



# Public Works

## Eldorado Springs LID Advisory Committee

September 19, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

### TEAMS Video Conference Meeting

#### Meeting Minutes

**Members Present:** Kurt Aronow, Virginia Gurley, Janet Robinson,

**Guests:** Gabby Begeman (ORC)

**County Staff:** Taylor Ladenburg (PW), Jennifer Keyes (PW), Dave Webster (PW)

**Minutes:** July and August meeting minutes were approved.

#### Past Action Items:

- ORC post outage protocol – ORC has a service map with every grinder pit and the ability to check on them. Pits may be difficult to locate (e.g., parked vehicles, overgrown vegetation, etc.). Homeowners typically alert ORC in the event of alarms; however, in the event of a power outage the alarms will not work. Most pits usually have a single day of capacity without pumping. When power is restored via generator or by Xcel, the pits will resume pumping and clear out stored waste. ORC has access to four power stations to run the pumps with a generator if needed.
- Rate increase – A flyer was sent to the community after receiving feedback from the LIDAC. The rate increase was approved by the BOCC at its September 17, 2024 business meeting.
- Commercial plant investment fees – The commercial EQR number is determined case by case but the plant investment fee per EQR is unclear. The EQR is set forth in regulation 43. **Update: The fee is the same as the residential fees.** The LIDAC voted to recommend an across the board forty percent increase on all fees.
- Future Agendas should include more time for public comment.

**Compliance reports:** The plant was in compliance for the month of August.

**Commissioner Claire Levy • Commissioner Marta Loachamin • Commissioner Ashley Stolzmann**

Boulder County Courthouse • 1325 Pearl Street • Boulder, Colorado 80302

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 471 • Boulder, CO 80306 • [www.BoulderCounty.gov](http://www.BoulderCounty.gov)

[Commissioners@bouldercounty.gov](mailto:Commissioners@bouldercounty.gov) • Telephone: 303.441.3500 • Fax: 303.441.4525

**ORC Ops Report:**

- Two grinder pumps were replaced in August.
- Electrical issues appear to have been fixed.

**Invoices and Budget**

The LIDAC would like to see more information and transparency with the financials of the LID. The current budget spreadsheet is only tracking expenses and does not show a full picture of revenue and net position.

**New/Old Business:**

- Grinder pump replacements versus repairs and/or rebuilds needs to be discussed further. What is the break-even point between repairing and replacing a pump? The LIDAC expressed concern about pumps with multiple rebuilds or replacements and suggested there should be consequences to users who are disposing foreign items that contribute to these conditions. Accordingly, the LIDAC would like to see more detailed notes added to the failure log updates tracked by ORC and the invoices regarding suspected causes of pump failures. The most common repair is the stator which is intended to be replaced.
- WWTF presentation by Gabby (ORC)
  - The sewer system is comprised of 7,000 feet of low pressure force main, 85 service lines, 76 grinder pits, and the wastewater treatment facility at the very end.
  - Most sewer systems are gravity fed; Eldorado Springs is unique due to the geography of the region requiring the wastewater to be pumped to the plant.
  - All waste is metered as it flows into the first tank, the anaerobic tank. (This is the tank where sludge is pumped out for sludge hauls.) From there, waste flows into the anoxic tank and then the sequencing batch reactor, where most of the treatment process occurs.
  - The process of adding UV disinfection reduces chemical use by 60 percent.
  - In 2021, a dissolved oxygen controller was added to provide better control of sequencing.
  - Clear, treated water is sampled prior to being discharged to South Boulder Creek and self-reported to CDPHE.
- The LIDAC voted to award AEI for their proposal on calculating the sizing of the emergency backup generator. LIDAC requested additional information be obtained to estimate the total cost of the project.
- Siberian elms – The short term plan involves the county leading an effort to develop a plan to trim and/or remove Siberian elms along the access road to the WWTF. A long-term may include the possibility of partnering with Boulder OSMP to obtain a forest management grant for the removal of all invasive trees within the WWTF's four acres and the city's 160 acres.

**Public Comment:****New Action/Agenda Items:**

- Taylor will work with ORC and AmbienteH2O to include better repair notes on invoices, including probable causes of failures and age of the pump. LIDAC to decide if they want to replace pumps more proactively prior to failures.
- A community flyer will be developed with messaging and instructions for a power outage. Guidance and instructions will be provided regarding what users should do in cases with and without a backup generator and to recommend limited usage.
- Taylor will request an OFM rep to present at the October LIDAC meeting to explain the budget spreadsheet.

- A simpler, easier to understand budget tracking spreadsheet will be requested of OFM and shared with the LIDAC at the October meeting.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at: 8:31 p.m.