

**Minutes for Wild Wings County Service Area Advisory Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, February 7, 2018 6:30 PM  
The Nest**

The meeting was called to order by Scott Picanso. Committee members present were Doug Williams, Mark Ullrich, Dan Rott and Lachi Richards. Also present was Beth Gabor from the CSA Administrative Support Team, and Supervisor Matt Rexroad. Jeff Lambeth from National O&M and Sean Newland from Greenberg Traurig, LLP, as well as members of the community.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: None**

**UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE OF SUPERVISOR REXROAD:**

Introduction of problems with wastewater treatment system.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** December 6, 2017, Approved.

**Discussion and Action Items**

- A. Report from Golf Course Sub-Committee Meeting (Scott Picanso)**
- B. Water & Waste Water Treatment Systems Report (Beth Gabor)**

Findings, after multiple evaluations of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) presented by Beth (see Attachment 1). In summary, the discharge permit obtained by the developers described a redundant system; however, only a single system was built making maintenance difficult. The contracted operators have further failed to perform adequate maintenance and to address issues. Major repairs needed now, include the monitoring system (SCADA), the aeration system and the filters. Certain actions by the operators also violated the permit, most notably discharging only secondary treated water into the recycled water pond. Tertiary treated water is all that is allowed in this pond which is utilized to irrigate the golf course.

Lachi made a presentation describing the WWTP (see Attachment 2). There are presently ~5-6 million gallons of contaminated water in the recycled water pond. There have also been releases of sewage into the storm drainage pond, allowed only for storm drainage. We have hired the original installers of the plant to get the system working properly. There will be significant costs to address all of these issue, using up all of the existing sewer funds. The estimated cost to stabilize the existing plant is \$627,000 plus \$126,000 in SCADA improvements for the water system. Additional time will be needed to address the violations and in order to irrigate this summer.

An updated Engineer's Fee Report is being prepared which identifies the costs of operating the water and wastewater systems, including anticipated replacements and repairs. The last Engineer's Fee Report that was done in 2004, was reliant on estimates and didn't include some facilities. The update also includes \$50,000 to evaluate alternatives to the current system, such as connecting to the City of Woodland. Current estimates are that the sewer fee is expected to increase significantly; the water fee will probably require a slight increase. Since all the sewer reserves will be used and a loan is likely necessary to complete the required rehabilitation of the plant and address the Notice of Violation, we will likely have to pay back a loan and replace the reserve funds in a short timeframe. Changes in fees will be discussed during the next CSA meeting.

Now that the tertiary filter has been fixed, the water meant to irrigate the golf course can be properly treated. The problem is the existing water in the pond is still contaminated and needs to be removed and an alternative solution for irrigating the golf identified in the meantime. Multiple options for emptying and cleaning the recycled water pond are being considered. Rick offered his 13 acres of ag land on which the water could be used for irrigating. Another possible solution is recycling the contaminated water back through the WWTP, but that will take a number of months to empty the pond. The goals are to get into compliance at plant, clean up the ponds and continue to run the plant for 5 more years allowing enough time to identify and implement alternative solutions.

Mark asked, did operator fail in their actions? Beth answered that the operator bypassed the tertiary filter and contaminated the recycled water pond, and also discharged raw sewage into storm water pond; both a violation of the permit. As such, the County is withholding payment to National. Sean, the National attorney views these as serious claims and needs time to review the County's 18-point letter notifying National that payment is being withheld, and to prepare a written response. Matt said the County will handle the legal claims to National. The developer claims could possibly come from homeowners. Scott commented that the homeowners should not be on the hook, due to the negligence of developers, operator or County.

Comments from community – possible odor problems in past. Beth responded that in general, the sewage plant has been cleaned up and odors should no longer be an issue if properly maintained.

The findings discussed in this meeting will be shared with the community.

#### **o Water Meters/Sending Units**

Jeff said work was completed, still need software to make meters operational

#### **C. Status of wells (Lachi Richards)**

Two wells: Pintail is good; Canvasback out of compliance for arsenic. Canvasback, can be used for 5 consecutive days, and 15 days total in one year. Canvas Back Well was recently cleaned up for recommissioning and utilized during the Pintail well fix. Pintail was repaired and is back on line. The most recent arsenic levels are 12 and 8.3 ug/l at Canvas Back and 6.7 ug/l at Pintail. Even though arsenic levels have dropped, we still need to consider an arsenic treatment facility. An engineer is currently looking at the option of reducing arsenic levels in one well and then blending the reduced arsenic level water with the other well to achieve compliance at both wells on a sustainable basis.

Community suggested residents reduce water use in household so less sewage needing treatment and taxing the WWTP. Good response to December work on wells.

#### **D. Groundwater management program update (Lachi Richards)**

Next meeting is March 19<sup>th</sup> at Community Center in Woodland.

#### **E. Status of Waste Water Treatment Plant (Lachi Richards)**

See above.

**F. Engineer's Fee Report (Beth Gabor)**

See above.

**G. Call for future agenda items**

Address sewage treatment plant problems and costs.

**Adjournment**

**Next Meeting: April 4, 2018, 6:30 p.m.**

Minutes Submitted by Doug Williams

## **Attachment 1**

### **Status Update on Wild Wings CSA Facilities and Fees**

CSA Advisory Committee Meeting 02-07-18

- Wastewater facilities (WWTP) and operations evaluated by multiple consultants due to ongoing issues.
- Findings:
  - While discharge permit obtained from the State by developer indicates a redundant system, only a single system was built, thus making it difficult to properly maintain and address failures.
  - As a result, significant repair and replacement is needed at this time. There is also a need for significant investment in the monitoring system (SCADA) for both the water and wastewater systems (runs the plant; alerts operators to issues; provides data necessary for reporting).
  - Current operators have further failed to alert us to issues and perform adequate maintenance, and certain action they have taken violated the permit resulting in a Notice of Violation from the State.
  - Most notable violation was bypassing tertiary filter and discharging secondary waste into recycled water pond making it impossible to irrigate golf course and requiring expensive measures to empty/clean pond.
- Current Status:
  - Addressing WWTP failures, irrigating golf course and responding to Notice of Violation is requiring utilization of all sewer funds and will require a loan. Current costs to stabilize WWTP amount to \$627k, plus \$126k from water for SCADA improvements. A few additional costs still unknown.
  - Current operators (National) have been notified that payments are being withheld due to failure to adequately perform and increased costs to CSA as a result of their actions. County anticipating their departure, a need to hire temporary operators and proceed with another RFP for long-term operators.
  - Work being conducted now at WWTP will take several months and only get current system operating properly. Redundancy will still be required by the State.
- Fees:
  - Engineer's Fee Report update is near complete to identify ongoing costs to properly operate and maintain water and wastewater systems. Hasn't been updated since 2004, didn't include some facilities and was based on estimates. Engineer's Fee Report is basis for CSA fees.
  - Update includes cost to evaluate long-term solution for redundant wastewater system (i.e. additions to current system, connecting to Woodland); actual costs for

system upgrade still to come.

- Early indications are sewer fees were not appropriately raised in the past and will see a steep incline. Will also need to replenish reserve and pay back anticipated loan.
- Next meeting will be dedicated to discussion of fee increases; Prop 218 proceedings expected in spring.

Attachment 2.

### Wild Wings Wastewater System

