

Eldorado Springs LID Advisory Committee Minutes

December 21, 2017
Rocky Mountain Fire District Station 6
4390 Eldorado Springs Drive
Eldorado Springs

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 pm.

Members Present: Vija Handley, Cathy Proenza, Ken Sheldon, Kevin Tone

Guests: Gabby Begeman, David Levin

Staff: Mark Ruzzin

Approval of Minutes:

ACTION: Ken moved to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2017 meeting; Vija seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Plant Operations:

The board reviewed the operations report with Gabby Begeman of ORC.

The board discussed the monthly TIN numbers and the pending new reporting requirements for TIN, Total Inorganic Nitrogen, included in the WWTP's operating permit. In the new permit, beginning 01/01/2019, the plant must meet a daily maximum TIN of 10.0 and begin reporting its rolling 2-year average. Beginning 01/01/2022, the plant must meet a daily maximum TIN of 10.0 and a rolling 2-year average TIN of 1.5.

Kevin mentioned that he will set up a meeting with CDPHE to discuss the permit requirements, to argue that the limits of technology and limits of affordability will make meeting the new requirements extremely challenging for the WWTP. Eldorado Springs is not the only small facility facing these new requirements or requirements similar to them; the new standard is an anti-degradation standard that many plants must meet. Kevin has talked with staff at CDPHE on the engineering side, but needs to also talk with CDPHE staff on the permit side. He will look to set up a meeting after the new year. One goal will be to get the CDPHE engineering group to talk with the CDPHE permitting group to help them understand this dynamic that Eldo and the other small plants are facing. Kevin will argue that even a TIN limit of 10 is unrealistic, as this is a drinking water standard, and not an effluent standard.

Kevin emphasized that it will be important for Boulder County to be involved in these discussions as the operator and owner of the facility, to represent the Eldorado Springs community, as the investment level necessary to meet the permit as it currently stands will be significant. The board discussed the steps that may be necessary to meet the standards from a technological perspective, which would likely require a significant change in the current technology used by the plant. Other factors could also impact the future of the plant, including

the potential expansion of Gross Reservoir. That said, as the board discussed, other similarly sized plants are facing the same permit requirements, necessitating the need for a higher-level discussion with CDPHE. The board discussed the prospect of collaborating with the other WWTP's impacted by this new standard, and decided to hold off on this strategy until the first conversation with CDPHE is held.

Mark will reach out to Boulder County Public Health to discuss the situation and learn what help they may be able to provide.

Gabby asked the board for guidance regarding the TIN letter that is due to CDPHE by the end of 2017, to describe steps the plant will take to meet the new standards. The draft letter that Gabby has prepared describes the limitations of the existing plant configuration and suggests that chemical treatment will need to be considered. The board suggested that Gabby also include reference to an effort by the LID to modify the TIN requirements included in the WWTP's permit.

Kevin then described options for changing the mechanical structure of the plant to meet the new standards, as well as chemical options. The board then had a wide-ranging discussion about other approaches to address the current permit requirements, e.g. strategies to increase stream flow; legal strategies; stream management approaches; and engagement with CDPHE and other agencies at the state to make the case that the permit requirements are unreasonable.

ORC will send the letter and cc: Boulder County.

Gabby described the tests that have been done on the plant's backup generator. The generator will start, but will not turn off. Gabby would like to bring EC Power out to fix the switch and complete a routine tune-up of the generator. The cost of the tune-up will be approximately \$500.00. The board agreed to move forward with this work.

Gabby informed the board that the plant has been struggling with sludge. Two pump-outs were completed within two weeks of each other in November, but the sludge tank remains nearly full. With systems comparable to Eldo's, ORC has been removing the entire sludge tank on a regular basis to address the "coning" problem that the plant seems to be experiencing. While McDonald Farms was out to pump the sludge on November 6 and 15, Gabby suggested that the tank again needs to be pumped. Her recommendation, however, is to have the full 11,000 gallon tank pumped, at an estimated cost of \$3,500. While this approach is more costly, it may save the LID money by reducing the number of overall tank pumps that are needed annually. Sludge build-up over time can be monitored to be sure that the problem isn't returning.

