I believe a letter to all users should be sent to make them aware of potential costs & how it will affect them before Council decides. It is a rate increase so they need to know.

Mayor & Council: –

Concerns on the 100% commitment by the City of Conrad to the NCMRWA. Originally when the minimum 35% was agreed to it was meant to be a safety net in the event Lake Frances ever became inaccessible for a period of time- at the time of the 35% commitment it was never meant to be a 100% use and to abandon the current facility. Yes, it costs to keep the current facility up and functioning, however the City has control over all aspects of it. With good planning and continued maintenance/upkeep that plant, I believe has many years of use.

Currently the water rates & charges collected monthly go to pay up to 40% of certain employees, some are as high as 80%.
Cost of certain expenses are shared by the Enterprise funds (water/sewer/garbage) as a budgetary savings for the General fund.
Currently there are outstanding loans obligated for the improvement of the Water system- payments on these loans are due two times a year.

My Concern for the above is if the City no longer sells/provides water to its residents/users how will the above expenses be met or will some of those costs, such as wages, be reallocated to the General fund whose revenue comes from set tax revenues through the mills allocated. If the expenses in the General fund increase other expenses in that fund will have to be reduced-how do you choose which get reduced to fund the new expenses caused by going with NCMRWA?

How will the loan payments and other distribution/maintenance costs of the city current water system be funded? Will there still have to be a billing to the users that would be in addition to the NCMRWA billing?

What is being projected by NCMRWA as a monthly bill and how many gallons do you get for that cost? There are no historical statistics to show past increases & why. Most likely the rates quoted when this first was presented are significantly less than the rates quoted today. Currently the users of City water get 4,000/10,000 gallons (dependent upon the time of year) for a base of less than $35/month plus a $5 pump station fee, they then pay a small per gallon additional cost if they exceed that gallonage (these amounts are for a ¾" line). If users are going to be expected to pay NCMRWA for the water & the City for distribution/maintenance/loan/wages etc. that cost could be unattainable for many of the users.

Several, if not all, city parks and buildings are not currently metered for their water usage. Will NCMRWA require meters on every user-who pays for those meter installation costs? Once NCMRWA provides the water and billing for such, the added City owned properties, not previously charged will now become an added cost to the City itself. Will NCMRWA install a master meter where the water enters the City distribution site and then combine all the users water metered amounts, subtract from the usage by the master meter and

A 2 person household in Brady is paying [redacted]/mth this does include the water tower loan.

then bill the City the overage such as is the practice on new rural water hookups to City waterlines? This also would have to include any leaks along the way that would be the City's responsibility.

What is the current difference between the metered water leaving the City water plant and what is metered/billed amounts to the users—this would give the City an estimate of what the City would be accountable to be billed for monthly.

What would the potential costs be to the City for additional disinfection/chemicals before it would release the incoming water from NCMRWA, if any? Wouldn't the city still have to operate the treatment plant to some degree IF additional chemicals are necessary to be added or removed before distribution?

How & where is the incoming water piping from NCMRWA to the City going to be separated from the water/piping that will flow to Brady, Dutton, Power, Fairfield, Tri County Water District? Has this been explained how the piping and flows will work? Some of these aren't even within the NCMRWA use area-what will it take for them to expand to include them-where does this expansion end-if ever.

Will the City lease or sell their storage tanks to the NCMRWA or will the City still have to maintain the upkeep of them as they are storage for Conrad?

When is the City expected to pay their 10% share of the $15 million-when fully operational, or when the agreement to go 100% is signed and recorded-is it expected to be paid in full or will there be a payment plan? Do the other communities agreeing to be on the NCMRWA line also have to pay 10% of the $15 million or is Conrad getting stuck with the entire 10%?

Unsure of where NCMRWA derived the cost estimate of 12" pipe being $540/foot. Research shows a 12" PVC-200 PSI pipe used by most municipalities (per Google) between $35 and $100/foot.

What would the cost be to resume City water through Lake Frances/PCCRC if this plan or the water quality does not meet the expectations presented by NCMRWA? Would it even be possible, especially if the City gave up their current water shares with PCCRC, which is a BAD idea.

Why is NCMRWA redesigning the path of the waterline from what was originally planned-this seems to be an additional cost not the fault of those who had initially agreed to participate?

Will the City need approval from NCMRWA to add users to their system-currently the City has full control over any additional hookups? (not counting those who hook up to the current NCMRWA line east of Conrad-that takes approval from both the City and NCMRWA)

In closing: A person/community **DOES NOT LEAVE GOOD WATER TO GO FIND WATER!** The City of Conrad currently has a good water supply and good water. The lake, once Brady goes on line with NCMRWA, will have that much less water removed thus less chance of lower lake levels. No, we won't get the water shares back that were given to them, however there will be that much less water removed from Lake Frances. The old adage-**IF IT AIN'T BROKE DON'T FIX IT** still rings true. Conrad would never be able to buy these shares back. Consolidation isn't always a good solution.

The City will lose control over their water costs, potential quality and potentially who gets water. If the NCMRWA line has a leak or plant issue and is forced to shut down distribution the City will have to rely on their storage-the City has never had a problem fixing any of their issues in a timely manner, no history on NCMRWA response to repairs. - When increases will they only have to notify City, not all residents, as city will be their only customer not each resident.

It seems NCMRWA deadline of the end of October, 2026 is making their emergency the City of Conrad's problem forcing Conrad to make a hasty decision that may not be in the best interest of this community. There appears to be a lot of unanswered questions and there are a lot of questions that have not even been brought to light. Nothing good happens when a forced/rushed decision is made. The City needs to make an educated, informed decision as this affects more than just the members of the Council. A decision needs to be made in the best interest of ALL its residents, taking their thoughts and concerns into consideration.

The completion date for NCMRWA has changed or been extended multiple times from when it was originally started-what guarantees are there to the communities signed up when it actually will happen-how much will costs increase each year it is moved farther out. Those increased costs will increase the water bills the same way.

Please consider examining this decision further before making any permanent, final decision. NCMRWA isn't going to tell Conrad they can't join by waiting—they need Conrad worse than Conrad needs them. They will build their infrastructure with anticipated expansion (large enough piping).

What is total projected cost of NCRWA @ completion?

What size piping runs to Brady?

What size piping runs to Loberta currently from on lines installed already - IE: Shelby to Cut Bank; Shelby to Conrad etc?

Most likely NCMRWA will bill City based on water passing through master meter - Conrad will still read City meters and bill according to use. City will be expected to pay NCMRWA in full each month - collect from city users, bear expense of delinquent bills, cover balance between NCMRWA bill and revenue collected - there will be a shortfall - how will City account for that amount?