

Eldorado Springs LID Advisory Committee Minutes

November 21, 2019

Rocky Mountain Fire District Station 6

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 pm.

Members Present: Vija Handley, Ken Sheldon, Kevin Tone, Jeff Mason

Guests: Gabby Begeman, ORC (phone)

Staff: Mark Ruzzin, Pete Salas

Approval of Minutes:

The board considered the minutes of the October 17, 2019 meeting:

ACTION: Ken moved to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2019 meeting, as presented; the motion was seconded by Vija, and approved unanimously.

Plant Operations:

Prior to calling Gabby Begeman to present the operations report, the committee briefly discussed items that it had discussed after Gabby's report at the October committee meeting, including: tree cutting issues and maintaining access along Barber Lane to the treatment facility, sludge hauling monitoring, data entry, timeliness of addressing concerns, and other items that were included in the operations report. The committee discussed how these concerns might be addressed during the evening's call with Gabby and the need to track operator issues more effectively.

Pete recommended that the advisory committee utilize the January 2020 meeting as a work session with ORC to review 2019 results and set the stage for 2020. The session could be used to express expectations regarding plant operations from the perspective of the committee and ORC. The committee agreed with the recommendation. Mark suggested reviewing the 2019 minutes to identify any unresolved issues which could be included in the January work session.

Kevin noted for the committee that he had noticed work being done at the plant to install the new submersible pump and that it appears this work has been completed. He asked if an invoice had been received for the work; Mark indicated that the invoice had not yet been received. Kevin stated that it was good news and that it would be appropriate to thank ORC for completing the work.

There was a brief discussion regarding the pump pit replacement project at the Spraitz property. Pete noted that the only solution to the problem was to replace the pit due to a crack in the pump pit itself. Vija asked if some of the project expense could be charged to the property owner. Ken explained that the repair cost is a LID cost because it was a result of a failure of infrastructure and not a misuse of the system by the resident.

Vija requested clarification regarding the proposed January work session and whether it would occur as part of the regular meeting. Pete and Mark indicated that it was hoped that if we prepared well, that it would be included as part of the regular January committee meeting.

At this point in the meeting the committee called Gabby Begeman of ORC to provide the operator's report. Mark initiated the conversation by introducing the members present. Kevin began by commending Gabby for

the work done to install the new submersible pump, including the steps taken to place the pump wiring and controls above ground. Kevin noted that given the price of the pump – around \$12,000 – moving the junction box will have the effect of lengthening the life of the pump, which will be helpful.

Gabby explained that the results column of the operator's report shows that plant operations are getting back to normal as a result of the recently completed sludge haul. It was also noted that methanol was being used as a supplemental carbon source to assist in the denitrifying process at the plant. The committee had a brief discussion regarding the denitrifying process and possible alternatives for carbon source assistance.

Kevin mentioned the higher values for TIN and the impact in terms of rolling average numbers that are required to be reported to the state. This concern was relative to monitoring of the sludge accumulation. Gabby noted that there was also a major failure in the effluent value which was leaking and causing elevated ammonia levels. Kevin asked about the state reporting requirements and Gabby explained the process and any possible repercussions.

There was a brief discussion regarding the exhaust fan at the plant and that it appears to be continuously running. Gabby agreed to look into what may be causing this.

Kevin asked about the pump pit issue at the Spraitz residence. Gabby indicated that the plan is to excavate around the pit to access and replace it. Gabby explained the problems with dealing with the issue and the strategies that had been considered when arriving at the decision to excavate around it. It was also noted that there are 2 water meter pits adjacent to the home and that this also presents a problem. Jeff expressed a concern regarding the time it would take to do the work and the potential impacts to the residents. Gabby indicated that the work should take only one day, and that they will work with the residents to minimize the impact. A concern was expressed about the cause of the cracking of the pit and the importance of installing the new pit in a manner as to reduce the risk of having issues with the new pit.

The committee discussed the proposed January work session and the need to work with Gabby and Tom to go over expectations of the committee and ORC. The committee discussed proactive versus reactive management of the plant. Kevin referenced the capital improvement plan that Ramey had put together to assess future system equipment needs. Ken noted that he would like to discuss lessons learned to avoid future issues.

Regarding the residences that have E-one pumps located inside the houses, Gabby estimated that equipment costs to move these pumps outside will run approximately \$25,000 per unit, not including labor.

