

Utilities Committee Meeting (DRAFT MINUTES)

March 25, 2022

Convened at 8:50 am immediately following the Public Hearing on the Moratorium

Present in person: Committee members, Crofoot, Metcalf, Witt, Brim-DeForest

Also: Bill Paige, Janae Novotny, Beverly Crofoot

Absent: Supt. Dick McElhaney, Casey Brown

Present by Zoom: Overseers Tirell, Fryer and also in attendance: Dan Webster, Blair Einstein, Morgan Knott, Rachel Rosa, Tom Eaton.

The **Minutes** of the February 25, 2022 meeting were approved after correction of minor typographical errors. Vote:4:0

Financial Reports were not available for review

Billing: The March utility bills have been mailed.

Superintendent's Report:

March 25, 2022

Utility Department Monthly Operating Report

Sewer Department

January 2022 Effluent Monitoring Data

During the month there were no exceedances to report to EPA/DEP. See performance table below for further details of the regulatory monitoring data.

More noteworthy, the effluent BOD running out of the Train # 1 of settling tanks remained seasonally high through the last quarter of 2021 and now again into January. However, after reducing the chemical dosing of liquid chlorine and sulfite tablets in half and switching over to Train #2 on February 2 and then to Train # 3 on February 16, the BOD concentration average has dropped from 143 mg/l in January to 66 mg/l through February and into the first two weeks of March.

For the February 2022 operating period there were no exceedances to report.

WWTP Monthly Performance Table

Parameters	Jan	Dec	Nov	YTD Lo	YTD Hi	YTD Ave	2021 Ave	DEP Limit	YTD Exceed- ances
Flow GPD	11094	32470	27835	11094	11094	11094	20228	<63,000	0
Precip inches	5.73	4.05	6.20	5.73	5.73	5.73	4.42	n/a	0
TSS lbs/day	1.9	2.0	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.6	<76	0
TSS lbs max	3.2	4.3	3.8	3.2	3.2	3.2	5.1	report	0
TSS mg/l ave	17.0	11.2	8.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	26.1	<145	0
TSS mg/l max	19	16	11	19	19	19	37.5	report	0
TSS % removal	93.4	96.1	97.2	93.4	93.4	93.4	89.7	>50	0
BOD lbs/day	16.9	21.6	26.6	16.9	16.9	16.9	15.2	<107	0

BOD lbs max	33.7	37.9	44.8	33.7	33.7	33.7	26.9	report	0
BOD mg/l ave	142.5	130	128.4	142.5	142.5	142.5	140.1	<203	0
BOD mg/l max	170	170	160	170	170	170	161.6	report	0
BOD % removal	50.9	55.1	55.7	50.9	50.9	50.9	51.6	>30	0
pH low	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	>6.0	0
pH high	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.8	<9.0	0
St solids ml/l	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.15	report	0
TRC mg/l max	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	.03	<0.3	0
Fecal cfu ave	<4	<7.11	<8	<4	<4	<4	9.58	<14	0
Fecal cfu max	<4	<8	<8	<4	<4	<4	19.37	<31	0
Enterococci cfu ave	na	na	na	na	na	na	10.8	<8	0
Enterococci cfu max	na	na	na	na	na	na	26.9	<54	0
Hg ng/l ave	na	na	18.28	na	na	na	18.28	33.4	0
Hg ng/l max	na	na	7.0	na	na	na	7.0	50.1	0

Note: The last exceedance for flow was 188 months ago (2/2006). The last exceedance for BOD was 6 months ago (8/2021). The last exceedance for fecal coliform was 5 months ago (9/2021). The last exceedance for enterococci was 5 months ago (9/2021). The record annual average low for flow was 12,017 gpd in 2017.

Drinking Water Department

January 2022 Production and Water Quality.

Purchased water for the month averaged 12,936 gpd compared to 15,602 gpd for the same month in 2021. The weekly free chlorine residual in the drinking water ranged from 0.29 - 0.9 ppm/Cl² compared to the recommended goal of >.20 to <1.0 ppm/Cl². The EPA maximum concentration level (MCL) not to be exceeded for chlorine residual is 4.0 ppm. The monthly total coliform and e-coli water sample test results were both negative.

Discussion:

In Supt. McElhaney's absence, Crofoot reported the substance of discussions with Supt. McElhaney yesterday. The BOD concentrations have fallen from 130 range to 60's with the transition from Train One to Train Three. The amount of Chlorine for decontamination and Sulfite for dechlorination have slowly been decreased by half without any positive coliform tests. The dilution factor of samples for bacterial testing has been decreased from 10:1 to 8:1 to 4:1. The tablet feeder for Sulfite tablets is more difficult to calibrate than the metered feeding of liquid Bisulfite that was previously used, but Fernie is steadily ratcheting back the Sulfite dosage. He now tests the effluent for both total chlorine residual and free chlorine residual to assist in the dosing of sulfite for dechlorination.

We are unable, with our system, to obtain data on influent BOD, which makes it more difficult to assess the meaning of effluent BOD.

Pumping of the tanks will take place twice this summer—in July after the Fourth, and in September. All trains will be pumped. Residual sludge in the 3rd and 4th tanks of each train will be pumped back into tanks 1 and 2 before they are emptied. This pump around solution is much more economical costing Only \$75/1000 gal compared to \$260/1000 gal for pumping out, transporting, and sludge wasting the content.

A public Hearing regarding the proposed moratorium on new sewer connections was held today at 9 am. The Utilities Committee explained their reasons for requesting the moratorium (marked increase in BOD concentrations over the last two years that take us dangerously close to license limitations, concern that the number of users or changes in their usage may be bringing the plant to the limits of its capacity) and the need to study the functioning of the wastewater treatment plant, to see whether modifications in tank pumping schedule, alterations in use of chemicals, or other technical alterations will improve the situation. The public present had their questions answered.

Motion: To implement a six-month moratorium on new sewer connections and permits, effective from March 25, 2022. Approved 4:0.

It was suggested that during this six-month moratorium while we are seeking to identify capacity limits, and improve functioning of the plant, that we might do well to seek outside expert advice or a second opinion. Motion: To work with Dick McElhaney to identify a knowledgeable expert to independently examine our system, our historic data, and to offer input to help identify methods of remediation.

Approved: 4:0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

David Crofoot