

The Terry Town Council along with Stahly Engineering & Associates, Inc. held a public hearing for the purpose of discussing the Preliminary Engineering Report and the proposed upgrades to the Terry Wastewater Treatment System. The following persons were in attendance: Council members Fred Rambur, Clinton Rakes, and Cindy Bond, Clerk Lynn Schilling, and Public Works Director James Schilling, Jason Rittal and Elizabeth Smith (EPEDC), and Ryan Rittal (Stahly Engineering). A total of nineteen (19) members of the public signed in for the meeting. Town Council President Rolane Christofferson presided over the meeting.

Town Council President Rolane Christofferson welcomed those in attendance to the public hearing and stated the purpose of the public hearing.

Ryan Rittal, Stahly Engineering, presented information on the Preliminary Engineering Report (P.E.R.). Topics discussed included:

1. Project background
2. Alternatives considered
3. Alternative ranking process
4. Project implementation
5. Environmental Review

He discussed the need for a P.E.R., the methodology for gathering information for the document, the identified deficiencies of the current wastewater system, projected deficiencies with upcoming discharge permit requirements, different options for upgrading the wastewater treatment system, and possible funding sources and implications. The identified deficiencies include the need for influent and effluent monitoring, disinfection of effluent discharge, discharge into the Buffalo Rapids irrigation ditch rather than the Yellowstone River, and updating the existing structures. He presented several options for upgrading the wastewater treatment system, with the most suitable option including the addition of a third cell with the installation of influent and effluent monitoring, disinfection, upgrading the current influent and effluent structures, and discharging directly into the Yellowstone River rather than the ditch. Upon completion, with the addition of the influent and effluent monitoring, they will be able to determine if a following phase that would include the draining and re-lining of the two existing lagoons would be necessary.

Jason Rittal, EPEDC, discussed the financing strategy which will be to apply to TSEP and RRGL for grants and apply for a SRF loan for the rest of the funding. He presented a preliminary rate analysis to give those present an idea of the rate changes that will be occurring—for a project totaling \$1,900,000, possible TSEP grant of \$750,000, possible DNRC RRGL grant of \$125,000, a SRF loan for \$1,025,000 with a user rate increase of upwards of \$21.35/EDU depending on increases in O& M and reserve requirements, with any subsequent improvements requiring debt adding to that total. He also discussed a probable timeline including the completion of the draft P.E.R. and completion and submission of applications for grant assistance and funding this spring. The project would potentially go into the design phase in 2015, with construction ensuing in 2016.

Ryan Rittal continued into the Environmental Assessment portion of the presentation and explained the environmental checklist, the agencies contacted, and how they arrived at the recommendation for a Finding of No Significant Impact. The Environment Assessment is on file at Town Hall for comment and the Town Council may act on it at the next meeting and do one of the following: Ask for further investigation, conclude that an environmental impact statement is necessary, reject the assessment, or agree with the assessment and issue a finding of no significant impact based on information provided.

In closing, Ryan Rittal discussed a couple of issues that still need to be determined. One issue is that some of their monitoring suggests that there is infiltration of the wastewater

with clean water. With upcoming permit requirements requiring you demonstrate a certain percent removal, this will need to be addressed. Public Works Director James Schilling will be working with them on that issue to try to determine where the infiltration is occurring. Also, they will need to look at the potential impact from the slaughter-house, to take in consideration the volume of kills and impact on the wastewater treatment.

The session was then opened for public comment/questions:

Mr. Tim Richards asked with the proposed construction in 2016, was any consideration given to changes or increases in cost at that point. Ryan Rittal stated that they include factors for costs including a 3% increase which is standard. Mr. Richards also asked about the infiltration and the condition of the line by the lagoons. Ryan Rittal stated that if that was determined to be an issue, there would be several options to address it and provided some examples but stated it is too early to know as Public Works Director James Schilling will be working to identify the infiltration this spring. Ms. Alice Ann Carlton asked if pharmaceuticals would be removed by the UV disinfection as well to which Ryan Rittal stated it would not at this time and is not regulated at this time. Ms. Carlton asked a number of follow-up questions including what long-range regulations might become an issue as well as stating the need for the community to take responsibility on any implications for the environment with continued discharge into the river. Ryan Rittal addressed her questions with the considerations they have made of future regulations. He stated that a waste water treatment facility is not feasible for the community at this time, but that you have to find a balance and the proposed project would drastically improve upon what is currently being used. One possibility is down the road, if found necessary, the system could be shifted to spray irrigation rather than discharge into the river.

Having no further comment, questions, or public input the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

ATTEST:

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Lynn Schilling, Clerk

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Rolane Christofferson, Acting Mayor