Kevin asked about the Mixing Zone Analysis and who will be responsible for completing the analysis. Mark indicated that staff was just recently informed by the state about the need to complete the analysis and that an extension to complete the study has been granted, with a new due date in 2021. Gabby asked if Wright Water was going to do the analysis; Mark indicated that to date no discussions have been held with Wright. Mark also noted that the study should be an item for discussion on the agenda for the proposed January work session, along with other potential capital costs in 2020.

Mark walked the committee through a staff memo summarizing the conclusions reached by Wright Water in respect to their analysis of South Boulder Creek flow data, as part of WWE's work in assisting the LID in identifying opportunities to modify the LID's current operating permit. Based on their analysis, Wright has determined that they don't believe a case can be made for the dilution rationale. Ken expressed concern that Wright did not use the instream gauge that Gabby's crew had discovered at the first bridge, but had rerun the data from the state park gauge; the first bridge gauge is the one that needs to be used to arrive at a true analysis of stream flow at the facility's outfall point. The committee had a lengthy discussion regarding the rationale for using the first bridge instream gauge to determine flow in order to arrive at a more accurate analysis. It was

requested that Gabby send the committee the name of the person who found the first bridge instream gauge so that he can connect directly with the Wright Water team. Gabby agreed to do so.

Gabby mentioned that ORC will be providing the county with updated contract information in order to process the 2020 contract renewal. She suggested that the contract would largely be the same as the 2019 contract with a possible minor increase in ORC's monthly operating fee. Kevin indicated that the committee would consider a minor cost of living increase in the contract amount. Pete asked Gabby and Tom to review the scope of work included in the contract for any changes that might lead to increased efficiencies or effectiveness.

After the call ended, the committee briefly discussed the possibility of an increase in the ORC contract amount.

Committee Updates:

There were no committee updates to report.

Invoices and Budget Update:

The committee reviewed the current budget report as provided by Pete. Pete noted that several invoices were received after the spreadsheet had been prepared, and that it did not include the invoices for the submersible or E-One pumps that have recently been purchased. Pete noted that the sludge haul cost is included on the spreadsheet. Kevin asked about the amounts that should be in the capital replacement budget, and noted that the revenue and expenses spreadsheet should distinguish between operational costs and capital costs.

Kevin also asked about the LID's capital reserve amount. Pete noted that he and Mark recently met with the county budget office. While the budget office is hesitant to share a reserve amount until they are confident about the total, they did assure Pete and Mark that the LID has sufficient funds to cover all 2019 overages as well as anticipated 2020 overages. Mark provided some background information regarding the work that was proceeding relative to working with the budget office. Mark indicated that staff is expecting to receive a solid reserve amount number relatively soon. Mark also mentioned that staff would be going to the County Commissioners in December to request the necessary budget supplemental.

There was brief additional discussion regarding the state of the budget and ideas that might be forthcoming relative to steps that can be taken in support of the long-term sustainability of operating the wastewater collection system. Kevin asked if staff had an update regarding the Eldorado Artesian Springs renovation proposal; the committee was informed that there was no update. Ken noted that he hadn't heard anything recently about activities at the pool and resort.

Kevin mentioned the testing at the plant and the tracking of the costs being incurred at the plant. Mark provided information on how the costs were being allocated on the spreadsheet. Pete and Mark mentioned that the new accounting system doesn't have categories for some of the costs incurred and that it has been necessary to lump those costs in the most appropriate category. There was a brief discussion on this item.

Committee recruitment:

Pete noted that the committee member appointments of Cathy, Kevin, and Ken are coming to an end in February 2020. Cathy and Kevin are eligible to be reappointed, while Ken is not eligible as he has served two consecutive terms. Pete noted that he will provide Cathy and Kevin a link to the county webpage with the reappointment information. There was a brief discussion regarding the need to find replacement members, and that Ken could seek an exemption to the term limit requirement should no one else step up to volunteer. It was suggested that ESCA be informed to see if any of their members might be interested in serving.

Old/New Business:

Kevin asked about next steps with Wright Water Engineers; Ken asked if more specifics could be provided and if he and Kevin could be part of future discussions with WWE. It was suggested that there be another conference call with WWE and members of the committee to discuss committee concerns. The committee briefly discussed the issue.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m.