The board agreed to have the full tank pumped and asked ORC to monitor the tank moving forward.

Mark mentioned to the board that the Fluidyne alarm reprogramming will necessitate the acquisition of an E-Prom unit to be installed at the plant. This will add \$175 to the estimated cost of the work, bringing the total cost for the reprogramming to \$825. The board had questions about the need for the E-Prom unit, given that there is a dedicated phone line at the plant. It's

also possible that there may be some reprogramming needed to accommodate the UV system, so it will be important to be sure that there will be no duplication of work when the UV system comes online. Mark will look into these issues and report back to the board.

Invoices and Budget Update:

The board briefly reviewed the monthly invoices, including invoices from McDonald Farms and ORC. The board discussed the fact that the E-One pumps are doing well, with no issues in November. The board discussed the fact that two full sludge hauls a year, as an alternative to the more frequent schedule, may be a viable alternative that is relatively cost neutral.

The board reviewed the overall budget for 2017. Chemical expenses will run about \$1,500 over budget, and when combined with the expected \$3,500 charge for the pumping of the sludge tank, the LID appears to be on track to be about \$5,000 over budget for the year.

Mark reviewed the 2017 PIF payments to the LID. The \$13,878 amount is from three different PIFs, which will increase 2017 revenue to a bit above \$105,000.

Mark walked through the LID I principal pre-payment of \$70,000, which will lead to a savings of \$11,500 in interest savings between now and the retirement of the LID I bonds in 2025. The \$70,000 is coming from LID I reserves that have accrued over the past several years of bond repayments.

Mark will ask the county Finance staff to add a “Testing” line to the budget spreadsheet to call out and identify these expenses.

Mark reminded the board that Pete Salas, before his retirement, worked with the county Budget Office to set the 2018 LID budget equal to the 2017 budget. Moving forward, come summer of 2018, the LID board will have the opportunity to evaluate the budget assumptions and make any changes necessary for the preparation of the 2019 annual budget.

Committee Updates:

Mark reported that the purchase process for the UV system is on track. isiWest continues to work through some aspects of the system design as it relates to the alarm programming and other control issues. Mark is hoping to have contractors visit the site by mid-January. Mark is also working on finding a location to store the system before it is installed.

The board then discussed the 2018 meeting schedule. In respect to having Gabby of ORC attend the monthly meetings, she typically has another meeting on the third Thursday of each month, which means if the Eldo LID meetings moved to the third Thursday, she would be able to cover both meetings and not have to make a special trip for the Eldo meeting. Gabby can be put first on the agenda to give her as much time as possible before she will need to leave the meetings at 7:15.

Holding meetings on the third Thursday of the month also means that there will be no conflicts with the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays in November and December. The board agreed to meet on the third Thursdays of the month in 2018.

Mark reminded the board that Jeff's term ends at the end of February 2018. He can reapply to continue serving on the board.

Mark presented the board with suggestions to consider as potential work plan items for the first six months of 2018. Ken suggested an addition to the list, that the emergency communications procedures be developed, per the conversations that were held with ORC when they became the plant operator in January 2017. Other items listed included installation of the UV system; minor improvements to the access road turnaround near the plant; resolving TIN issues with CDPHE; and better maintaining the LID's webpage on the Boulder County website.

Kevin mentioned the mapping project that was begun by county staff of the Eldorado Springs area, and adding layers of information regarding the collection system – valve locations; electrical drops; and other information. Again, this work may also be part of the ORC contract; Mark will check on this.

Mark informed the board that the LID's two contracts – with ORC as the plant operator and SDMS to provide billing services – have been renewed for 2018.

New Business:

Mark informed the board the new staff person to fill Pete Salas's position began work in the Commissioners' Office on December 18.

Public Comment:

David Levin asked for information regarding the apportionment that is assigned to the Alex North property. David also asked about the Airbnb situation with the Polumbo property; it appears that a bathroom has been added to the artist studio located on the property and which is now being offered for rent on Airbnb.

The board discussed the challenges of enforcing the correct apportionment on properties. Mark will check in with Boulder County Land Use regarding options for addressing these situations.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.