

## **Eldorado Springs LID Advisory Committee Minutes**

September 19, 2019

Rocky Mountain Fire District Station 6

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

**Members Present:** Vija Handley, Jeff Mason, Cathy Proenza

**Guests:**

**Staff:** Mark Ruzzin & Pete Salas

### **Approval of Minutes:**

The board considered the minutes of the August 1, 2019 meeting:

**ACTION:** Jeff moved to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2019 meeting, as presented; the motion was seconded by Vija, and approved unanimously.

### **Plant Operations:**

The group called Tom Schubert at ORC to walk through the Operator's Report. Tom noted that as follow-up to the August 1 discussion, ORC had installed a vent between the old north room of the WWTF and the new south room that houses the UV system. Circulation in both rooms is much improved.

Tom walked the committee through the flow data included in the Operator's Report. He indicated that the flow data shows clearly the impact that the pool has on summer flows; with the pool being closed this summer, flows for May, June, July and August have been significantly reduced in comparison to past years. In addition to the capacity percentage figures, Tom will add the gallonage numbers to the October report.

Cathy noted that the summer 2018 peak flows, when the plant reached 85% design capacity, appeared to coincide with when the pool was sending excess water into the system. There was general agreement that this was the case.

Tom mentioned that last month one of two submersible pumps at the plant went out. When ORC staff went to install the back-up pump that was on a shelf at the plant, they discovered that this pump was also in total disrepair. ORC then went ahead and ordered a second submersible pump from Water Technology Group; this new pump will cost approximately \$11,000 and will be delivered in 10 – 12 weeks. While the plant can operate normally on one pump on a temporary basis, this is a situation that needed to be resolved quickly, thus the reason for the ordering of a new pump. Tom indicated that running with one pump has impacted some of the plant's operating parameters; we will learn more next month as to the degree of the impact. Tom also stated that there will still be a need to have a backup pump for this new pump, and he asked for this pump to be placed on the LID's wish list as a 2020 purchase.

Mark expressed a concern about the TIN (Total Inorganic Nitrogen) number and that given the pump issues, meeting the permit numbers may not be possible. Tom noted that they will begin taking other steps to continue meeting the permit requirements, including completing a sludge haul as soon as possible, given that the last haul occurred in December 2018. In order to complete a haul, McDonald Farms has informed ORC that the trees encroaching along Barber Lane leading to the plant's access road will need to be trimmed. There was a brief discussion regarding past efforts to trim the trees and the problem areas that have been or might need to be

addressed. Jeff asked if it might be possible to flag the trees to determine where trimming should occur. Tom indicated that McDonald just said that there was too much tree growth but wasn't specific. Pete will work with Gabby, Tom, and McDonald Farms to get more information and take steps to schedule a sludge haul as soon as possible.

Cathy asked about the capabilities of the submersible pump, and whether a different or better pump might be purchased which could better handle the plant's mixing loads. Tom indicated that a more expensive, robust pump would not make much difference.

Pete asked a question regarding about the mixing inadequacy and impact on TIN and BOD levels. Tom indicated that there is an impact.

Cathy asked about prior operator reports showing average data on a year-to-year basis as a better tool for tacking plant performance over time. Tom indicated that adding the data would not be a problem and that he would do so. Jeff asked about having to file paperwork with the state due to the higher TIN levels, to which Tom stated that Gabby was working on it.

Tom mentioned was that there were no E-One problems reported for the month. Tom asked if a new E-One pump could be ordered because there is currently no spare. Mark indicated that staff would work with Ambiente to order a new pump.

### **Old/New Business:**

#### Emergency Communications Plan:

ESLAC walked through the Emergency Communications Plan with Tom. The last work to be completed for the the plan is clarifying who should be the primary points of contact for the plan, both in respect to county staff and for ESLAC. Pete provided his phone number as the contact number for the plan. Cathy asked about the procedures for informing community members of any emergency; it was decided that the committee would determine who the responsible party would be to be the keeper of the list of community members to be notified.

#### WWTF Operating Permit:

Mark suggested that ESLAC move to the WWTP CDPHE Operating Permit report agenda item so that Tom could be briefed on the conference call with Wright Water Engineers relative to the permit issues. Mark indicated that he, Pete, and Kevin had participated on the call earlier in the day. The call was concerning the two-year rolling average of the TIN and WWE's ideas for modifying the permit, specifically in respect to the low flow designation set by CDPHE when the permit was last renewed in 2017. WWE's initial analysis was to consider the flow data from the various stream flow gauges on the creek, but their quick review of this data suggests to them that this might not be enough to sway CDPHE to modify the permit requirements.

Instead, it is becoming more likely that the LID will need to provide CDPHE with an "alternatives analysis." An alternatives analysis would address a number of items regarding the specifics of the Eldo situation, including the technology limits of the WWTF and the financial burden to the community if a new treatment approach must be considered, in addition to making a stronger case regarding dilution. A case would have to be made that there is an alternative path forward that makes more sense than the path contemplated by the current permit. Mark indicated that Kevin and JVA had completed an alternatives analysis for Aspen Park which resulted in CDPHE increasing that plant's rolling average to a higher level. Kevin indicated on the call that JVA had conducted several of these analyses, and that he would provide them to WWE.

Mark mentioned that WWE will also look for records of TIN data downstream from the outfall and that they will continue to evaluate if the alternative analysis path is a viable one. It was noted by WWE that it will be

important to keep the state informed on an ongoing basis of the work that is being done regarding the permit.

Cathy asked about the issue of dilution and the downstream TIN testing and if this was what was referenced during the discussion on testing downstream of the outfall. This notion was affirmed as correct.

On the afternoon call WWE indicated that the contract amount may not be enough to bring this project to completion. Cathy asked how the LID would move forward if that ends up being the case. Mark explained that Boulder County Public Health has agreed to contribute \$5,000 to the project, and that if additional funding is needed, a request would likely be made to the County Commissioners.

**Invoices and Budget Update:**

Pete indicated that due to some unforeseen circumstances in the county's Budget Office, a monthly budget and finance report was not able to be provided to the committee. It was noted that the LID is still awaiting a few invoices in order to provide a complete financial report. Mark indicated that as soon as the report is complete, it will be sent out to the group. There was a brief discussion regarding the sludge hauling and the time lapse since the last haul and related issues.

**Committee Updates:**

Mark gave a brief update regarding the Eldorado Artesian Springs and their pool and resort project. Mark informed the committee that county Land Use staff have told him that there has been no additional activity regarding the project, and that it appears that the project has reached a standstill. Cathy indicated that there was talk that part of the issue with the delay in the project might be related to traffic and roadway improvements. There was a brief discussion regarding the status of the pool project and possible related issues for the delay. Mark indicated that the reason for bringing up the pool status had to do with the Memorandum of Understanding and that there doesn't seem to be an urgent need to take action on the MOU; the committee agreed. Other observations were offered by members of the committee. Mark said that the committee would be kept apprised of any future developments with the pool and resort.

**Public Comment:**

There was no public comment and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.