

MINUTES
SHERWOOD WASTEWATER TREATMENT COMMITTEE

September 6, 2022

ACTIONS TAKEN

1. Reviewed prior issues regarding generator availability
2. Received a report from the City Engineer regarding budget needs for 2023
3. Received a report that \$780,000 may be the Sherwood share of repairs of a line shared with NLRWWU
4. Received a report of the need for a rate study
5. Discussed actions by Gravel Ridge and Runyan Acres as related to Sherwood planning

The Sherwood Wastewater Treatment Committee met on September 6, 2022. Chair Amy Sanders called the meeting to order. Present were Chair Amy Sanders and members Kevin Lilly, Suzanne Stair, and Sarah Breshears; Eric Fleming was absent. Also present were City Engineer Richard Penn, Wastewater Manager Scott Greenwood, Dennis Webb and Jeff Stone from the Utility. Attorney Larry Carpenter was also present.

The Minutes of the July meeting were approved. The August meeting had been cancelled.

Scott Greenwood covered the highlights of the June and July operations reports. There was nothing unusual in either report.

Under Old Business there was a discussion related to whether there were problems in the Indianhead area as discussed at the July meeting. Richard Penn said there was not a problem with sewage backing up into the houses but a problem with difficulty and slowness of the flushing process at times. There potentially can be problems with overflow into yards. There are also problems if the power goes off. This can happen if the pump system just stops but can be worse if power fails during a time of high flow volume and near to a house. Richard suggests a need for additional funding to Wastewater to be able to work on issues like this. Scott Greenwood told the Committee that the Utility has a contractual agreement with Jack Tyler to furnish rental pumps if there is a breakdown. The Department also owns a portable pump to bridge the time for rentals to arrive. Richard agreed the best thing would be to have a temporary pump on hand in event of a breakdown. Kevin asked about notice of breakdowns and Scott said a notice is generated by the pump station in the event of a breakdown.

Richard addressed the need of aggressive budgeting on behalf of the Dept for coming years. He mentioned the availability of a one-time infusion of funds from federal infrastructure grants. Some of this can be used for generators but he believes some should be set aside to rebuild lift stations. Kevin suggested the Wastewater budget needed to have funds within its control to provide the most cost-effective use of funds.

The next item was the status of the plan for the South Plant closure. Richard said Jeff Stone, who recently joined the staff, is reviewing the documents and plans related to the South Plant closure. Jeff is working with the list of easements which Dennis Webb has recently updated.

The issue of charges for 5MC are going well. The 5MC plant needs some work and Richard said NLR had also thought about closing it. There will be a change in phosphorous limits that may add to treatment costs including our share. The SBR system Sherwood operates is best for dealing with this issue. Sherwood has received an invoice for \$780,000.00 related to the necessary repairs on the shared line which NLR is repairing.

Richard stated that Sherwood needs a rate study to determine implementation of budgetary needs for the near future. Kevin Lilly said the budget for treatment appears to be under-used, having only paid about 30% of the budget amount through July. Richard noted that the charges trail by at least a month and NLR is implementing new rates that will cause an increase.

There was a brief discussion of work at Gravel Ridge and Runyan Acres, especially as these relate to Sherwood's projects. Gravel Ridge is not discussing much with Sherwood as it utilizes its recent grant to update its treatment facility; however, there do not appear to be any plans to upgrade its collection system. The treatment plant upgrades will double the capacity. Gravel Ridge has no apparent debt.

Runyan Acres is overcoming financial problems related to an embezzlement of funds. Runyan Acres does have a current operating license and will help Gravel Ridge with operations issues. Kevin Lilly asked if Sherwood should pursue working with Gravel Ridge and Runyan Acres for the City.

Richard believes all three systems should be working together. That would enable the purchase of necessary equipment such as a TV truck and a VAC truck that can be used throughout the city. It also would stabilize rates throughout the service area. Gravel Ridge's rates recently doubled. Richard said there are 1500-2000 acres to develop near the Air Base. Developer have expressed a preference for Sherwood Wastewater to develop this area. Chair Sanders asked about Runyan Acres. Richard said while all of Gravel Ridge is within the city limits, part of Runyan Acres lies outside. In answer to another question, Richard said he thought both collection systems would need upsized lines, but could operate on a gravity system. He also noted that 2 of the 3 Gravel Ridge Commissioners were also employees of the Gravel Ridge system.

Richard said he still hoped a study about consolidating with Gravel Ridge would lead to several solutions that will work for both systems.

Finally Richard reported that the 18 projects to complete the CAO project have been bid. This should also help with the satellite system.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 4, 2022, at noon.

Amy Sanders
Chair

Oct 4, 2022
Date