

Town of Yampa
Special meeting minutes
October 25, 2017

TOWN OF YAMPA
SPECIAL MEETING
OCTOBER 25, 2017
YAMPA TOWN HALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Tom Yackey, Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Lewis,
Trustees Brian Ashley, Jeff Drust and Michael French

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

EMPLOYEES PRESENT: Public Works Superintendent (PWS) Eric Berry and
Town Clerk (Clerk) Janet Ray

AUDIENCE PRESENT: Mary Andre, Matt Mielke, and Cort Nickel

Call to Order

Mayor Tom Yackey called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call

Board roll call was taken.

Presentation and discussion of Civil Design Consultants and Stantec Preliminary
Engineering Report (PER), Outline Summary and Consideration of Treatment Alternative

Mary Andre and Matt Mielke of CDC and Cort Nickel of Stantec were in attendance to give the presentation on treatment alternatives for the town's wastewater treatment facility.

Mr. Mielke explained why the improvements are needed and what the current system needs are, which include increased capacity for treatment of spring/summer surges of infiltration and inflow (I/I), the addition of a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system with automatic data logging and remote alarm capabilities, removal of biosolids, replacement of the existing lagoon liners to prevent seepage into the groundwater, headwork improvements to provide reliable screening and removal of inorganics, curtain baffling to prevent short-circuiting and improve lagoon hydraulics, improved aeration to increase dissolved oxygen levels and enhance aerobic digestion, improved cold weather nitrification to meet 2018 discharge limitations and disinfection improvements to include flow paced chemical feed and dechlorination. It was noted that the last removal of biosolids was from the first and third ponds in 2000. Mr. Mielke showed a graph of the measured effluent ammonia concentrations from 2006-2016 versus the 2018 standard, which clearly indicated

how many times the facility would not have met the 2018 standards. Mr. Mielke gave an overview of the historical data. For design considerations, CDC is trying to address the violations that the plant has now and new regulations that are being put in place during the next 20 years. At the 20-year mark, if not before, the town should be able to address the I/I issue. Two factors to keep in mind are that when the maximum flows reach 80% of the wastewater plant capacity, a system needs to be in design and when the maximum flows reach 95% of the wastewater plant capacity, a system needs to be in construction. The system is at 90% capacity now, so improvements need implemented. Ms. Andre stated that in their early work, it appears that the plant improvements can be made on the property the town already owns without needing to purchase additional property; however, there may be a need for a temporary laydown area during the construction, which would need to be on an adjacent property owner's land, so the town needs to keep that in mind.

Mr. Nickel of Stantec, began his presentation by explaining that to begin the process, dewatering will need to take place and the biosolids removed before improvements can be made. He described some newer technology that uses geotextile tubes that the town might research. He said that it might be up to the contractor as to what type of removal they use, and he said that timing and sequencing will be big factors as well.

CDC and Stantec looked at several alternatives for improvements and Mr. Nickel gave an overview of each alternative. Alternative #1 is to do nothing with the existing system, but it is already known that it isn't working well enough to do the job of removing the ammonia at the levels needed. If nothing is changed with the existing system, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) can levy fines of up to \$10,000 a day and take possible legal action against the town. Mr. Nickel stated that there is nothing wrong with the design of the existing system, but it needs to be made more efficient to meet the new ammonia standards. He noted that when the temperature of the water gets cold, the ability to remove the ammonia drops off significantly. The system is not dormant, it is working, but it needs enhanced.

Alternative #2 is a Submerged Attached Growth Reactor (SAGR). With this system, Cell #3 at the wastewater plant is converted to an "attached growth reactor" to provide biological contact with nitrifying bacteria for cold weather ammonia removal. The estimated capital cost is \$2,000,000 and estimated annual operations and maintenance (O&M) cost is \$57,000.

Alternative #3 is a Lemna system. With this system, the lagoons are covered to insulate the ponds and help keep nitrifying bacteria active during the cold winter months. Cell #3 in the current system would be a polishing reactor for enhanced ammonia removal. The estimated capital cost is \$2,200,000 and estimated annual O&M cost is \$84,000.

Alternative #4 is Biodomes. This system uses lagoon covers. It combines submerged aeration and a biological contactor system within self-contained bio-dome units. The

Town of Yampa
Special meeting minutes
October 25, 2017

estimated capital cost is \$3,200,000 with an estimated annual O&M cost of \$87,000. It was noted that Kremmling, Colorado is currently in a pilot program using biodomes for their system.

