounded out for purposes of comparison to $25,000. The paint should be cleaned and the filters renewed, but these are operational expenses.

2. If new low lift pumps were installed, could they be re-used for the well system? The answer was "no".

3. How much leeway is there between condition of plant now and cost of rehabilitation?

The answer was estimated to be between $8,000 and $10,000--the cost of the new low lift pumps. The present pumps are approximately 25 years old and are on borrowed time.

4. Differences in operating costs. Mr. Fraser gave the following figures to the committee:

	Filter Plant	Wells
Electricity	No extra	
Operator	$4,000	$1,000
Chemicals	2,500	50
Repairs	500	100
Fuel	No change	
Supervising Chemist	1,500	--
	$8,500	$1,150

The bond retirement per year on the rehabilitated filter plant would be $9,749, and on the shallow wells system it would be $2,901.

Mr. Embler asked if the protected area around the reservoir should be enlarged. Mr. Hall said that would be desired but not necessary.

Mr. Embler inquired about possible expansion of the program by drilling additional wells--possibly doubling the capacity. Mr. Hall feels that this could be done.

Mr. Hall stressed intelligent long range planning--acquiring land that will eventually be needed for water supply if the residential population increases. He strongly stressed looking into the tremendous drainage area around the Six-Mile Waterworks. He estimated that this might well supply the needs of the whole town, even if it were saturated with houses.

Dr. Becker bought up the point that if the shallow wells program is simply to duplicate the output of the present system, this does not constitute long range planning. Mr. Fraser readily agreed that this proposal had been hastily drafted up, and it was quite obvious that either of the systems would have to be expanded in the near future.

Mr. Abele brought up the question of whether we should maintain the present plant in stand-by condition, if we were to go to the shallow wells system. Mr. Fraser said that this would be preferable, but that the equipment that would be kept for such use would not deteriorate particularly and there was no considerable cost involved.

There was considerable discussion as to how much land around the Six-Mile Waterworks is owned by Guilderland and how much on which we should plan to acquire rights.

The question of maintenance costs on the shallow wells system was raised--whether after five years or so there might be considerable expense involved in rehabilitating the wells. Mr. Hall cited many systems in operation 25 years or more that ha ve never required major maintenance and emphasized that such expenses are not to be expected.

It is the consensus of the members of the Sub-committee on Long Range Planning that we should discontinue the use of the present filter plant and go to a shallow wells system. They made this recommendation to the entire committee. They feel, however, that some of the figures should be revised in view of the answers to the questions raised at this meeting.

Mr. Welsh brought up the question of what percentage of the present plant we are abandoning if we go to the shallow wells system. The figure could not be arrived at immediately, but it was estimated to be something less than 20% of the original valuation.

The question was raised by Mr. Henry as to why, when the present system was being planned, the engineering firm did not even suggest the use of shallow wells. Mr. Hall explained that this type of system was not prevalent enough at that time to warrant its consideration.

Mr. Welsh gave a report on the Thruway problem. The Public Works Department people estimate that our reservoir now impounds four million gallons. Our engineers gave this same estimate in 1948, so our estimates must have been considerably out of line. The problem is now thrown back at us to prove our capacity in 1948. A hydrographic survey would be indicated, but this is involved and expensive.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

(Mrs.) Ruth A. Abele
Secretary
8/27/55