

**MINUTES**  
**SHERWOOD WASTEWATER TREATMENT COMMITTEE**

*March 1, 2022*

**ACTIONS TAKEN**

1. Received a report that Crist Engineers is expected later this year to design plans to close the South Plant, including an outline of the work, calendar, and milestones.
2. Received a report that NLRWWU has given notice of an anticipated increase in treatment charges at 5MC Plant as part of its long-range plan.
3. Received a report of an urgent repair problem under Warden Road near TSC which will involve upsizing a 24" pipe to 30" and information regarding Sherwood's anticipated share of the cost.
4. Received a report on the status of discussions with Gravel Ridge and Runyan Acres regarding long range plans.
5. Requested City Engineer Richard Penn to explore a possible rate study to help finance upgrades, repairs, and improvements.
6. Received a report that the need of an Interlocal Agreement with North Little Rock regarding various aspects of the NLRWWU long-range plan may be necessary.

The Sherwood Wastewater Treatment Committee met on March 1, 2022. Chair Amy Sanders called the meeting to order. Present were Chair Amy Sanders and members Kevin Lilly, Eric Fleming, and Sarah Breshears. Also present were City Engineer Richard Penn, engineer Jesse Morrison, Wastewater Manager Scott Greenwood, and Dennis Webb from the Utility. Attorney Larry Carpenter was also present.

Sarah Breshears moved, seconded by Amy Sanders to approve the minutes of the February meeting. This passed.

Scott Greenwood gave a brief summary of the Operations report. There had been one SSO at the North Plant and 6 on the Satellite System. Because of weather conditions, the utility had been unable to do line cleaning. He reported one point repair in January.

Under Old Business, Richard Penn stated the closure of the South Plant is moving forward. He mentioned that the 18-19 projects previously identified as priorities should be completed this year. As those are completed he expects the consulting engineers at Crist Engineers to work up an outline of the work, a calendar for completions, and milestones to measure progress. Part of the work will involve obtaining easements for the line to the North Plant. This path will have a dual purpose as a biking and walking path. He also mentioned the possibility of connecting the path of the easements to a regional trail being designed to lead to Ward AR. This is related to the proposed area of the force main to the North Plant.

Turning the discussion to 5MC treatment charges, Richard said NLR has advised there will be increases in support of its long range planning which will affect Sherwood through the Satellite

System. The NLR long range plan includes redirecting its White Oak treatment station to the Faulkner Lake facility. He is not yet sure what the impact will be on Sherwood customers in the budget. With regard to the NLR long range plan, he sees 3 options: (1) leave the Satellite System alone with responsibility in the current boundaries (2) transfer that area, including the customers and maintenance, to NLR (3) Sherwood would put in a pump station and send the wastewater to the North Plant for treatment.

There were comments that the working relation with NLR has not been smooth but Richard thought it might be getting better, given the recent meetings about NLRWWU's 10-year plan. He is concerned that Sherwood not absorb costs related to this plan that do not apply to Sherwood customers. In this regard there are several proposed upgrades in the NLR plan to districts within Sherwood. The plan involves upgrading a 24" collector line to 30". If Sherwood participates, its share will be billed on a "by the foot" basis. NLR has offered to do this as part of its 10-year plan. NLR would implement as follows: (1) do the necessary engineering (2) contract and do the work (3) when completed, send the bill to Sherwood setting out Sherwood's part for payment. NLR will obtain any necessary easements. There were questions about accurately pro-rating costs.

Discussion turned to budget matters. Kevin had questions regarding \$16,000.00 that had been budgeted but not expended. Richard addressed some of his goals for 2022, including being able to devote more time to the Wastewater Utility. A help in that will be Dennis Webb's assistance with various road projects and the engineering help Jesse Morrison will contribute. Sarah Breshears asked for help with the Court Order and Larry Carpenter said he would arrange to get a copy to her. This helps explain the various ownerships and treatment responsibilities in Sherwood. North Little Rock operates certain SID's, most of which were formed in the respective areas before they became a part of Sherwood. Larry Carpenter said the satellite permit had an impact on North Little Rock because before then, SSO's were assigned to Sherwood's South Plant permit when they involved collection operations in North Little Rock areas as well as Sherwood. Kevin stated that Sherwood's future growth will be to the north and this growth could be hampered by areas controlled by NLR.

Richard said that he sees the 5MC Treatment Plant as in need of improvements and some of these are included in NLR's long-range plan. However, he also thinks NLR sees the future of 5MC as for surges, the name as Sherwood sees the South Plant area for surges after it's no longer used as a treatment facility. Richard reported some of what NLRWWU had found as part of its MSI inspection, including the use of cameras, lasers, and sonar in the inspection process. This inspection revealed extensive corrosion and breakdown on the interior of the pipes. Sarah asked if the Dept has funds for Sherwood's share of repairs and will a rate increase be necessary. She also asked about treatment in the northern areas of Sherwood and Richard said most of the developed areas were either in the Gravel Ridge SID or Runyan Acres SID. He added that the Kellogg Creek area is currently being platted and will require a treatment plan. Concerning available funds Richard said the federal government had recently redefined projects eligible for infrastructure funds and Sherwood will be able to apply; however, Gravel Ridge is not eligible as only cities and counties meet the federal requirements.

Richard asked if we should ask Crist Engineers for help in planning projects and seeking federal funds. Kevin cautioned against waiting too long to determine the need for a rate increase and the Dept getting caught trying to catch up. He suggested a rate study be accomplished and ready to incorporate in projects. There was discussion about whether to contact a local entity such as Arkansas Natural Resources Council or look elsewhere. Richard said he was familiar with a specialist named Dan Jackson who works out of Ft. Worth. He will contact Mr. Jackson for details.

Under other matter Amy Sanders asked about some residents on East Lee that do not have sewer service. There is an issue regarding whether some are part of the NLR collection system. Because of that there has been no change. Kevin asked about the budgeting of sales tax funds and Richard said he was planning to use the remaining sales tax funds to complete the 19 projects already prioritized. Other funds had been used to satisfy a CAO.

Kevin said the mayor had mentioned the expanded availability of federal funds for wastewater projects. Richard said he believed the rate study will help an application because Sherwood will be able to show how the funds will be used.

Richard also updated the members on some other issues with Gravel Ridge and Runyan Acres. The new Public Service Area is on the Runyan Acres SID for wastewater. Runyan Acres is trying to establish other conditions and is considering whether to join with Gravel Ridge or Sherwood. Kevin said he thought an updated rate study would help this kind of decision.

Returning to whether to sign-on to the NLR 10-year plan at this time, Richard suggested the emergency repair near Warden Road could be undertaken without that decision and without deciding whether to sign an Interlocal Agreement at this time. The Sherwood share will be about \$600,000.00. The consensus was that Richard address the Council with that in mind.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at noon.

*For Amy Sanders*  
Charles J. Carpenter J  
Chair

5 April 2022  
Date