

Eldorado Springs LID Advisory Committee Minutes

March 18, 2021

Video Conference Meeting

The meeting started at 6:30pm without a quorum. A quorum was reached at 7pm.

Members Present: David Levin, Mary Smith

Guests: Gabby Begeman (ORC), Janet Grey, Stephen Sangdahl

County Staff: Mark Ruzzin, Jon Adam, Darla Arians

Approval of Minutes: The January meeting minutes were not approved by the committee.

ORC Ops Report (Gabby)

The box that houses the vent valve that was damaged during the vandalism incident was replaced along with a number of floats and some old wiring. An uninterrupted power supply that operates the plant's computer had a mishap will also be replaced.

Gabby sent the updated quotes for the Dissolved Oxygen (DO) Control Unit from Fluidyne, one with a new computer and one without. The new prices are about 10% more than the previous quotes from 2018. Gabby explained that the higher priced control unit has a computer system that would allow the operator to view the controls online, though we currently don't have internet access at the plant. Support is still available for the old computer and programming that already exists at the plant.

The connection between dissolved oxygen and denitrification that the DO Control unit would enhance. There are bacteria that change ammonia into nitrate and other bacteria that change nitrate into nitrogen gas which is how wastewater treatment plants remove nitrogen from the effluent. The DO control unit will more effectively balance the cycles and aerobic and anaerobic conditions that remove nitrogen.

Discussion continued how the DO control unit will help the wastewater plant meet the current permitted TIN limit of 10mg/L though won't be able to meet the upcoming permitted TIN limit of 1.5 mg/L in January 2022. Installation of the DO control is part of the LID's ongoing efforts, along with the submittal of the Alternatives Analysis and Permit modification, to demonstrate to CDPHE that we are making all the best efforts to reduce nitrogen in the effluent being discharged into the South Boulder Creek. Further discussion continued on the stream gage efforts in relation to the upcoming 1.5 mg/L TIN and the Alternative Analysis.

Kevin Tone joined the meeting at 7pm and a quorum was met.

New/Old Business

Dissolved Oxygen Control Unit

Discussion continued with acquiring the Dissolved Oxygen Control Unit with a quorum present. County staff sought a recommendation from the ESLAC to purchase the Dissolved Oxygen Control unit and which option they preferred. The plant operator preferred to have the DO unit now rather than later and that the less costly unit would be fine. Furthermore, since the LID has submitted the Alternatives Analysis and the Permit Modification to keep the 10 mg/L TIN the State will be looking more closely at the performance of the wastewater treatment facility.

Kevin Tone made a motion to approve the less costly DO control unit. Mary Smith Seconded the motion. 2 of the 3 committee members present approved the recommendation to purchase the less expensive Dissolved Oxygen Control unit. David Levin voted against the recommendation at this time.

Stream Gauge

The State Division of Water Resources will be moving up their plans to install the stream gage at the Barber Lane bridge but did not know when, possibly in the next month. The hope is to get the stream gage installed before the ditch opens back up in May to start capturing low flow.

Discussion of new chairperson and vice chairperson

David nominated Cathy Proenza to be the chairperson though she was not present at the meeting. County staff recommended to hold off a month and wait until all members were present, especially those being nominated. David made a motion to appoint the chair and vice chair though no one seconded the motion.

Invoices and Budget

A ORC's invoice was higher this month due to maintenance costs for float replacement and the replacement of the vent box. Jon shared the operating budget and gave a brief explanation of the line items and the operating budget totals for the year. Kevin asked if we should be placing ORC's equipment maintenance costs for the floats under capital improvements in the budget. Kevin reminded that a capital equipment list was generated back when Ramey Environmental was operating the plant. County staff will draft a 5-year capital expenditure plan for the committee's review. Mark reminded that the committee in the past discussed setting aside Plant Investment Fees as money for capital replacements and improvements.

Stephen Sangdahl added that as a ratepayer all expenditures add up over time.

New lights were installed at the plant by Boulder County. A flood light was installed on a timer on the East side of the plant, a security light was installed on the North side and the old security light on the west side was replaced with the same one as the North side. Both security lights have adjustable motion sensors. The cost for the lights is approximately \$1300 and will be invoiced as an operating expense under building grounds and maintenance.

Meadow Restoration and Unauthorized Tree Cutting

ORC will be repairing the meadow according to a recommendation from Boulder County Parks and Open Space plant ecologists.

David explained that he and a neighbor went out to cut down the remaining elm trees around the WWTF and left the stumps. The committee had previously agreed that no new cutting of trees on the LID property would occur except by a contracted service, Urban Woods, who would be removing the trees and the remaining stumps around the plant by stump grinding and the application of a concentrated Epsom salt solution where a stump grinder could not be utilized. The County is under contract with Urban Woods to do some additional work, though most of the work is to permanently remove the trees via stump grinding and concentrated Epsom salts in order to keep the roots from infiltrating the underground infrastructure. Mary also added that she too agrees that work needs to be done through the contracted service and that she was uncomfortable with a committee member acting on work not authorized and privy to the committee and that we need to adhere to proper procedures. It was made clear that all future tree removal work is to be coordinated through the contractor only.

LID Rules and Regulation Rewrite

County staff wants recommendations for the LID Rules and Regulations from the ESLAC.

Public Comment

No comments from the public were provided.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.