

Eldorado Springs LID Advisory Committee Minutes

April 18, 2024

TEAMS Video Conference Meeting

Members Present: Janet Robinson, Janet Gray, Alex North

Guests: Gabby Begeman (ORC), Mary Collins (ORC), Doug Larson, Wes Cables

County Staff: Taylor Ladenburg, Jennifer Keyes, Mike Thomas, Steve Durian, Olivia Lucas

Minutes: March minutes approved

Action Items: A: Develop Snow removal plan over the summer: Made plan with ORC about what parameters require plowing. Still designing chain of command and getting a contractor on stand-by.

B: Distribute the petition: Map is near complete and will be emailed out to everyone for confirmation. Petition will go out with the map. The assessor office list is nearly complete.

C: Prioritize Spare Parts List: ORC made a priority list on the manufacturer recommended spare parts. High priority items are hard to replace and critical to the operation of the plant. Purchase of high and medium priority items are approved.

D: Committee to confirm district boundary: Map to be sent out with petition.

Compliance reports: Plant is in compliance.

ORC Ops Report:

- March samples and flows are normal
- 3000 gallon sludge haul occurred on 4/2
- Influent meter and UV bulbs on order
- Water/Sewer outages may not always occur simultaneously, leading to more rapid overflow. Xcel plans to cut energy more often.
- Current Generator runs the plants alarms but not the full plant. New onsite generator recommended. Portable generator recommended for grinder pump substations.
- Limited communication to the community during extreme weather events.

Invoices and Budget

- Several AmbienteH2O invoices this month for pump repairs.
- Smaller, more frequent sludge hauling may save money per gallon hauled. Need to work with Macdonald farms and ORC about pulling heavier sludge from the bottom/mixing effluent or we may need to continue larger hauls as well.

New/Old Business:

- During the power outage the county rented an industrial generator to get the plant running with help from the county's Master Electrician. Another generator was hooked up to one substation to power some grinder pumps. Electricity was restored before the portable generator was moved to the next substation.

Future planning will include a new generator to power the full plant, with a portable generator alternating for the grinder pumps. If the water is running with the plant offline we risk overfilling the grinder pits and back-flow into homes/the street.

- Rates have not been increased since 2016. To match revenue to current operational expenses we need to raise rates 30-40%. This would work out to around 25\$ a month per person. We are still drawing from our capital fund to afford operational expenses. Options for rate increases versus a new tax to be decided by the community at a later meeting. Rate increases are based on EQR while a tax would be based on property value. (Post office and state park pay EQR Quarterly billing, but not assessed on any tax.) Rates could be increased over the next few years instead of all at once.
- The Petition and map have been revised and are out for review and will be sent out to the community prior to the next meeting. There is a possibility of a special election to give us more time to make changes in case the petition fails, and we can try again in the next election cycle.
- We still need three names for the petition.
- We did not review the current committee application, committee decided to wait and accept any more applications prior to the deadline. One community member voiced their interest during the meeting.

Comments Open for 2025 LID Transfer

The meeting adjourned at: 8:45pm

New Action Items:

- Investigate Generator Upgrade
- Look into Multi-Channel communication, beyond emails, for the community
- Distribute the petition after final review of district boundary.
- Finalize map including parcel numbers on every address, outlining vacant properties, and ensuring every property is on the map.
- Finalize three names as petitioners to be added to petition.
- County to look into the option for a special election next spring.
- Taylor to get exact deadlines for committee applications and to send out application details to Wes.
- Investigate sludge hauling efficiency with smaller pumps with higher frequency.
- Taylor to prepare a more detailed information sheet about rate increases.
- New Flyer, with Website added.
- Questions for Olivia:
 - Assets of the electrical LID went where exactly?

Can an Ad-volerum tax be proportional to EQRS?

Can a sales tax be added to sewer fees to keep tax equal to EQRS?