

Summary Notes
North Santiam Sewer Authority
North Santiam Joint Sewer Project Meeting #47
November 5, 2020 at 6pm
Held by Zoom Conference Call (Due to COVID-19)

Meeting Convened at 6:00 PM.

A. Roll Call Present:

Members: Shelley Engle, Tim Kirsch, Joel Parks, Jeff Smith, Dale Weise, Ken Woodward, Jeff Yohe

Support Staff: Danielle Gonzalez

Guests: McRae Carmichael (MWVCOG), Heath Cokeley, (OAWU), Garret Freres, John McCormick, Peter Olsen

Declarations of Conflict of Interests- None

Announcements- Danielle:

- Ziply Fiber and CPI received \$627,000 through the CARES Act to develop the broadband fiber for Detroit and Idanha. Due to the fires, there are currently no poles to put the fiber on. Hope to put them in underground for now.
- Build starts in Idanha on the poles next week. Will replace the Street light pole lamps with LED lights. Perhaps now is the time to add traffic blinking lights.
- Halls Ridge Communication tower was destroyed from Gates on up. Cellular service is currently being provided by Communications on Wheels (COWs). There will be extended power outages.
- One needs to notify CPI immediately if you don't have power; they will bring up a Generator on a Trailer (GOAT)
- Septic Tank utilization- needs to meet the criteria of not requiring a 30%, or more, capacity and meets a water-tight test. The county will waive their inspection if the inspection is done by a certified inspector.
- Danielle is maintaining a list of resources (and locations) available per city.

B. Public Comments/Questions-

John McCormick noted that Gates and Detroit need to figure out how to get the sewer system up and running in the near future and not far down the road. They are looking at potential grants.

There is a sewer meeting Monday, November 9; need to meet with ODEQ. Danielle noted that everyone knows what needs to happen. She will be bringing some other folks into the conversation.

The NE corner of Detroit burned so hot that it melted a septic tank lid made of metal. There are concerns about that whole area now.

Danielle noted that work is being done on a Marion and Linn county mapping feature. The hope is to be able to quickly run reports on what is needed for successfully rebuilding.

There could be over 40% of Detroit systems that have "failed."

Dale noted that for those that fail, it may cost too much to rebuild. Folks may just leave their property empty and not rebuild. He is also concerned for those hooking up RV's to septic systems as they aren't made for that. This will be brought up in Monday's meeting.

C. Meeting Summary Notes- Unable to vote on them as they were just recently sent out; will move to the next meeting agenda.

Old Business

D. Treasurer's Report- Joel Parks

- Outstanding debt of \$2,787 to Speer Hoyt
- Remaining balance of \$499.95

Jeff Smith motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented; Jeff Yohe seconded. Discussion- there is no more money to pay future bills. Dannielle noted that there were costs associated with a legal document that helps navigate if someone were to pull out of the IGA. Motion passed.

E. Discussion: Engineering/Design Wastewater Master Plan Update- Peter Olsen

- Previously sent out a monthly update.
- Still in the collecting data stage. Gates is complete; Mill City, Detroit, and Idanha still coming in.
- Next will work on flow projections and how to handle it and the associated financials.
- Will be doing staff interviews with the cities.
- At the last meeting we approved the sites for doing the infiltration testing. These started last week at Rock Creek; some positive and some negative results.
- One property owner is not interested in having a system on their property.
- Currently "ground truthing" to determine what's in the ground.
- There was a meeting last week in which public outreach and the website were discussed to better improve communication; we want to have consistent messaging. Will include monthly project highlights and FAQ's on the web. Kudos were given to Shelley for what she has done with the website.

Shelley said that Peter's group will share maintaining the web page. They will post things instead of sending to Shelley first, for better efficiency.

- Peter asked Danielle to keep him in the loop regarding the DEQ septic system discussions.
- Budget update- have spent \$56,000 of the \$340,000 total budget.

Tim asked if there are ways to include the steps of building the sewer infiltration plant that can be incorporated with rebuilding of the town. Answer- Peter says not likely; you can't just put pipes in the ground. Sewer systems are unlike conduit and electrical that can be put in place for use later. There are fixed elevations and alignment requirements specific to sewer. Homeowners can get information about new septic tank placement and elevations that are best for hooking into the main system at a later point.

The sewer authority is going to have to set up relationships with the cities; they set up standards and criteria for future building approvals.

Dale asked when they will know if it's going to be a gravity system or a step system? Answer- they'll know in six months.

FEMA has a program for both individuals and municipalities for funding waste water systems.

Senators and representatives are offering to help with getting funding; they just need to be told what is needed.

Dannielle noted that she is also looking for funding for a full time staff member.

F. Communications Update- Was addressed previously in the meeting.

G. Website Updates and Board Email Addresses, there are costs associated. John McCormick has some ideas that will reduce costs. We are still using private emails at this time. Shelley is interested in having a credit card account in order that she can move forward on some things. Dannielle hopes to see this resolved by the next meeting.

H. Review and Approval of Recommended Site Selections *(This is in error; this entry was not supposed to be on the agenda.)*

I. Policy Development- Danielle

New structures need to be plumbed, not talking about “sewer laterals.” Peter is working on this; the cities will be making the decisions. The cities will give a list to the counties as to what the sewer authority requires. Need to include the correct language; McRae said that “suggest, shall or should” are the terms to consider.

Tim asked if “batch plants” are a possibility for temporary operation until the sewer plant is built. Heath answered it depends on whether going with a gravity system or a step system.

DEQ isn’t interested in temporary systems; perhaps will need to “press” DEQ on this.

Dale said that there is a product called a “prelose” made by Arencos, a 1,000 gallon tank that only costs \$5,000. It can be integrated with a “step system” plant. However, it isn’t “advanced treatment” according to county employees and won’t meet approval. We would need variance from DEQ and other authorities. This would work as an interim until the sewer system is put in place.

The Marion County Board of Commissioners has asked Danielle to put some more meetings together with DEQ and others. The reason being is that DEQ might say one thing in private conversations with her, and then another in public meetings.

The “three basin rule” is what is going to take so long.

J. Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities- Danielle

This application is not going to work well for the sewer system. She found out that they were interested in soil erosion and slide mitigation; she couldn’t address water quality, and everything needs to be completed in three years. So she will not be applying for this, instead is looking at working with the USDA.

Dale said that there are some ORS’s (#454515 specifically) that mandate the state has to help with a sewer system. Dannielle said that if it is determined “emergency funds” are needed, than the state money kicks in.

K. Next Meeting Topics

- Email Addresses
- Upcoming Election Implications/Transitions & Board Training

Mill City is getting a modular city hall. They are in the process of solidifying the plans for the actual city hall; they will be moving out of COG soon.

FEMA will not make improvements to federal property.

Jeff Yohe mad a motion to adjourn the meeting; Tim Kirsch seconded. Meeting adjourned 7:55 PM.