

City of Depoe Bay- Gleneden Sanitary District Wastewater Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting – Monday, February 16, 2015 – 4:00 PM
Depoe Bay City Hall

PRESENT: Monte Arehart, Brad Baines, Phil Jensen, A.J. Mattila, Seth Olsen, Steve Sparks
STAFF: District Superintendent M. Snyder, City Superintendent B. Weidner, Plant Operator
D. Arnold

Mattila called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Vista Pump Station Wastewater Force Main Replacement Project

Weidner reported that we are in the final stage of plan approval, Civil West Engineering is preparing the RFP (bid documents), and plans to advertise in the News Times, News Guard, contractor websites in Lincoln County, Salem and Corvallis. We may have responses by the next meeting. In response to a question, Weidner said the new line will be 10", the 12" line identified in the Master Plan is overkill, the 10" line will suffice for 30 years. He said that pump controls have a lot to do with flow control, by adding variable speed controls for the pumps at the lift stations flows can be managed, he plans to discuss this in the next budget cycle.

1998 Wastewater Agreement

Baines referred to the Agreement dated December 31, 1998 (copy attached to the original of these minutes), noting that in the Recitals it refers to an Agreement dated October 14, 1991, which is a tad shy of 25 years ago. He said that the way costs are disbursed is based on the number of EDUs (Equivalent Dwelling Units). He gave copies of a handout reflecting EDU counts compiled by City and District Staff to those present. He noted that based on this year's counts, the cost share split remains at 58% GSD, 42% City. Brief discussion ensued.

Baines said the problem, the subject of discourse between GSD and the City over the years, is the opening recital, Recital A. Recital A talks about flows, if we are going to talk about flows and cap at a certain flow, GSD would like to use flows because during 60% of the season no flow is generated in those houses, but we have a bunch of homeowners who are paying their bill. The opening recital says GSD has to cap its flow, but when we say how expenses are shared, it's by EDUs. First it says that GSD has to cap peak daily flow at 800,000 gallons, he does not know what peak flow at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is, and he is uncertain if the 800,000 gpd limit is based on reality, and if it is a "nice to do" or a "must do". Olsen asked Arnold to explain normal flows and peak flows. Arnold explained that normal flow at the WWTP is 400,000 gallons per day (gpd), during the last storm flow at the WWTP peaked at 3.6 million gpd, which is above the plant design peak flow of 3.1 million gpd. Baines said if peak flow is around 3 or 2.8 million gpd and if GSD is contributing around half of that flow, then if Depoe Bay wanted to cap GSD at 80% of half, that would be something to consider instead of saying GSD has to contribute 58% of the cost, but has to be sure to not exceed what was in place 25 years ago. Olsen noted there have been times that GSD flow has exceeded the 800,000 gpd and Depoe Bay has not made issue of it, the waste has been accepted and processed. Arnold said that WWTP capacity is not a problem as much as the collection system capacity. Discussion ensued on recent overflows/spills in both entities systems during heavy rain events, the need for reserve funds, capacity of the shared facilities, upsizing sewer lines, reducing flows with Inflow & Infiltration (I & I) control and what I & I is and how it impacts the sewer collection system, what investment should be made to control I & I.

Baines referred to the wording in Recital A which speaks to flows, saying he has no problem using EDUs but wants to be sure the money is invested. Mattila said that during a recent heavy rain event the City needed to bypass. Weidner said the bypass was necessary because of the overwhelming flow coming into Vista Lift Station. Arnold explained in detail how heavy flows impact the system, that Vista Lift can handle up to 1,100 gallons per minute (gpm) coming from GSD's Fogarty Creek Lift Station, during a recent storm GSD flow peaked at 1,664 gpm, one of their peak flows during the storm. The flow caused both pumps at Vista Lift to kick on, pushing 1,800 to 1,900 gpm down the hill and blew the manhole in front of the Coast Guard Station. During a more recent storm, which had more rainfall than the previous, the pumps at Fogarty Creek Lift ran at a more constant speed, 728 gpm, never peaked at even 1,100 gpm and he said whatever GSD did to manage the flows during that event was very helpful. Baines said that during that first storm, there was a failure in the Laurel Street line which required the district's full attention, during the more recent storm the district could focus on Fogarty Creek. Discussion followed on shared facilities improvements such as pump controls, shared use of equipment such as jetter machines or vacuum trailer, working together cooperatively.

Baines said he'd like to write the agreement differently to eliminate differences between the entities. Arehart said GSD wants to have a vote on how the money is spent. Baines continued, in Recital A, if there is a maximum flow to be stated, the maximum flow to the WWTP in any situation would be 80%, and contribute at any one time more than 46%; 80% of the maximum flow, then take the 80% drop down to, not 50%, not 40% but 38%. GSD wants to be under, cap at 800,000 gallons, at any one time 350,000, this would be a goal. Arnold noted that last year GSD exceeded 800,000 gpd 17 times, already this year 7 times, it appears GSD I & I seems to be getting worse. He said that at Vista Lift 75% of the flow is GSD's, at Harbor Lift 65% and at the WWTP 58%, adding that Depoe Bay has never enforced the flow limits in Recital A in his experience. Baines said the existing wording is an irritant, first it sets limitations then speaks to how the bill is paid, the flow section should move to another part of the Agreement, it should not be the first thing. Olsen asked if we had lawyers reword, or re-insert elsewhere in the agreement would that take care of the problem. Baines said it would help. Olsen suggested tapping our experts to identify realistic numbers, then send to attorneys.

Baines said the list he'd distributed of what the gals have been working on for EDUs he believes is near final. He has a guy coming in who will be giving Pery a call, if he's going to his Board to sell this, he wants to have someone GSD pays for to do a regular audit and provide a report.

Mattila said that we need to address storm water entering the systems, when a problem occurs it needs to be fixed, and we need to work together. Olsen noted that the City just refinanced the bond, wondering what year we are in on the original bond maybe 15 -20, typically expected life span is 30 – 40 years. He is concerned that we may not be setting enough aside to have sufficient reserves as we near the end of the expected life span. Arehart said GSD just increased rates, first time in 12 years. Suggestions for items to discuss in the future included: changing terms of the Agreement, duration, how the Advisory Committee functions, have an action committee that can vote on issues, reserves, have experts do reserve studies. Baines said that GSD wants to be partners, if we move that one thing, change it around a little bit, GSD doesn't mind paying the bill, just don't want our finger in our eye to begin with.

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm.

Pery Murray, City Recorder (transcribed from audio recording)