Alternative #5 is a Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR). This system uses lagoon covers, biological contactors, parallel treatment trains, and activated sludge treatment. Cell #3 in the current system would be converted to an equalization basin. The estimated capital cost is \$2,400,000 with an annual O&M cost of \$106,000.

The recommendation from CDC and Stantec is to move forward with the SAGR treatment alternative. Capital costs are the lowest and annual O&M is also the lowest. It should serve the town for many years to come and leave room for changes to the system in future years when regulations change such as further treatment improvements for Regulation 85 (nutrients management) and Regulation 31 (standards & methodologies for surface water treatment). It will also allow time to study the collection system I/I problem and replace or repair sewer lines as needed. It was noted that the LEMNA system offers a suitable alternative as well. Ms. Andre explained that part of the PNA is an environment checklist which CDPHE will review at the same time as the PER review and CDPHE will determine if the town can get a “findings of no significant impact” (fonzi) or whether the town will be required to do an Environmental Assessment (EA). The funding deadline for the environment assessment would be mid-December and the next funding deadline would be mid-February to do the site application. It would be helpful to accelerate the design schedule into less time if possible. For there to be any chance of construction in 2018, the compliance requirements on the effluent permit must be met. If the CDPHE schedule is followed and the town waits for comments from CDPHE on each component, it would be a lengthy process from the PNA/PER, to final plans and specifications. When the project is on the State Revolving Fund (SRF) track, it gets higher priority for reviews and CDPHE usually gets informal comments to the engineers, so changes can be made if necessary, before final design and specifications. The reality is that the town is probably looking at construction in 2019. Ms. Andre said they can work up a schedule for proposed construction. Things have changed with the SRF, so you must go for funding for components of the project and not the entire project at once. The reason for this is that CDPHE doesn't want funds setting unused for several years. For the design, the town has a \$100,000 Small Communities Grant (SCG) and a \$10,000 Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority (CWRPDA) planning grant. Design grants up to \$250,000 are available and the Town can apply for \$140,000, since we already have the \$110,000. CDC can provide final design estimates for construction, so the town could start applying for that funding. SRF, Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) and possibly United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding are options.

Mr. Mielke explained that there must be a public meeting that has been posted in the legal notices of the Steamboat Pilot a minimum of 30 days prior to the meeting, to explain the

Town of Yampa
Special meeting minutes
October 25, 2017

PNA and PER and solicit input from the public on the project. The first available meeting to fit that criteria would be December 6. The next option is the special meeting that will be held December 13.

Following the presentation and discussion, Trustee Lewis moved that the Town of Yampa approve CDC and Stantec's recommendation of implementing the SAGR system for the wastewater treatment plant proposed improvements. Trustee Drust seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

Consideration of acceptance of Civil Design Consultants' Yampa Water Treatment Facility Access Road letter proposal

Trustee Lewis moved to accept Civil Design Consultants' Yampa Water Treatment Facility Access Road letter proposal in the amount of \$61,800. Trustee Drust seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

Consideration of acceptance of Agreement between Town of Yampa and Historic Routt County (HRC) for grant administration of State Historic Fund (SHF) project #2018-01-042 for Crossan's M & A Market rehabilitation

Clerk Ray explained that earlier today, there was an Owner/Architect/Contractor (O.A.C.) meeting, where it was learned that this final phase of the project will cost more than initially presented. This is due to the market improving in Routt County, which in turn has affected subcontractors' pricing, etc. The bottom line is that there are not enough funds to complete the project at this time. Since neither HRC nor the Town of Yampa can be responsible for the additional funds needed, the Town will want to wait to act on the Agreement between the Town of Yampa and HRC until the funding issues can be resolved. Following the explanation, Trustee Lewis moved to table consideration of acceptance of the Agreement between the Town of Yampa and Historic Routt County for grant administration of State Historic Fund project #2018-01-042 for Crossan's M & A Market rehabilitation until the funding issues are resolved. Trustee Drust seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

Adjournment

The business of the special meeting being concluded, the Mayor called for adjournment. Trustee Lewis moved to adjourn, Trustee Drust seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously on voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Town of Yampa
Special meeting minutes
October 25, 2017

Thomas E. Yackey, Mayor

Janet L. Ray, Town Clerk

February 7, 2018