

Eldorado Springs LID Advisory Committee Minutes

July 21st, 2022

TEAMS Video Conference Meeting

Members Present: Cathy Proenza, Kevin Tone, David Levin, Janet Gray, Mary Smith

Guests: Gabby Begeman, Stephen Sangdahl

County Staff: Jon Adam

Approval of Minutes: The June 2022 meeting minutes were approved by the committee.

ORC Ops Report

ORC installed a new effluent pump at the plant as well as a slide rail system to make removing and installing effluent pumps easier. The other effluent pump is failing or has failed and will need to be repaired. As a result of the failure sewage came out of the floor drain and had to be cleaned up. No violations will occur as ORC was able to continue operating the system manually.

The TIN rolling average is now below the permitted limit. ORC is requesting an electrician to repair and rewire the control board. No grinder pumps were replaced in June. In response to a committee member question, methanol only is being used as an additional carbon source.

The LID did not get ARPA funding as a stand-alone project, though there may be an opportunity in the future to request ARPA money from one of the new funding pools created from the ARPA fund. At this time, none of the items requested for ARPA funding are critical but would be helpful. It does mean that there will be continued bi-annual sludge hauls which will be more expensive. A new back up generator has been approved to purchase from the LID's budget, which would cost between \$50k and \$60K. It has been determined by the County's electricians and another generator company that the current back-up generator will not be able to run the pumps. It has been requested to maintain the back-up generator on a regular basis to ensure it stays in proper working order.

Invoices and Budget

Both the May and June ORC invoices were included in the meeting. The May invoice included the costs associated with the excavation and repair of the backflow preventer at 52 Artesian. It has been requested to have Gabby explain why the back-flow preventer failed and how we can prepare for similar failures in the future. The LID is still being charged by Diversified Underground for locate work related to the installation of the new power lines in town.

Electricity usage charges have increased at the plant and all the satellite power stations most likely as a result of increasing electricity costs.

New/Old Business

Siberian Elms

The County Parks and Open Space weed control team gave an assessment of the Siberian Elms on the LID property and highly suggested targeted use of an herbicide to control the elms. The committee agreed that the LID does not use an herbicide beyond concentrated epsom salts which were used in the past removal around the WWTF. As of the last meeting, all committee members looked at the elm regrowth on the LID property. It was agreed by the committee to include Gabby in the discussion during the next meeting to help determine when the regrowth will be a problem for sludge hauls. It was asked if the County, outside of the LID, can help trim the elms on an as needed basis and that we could continue just cutting them back as has been done previously instead of going as far as stump grinding. It was asked if we can continue the previous practice of County staff working with residents to do the cutting in the future.

Quarterly Billing Delinquencies

Several District ratepayers have been delinquent on their quarterly sewer service, some for more than one year. County Staff, in response, sent letters to the residences outlining the need to either pay in full or determine a payment schedule by September 30th, 2022. Residents who didn't respond by September 30th would have those owed balances placed as a lien on their property. Since the letters were issued, most delinquencies have been paid in full.

Siberian Elms

There has been a significant amount of regrowth along the access road this Spring since being cut back last year. County staff shared a quote previously generated by Urban Woods who removed Siberian Elms around the WWTF via stump grinding and use of Epsom salts as a growth preventer. Urban Woods quoted \$2,250 for stump grinding and Epsom salt application. Committee members mostly agreed to have County staff take care of the Siberian Elms along the access road only. One member asked that all the committee members should at least look at what is being voted on. Those members agreed to do so and readdress the issue at the next meeting. The County Parks and Open Space Weed Manager will also come out, assess and recommend a plan of action for the elms.

ARPA Funding

As discussed earlier in the meeting that the LID did not receive the ARPA funding request, though there may still be chances in the future to request money from one of the new ARPA funding pools created.

Vandalism Update

County staff has warned the authorities that the potential threat of vandalism to the wastewater plant and infrastructure is present again. The previous case had been closed as no evidence had been found. The committee asked that the County to more to help protect the system.

Comments Open for 2025 LID Transfer

A portion of each committee meeting will be open for committee members and the public to express questions, comments and concerns about the upcoming end of the LID in 2025 after the last construction loan has been paid.

The committee asked when the County will provide more information about what plans it has for the future of the LID so the community has a greater opportunity to participate in the discussion.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.