

FAIRGROUNDS SEWER/WATER COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2013

I. Call to Order

Chairman Gene Meier called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

Attendees:

Sandy Youngbauer-Commissioner
Tom Meissner-County attorney
Dan McCowley-Great West Engineering
Holly Phelps - Lewistown Public Works

Kevin Myhre-Lewistown City Manager
Faith Robertson-Fairgrounds Administrator
Mark Machler- Land owner

III. Approval of Minutes from last meeting:

The Minutes were approved as written.

IV. Open Issues:

a). Engineering and alternatives- Dan McCowley of Great Western Engineering indicated that the Executive Summary of the Preliminary Engineering Report contained the basics of the project thus far and gave a brief history of the current PER:

1. Contracted from Fairgrounds
2. Prepared with funding agency guidelines
3. Environmental issues sufficient for the project
4. Conferred with Fergus County Commissioners and Fair Board.
5. Project became a joint City (Lewistown) – County (Fergus) effort.
-Buckskin Flats was also involved.
6. Four alternatives were identified in the PER-

Alternative T-1 “Connection to City’s Wastewater System at Waste Water Treatment Plant”
(crosses Mark Machler property).

Machler gave a history of his efforts to coordinate with Montana FWP, Monte Weeden, and Mountain Acre Mobile Home Court to re-align Big Spring Creek and facilitate construction of the Wastewater System lines under the creek and across his property to the City’s Treatment Plant.

Alternative T-2 “Connect to City’s Wastewater System north of Lewistown” (crosses Monte Weeden property).

Alternative T-3 “Subsurface Treatment Option 1(septic and drain fields) at the Fairgrounds with Riverdale subdivision connecting to City’s Wastewater System”.

Alternative T-4 “subsurface Treatment Option 2 (septic and drain fields plus dose tanks) at the Fairgrounds with Riverdale subdivision connecting to City’s Wastewater System”

Timeline- McCowley suggested a schedule of: 2014 Grant Proposals; 2015 approach the Legislature
2015 Grants available –perhaps even 2016.

Discussion -The project needs to be engineered before deciding which option

** -If the creek isn’t ready when the project is ready the city has other options

-Report that Mountain Acres accommodated the creek re-alignment project with the expectation that the Fairgrounds would not install additional RV hoop-ups and not compete over camping. (Fair Board and Machler can discuss parameters on this)

Possible funding options for Great West Engineering to go on from here:

1. Bond from TSEP 2015
2. Grants- DNRC & CTEP (planning, technical assistance)
3. CGBD –Rural Development. (may apply to Buckskin Flats area)
4. Mill Levy
5. Partner Grants

Discussion:

- Request for Quotes can be done anytime but Great West would like to know if they are doing the project.
- Meyhre will pull water plans designed in '95 to add with the sewer as one big project.
- The City is interested in pursuing Grant monies.
- CTEP for 2015 has already been allocated.
- Perhaps put the project as a district.
- Riverdale has the need, health & safety, so this criterion is beneficial for securing grants.
- Fergus County as stand alone might qualify for rural development loan as some of Riverdale lots are too small for septic and too close to creek.

Next Steps:

- Get the engineers on board (engineers are funded with planning grants)
Myhre will work with the Commissioners to start the procurement of engineer process – put out RFQs
- **Myhre will look at the statutes for the process to legally proceed with this.
- Start getting planning Grant dollars.
GDBGTA is good to help with grant writing for planning grants.
- Agreements: Machler & Mountain Acres

Possible parallel issues:

1. Sewer
2. Water
3. Pavement

Discussion:

- Remove paving from the mix to keep costs down and the issue clear
- Move forward based on need and makes the public aware.
- Needs to be done now as interest is low (some SRF money is around)
- The project is complicated because of 2 entities and 2 corridor options.
- For June primaries do a mail-out vote
- The Mill Levy is up this year.
- Request that Dan McCrowley drop by periodically for guidance
- Need to get the specs right.

b). Health Districts Documentation of Current Septic System – Youngbauer will visit with Dean Pomeroy.

c). “Citizens Advocate Committee”- It was recommended that “Public Meetings” be implemented rather than a Citizens Advocate Committee.

- Discussion:*
- Could increase public awareness with an informational booth at the Fair
 - It is a little early for details but at least display a map and plan for preliminary public awareness
 - Pam Vosen could make a map of existing conditions next to proposed project and put in the office.
 - When project is farther along, have “Show N Tell” for the public and have the engineers present with a slide presentation.
 - Have Kathy Bailey at the next meeting.
 - If entering into agreements that compensate for work on private lands get **everything in writing.**
 - Running the sewer lines down the Rail Road tracks is an option.
 - Fair Board does not have the authority to make any agreement to prohibit sewer and water in the campground.
 - The term “competition” must be well delineated as it relates to the campground.
 - Don’t give up the authority to provide camping.

Potential Schedule:

1. Work for Mill Levy next summer, 2014 and get the public on board
2. Grants
3. Address the Legislature in 2015
4. Easier to get CTEP money if the costs of the project are kept low
5. Do not begin construction until after CTEP grant is secured. They will not fund on completed work and if the project already has money.

d). Ballots -Meissner will look at state guidelines for mailing ballots both with General and Primary elections.

e). Public Works **-Holly with the Lewistown Public Works will bring a map of the design of the water system to the next meeting.

f).Bidding -Need to procure a consultant
-Meissner will look into “City vs. County” and who proceeds with the engineer.

Old Business:

News Release -Meissner will go to radio and paper with information about the septic system and need for sewer.

New Business:

Meeting days -Meetings were moved to the 4th Wednesdays of each month with the exception of July, which will be the 17th to accommodate the Fair.

The June meeting is scheduled for the 26th. Myhre will be unable to attend in June.

Sandy Youngbauer moved to adjourn the meeting.

**** Agenda items for June meeting.**