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February 9, 2024

PARTIES OF RECORD

Re: Case No. 2021-00341

Notice is given to all parties that the attached Informal Conference memo and attendance sheet has been filed into the record of this proceeding.

If you have any comments you would like to make regarding the contents of the document, please do so within five days of receipt of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Fell, at Jennifer.Fell@ky.gov.

Sincerely,


Linda C. Bridwell, PE
Executive Director

Attachment

INTRA-AGENCY MEMORANDUM

KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

TO: Case File No. 2021-00341

FROM: Jennifer Fell, Staff Attorney III

DATE: February 8, 2024

RE: Informal Conference of February 6, 2024

Pursuant to an Order issued on January 30, 2024, an informal conference (IC) was conducted on February 6, 2024. Attached is a copy of the attendance roster.

The purpose of the IC was to discuss the status of this case following the resignation of two of Milburn Water District's (Milburn District) commissioners and office manager as of December 31, 2023. Counsel for Milburn District informed Commission Staff that one new commissioner, Ben Bevins, had been appointed during January 2024. Commission Staff requested that notification be filed into the record of Mr. Bevins' appointment.

Eric Young, the operator for Milburn District, reported on the status of Milburn District's operations. Milburn District's past physical address was the business office of its previous office manager, Ms. Curtsinger, at the office for Curtsinger Duncan Financial Service. Milburn District does own a storage unit located behind Ms. Curtsinger's office, and Mr. Young believes it has a separate distinct address. Milburn District also has a drop box attached to the side of the Community Center building for customers if they wish to pay their bill by cash or check. Mr. Young's cell phone number, as well as a land line number, are now provided on customer's bills for any customer inquiries. Customers do have the option to pay bills by phone via an automated service. Mr. Young stated that, following the resignation of Ms. Curtsinger as Milburn District's office manager, a notice of the changes to the district's phone number and address was sent to the district's customers along with their bills in January 2024.

Mr. Young confirmed that Milburn District has no employees other than himself. Mr. Young is currently serving as the district's operator, with occasional assistance from his daughter, Kara Futrell, who is also a certified operator, albeit not an actual contractor employed by Milburn District. Mr. Young is also handling the customer billing and making payments on behalf of the district. Mr. Young stated he had previous experience with the billing software from his employment with other water districts in the past. Mr. Young was not aware whether the district's commissioner Chris Williams was a signatory on the district's bank account, and stated he would inquire about adding him as a signatory for the district if he was not already. Mr. Young confirmed the only outstanding debt of the district is a local bank loan in the amount of approximately \$11,000, and that, while the district was behind on payments, the district made a payment towards that loan in January

2024. Mr. Young stated he is providing financial information to the district's Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Young reported the district's unaccounted for water loss is currently around 40 percent. The district's water loss had previously been around 14 percent, but Mr. Young believes that there may be some damage that has not been discovered yet to service lines from contractors installing fiber internet in the area. Mr. Young has previously responded to at least one customer complaint to repair a service line after damage by the contractors. Mr. Young has contacted Kentucky Rural Water Association, and had previously scheduled a meeting that conflicted with this IC, which he will be rescheduling, for assistance in locating any damages or areas of the system where leaks may be occurring.

Commission Staff informed the parties that a procedural schedule will be entered in the near future, to provide deadlines for any further requests for information from Staff, the filing of a feasibility report, as well as a hearing date, as required by statute. Co-Counsel for Graves County Water District (Graves District) inquired as to whether the parties would be able to share their opinions regarding the potential proposed merger of the districts, and Counsel for Graves District inquired, in the event that a hearing is scheduled, whether the parties would be able to propound discovery on Commission Staff who will be preparing the feasibility study. Commission Staff informed the parties that, following the entry of the procedural schedule and/or the feasibility study, the parties could present any motion or filings with the Commission that they deem necessary regarding these requests.

There being no further discussion, the IC was then adjourned.

cc: Parties of Record

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

AN ELECTRONIC INVESTIGATION INTO)	
MILBURN WATER DISTRICT TO DETERMINE)	
THE FEASIBILITY OF MERGER WITH A)	CASE NO.
PROXIMATE UTILITY PURSUANT TO KRS)	2021-00341
74.361 OR ABANDONMENT PURSUANT TO)	
KRS 278.020(6), KRS 278.021)	

February 6, 2024

NAME	REPRESENTING
<u>Ben Bellamy</u>	<u>PSC – Office of General Counsel</u>
<u>Jennifer Fell</u>	<u>PSC – Office of General Counsel</u>
<u>William Coston</u>	<u>PSC – Division of Financial Analysis</u>
<u>Jeff Abshire</u>	<u>PSC - Division of Financial Analysis</u>
<u>Eddie Beavers</u>	<u>PSC – Division of Financial Analysis</u>
<u>Erin Donges</u>	<u>PSC – Division of Inspections</u>
<u>Michael Hogancamp</u>	<u>Counsel - Milburn Water District</u>
<u>Eric Young</u>	<u>Milburn Water District</u>
<u>Gerald Wuetcher</u>	<u>Counsel – Graves County Water District</u>
<u>Glenn Denton</u>	<u>Co-Counsel - Graves Co. Water District</u>
<u>Bill Spears</u>	<u>Graves County Water District</u>
<u>Belva Wilkerson</u>	<u>Graves County Water District</u>
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