

City Administrator Report

By Bill Haack

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP) PROJECT

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT COST ESTIMATE

The wastewater treatment plant cost estimate is still rough, but is in the range of \$5.25 to \$6.0 million. It is composed of three main cost components: (1) Flume Improvements - \$300,000 to \$350,000, (2) Biosolids Removal, \$600,000 to \$800,000, and (3) WWTP Construction and overall Project/Construction Management, \$4,500,000. Only element #1 is a reasonably firm estimate at this time. DEQ needs to accept our plans for elements #2 & #3 before the estimates for these aspects of the project can firm up. In addition, there are construction management costs, testing, reporting etc. that will add \$300,000 to these costs for a two year project.

WWTP FINANCING PLAN

The financing plan for the WWTP constructed improvements are drawn from three sources: (1) DEQ Loan R93642 - \$4.3 million available, (2) Amendment to DEQ Loan - \$1 million (potentially more - City initiated a discussion with DEQ to secure up to a \$2 million amendment), and (3) Gap Financing (Wedbush, Seattle Securities NW, USDA RUS, RCAC, CDBG). The City may also refinance the existing USDA RUS bond indebtedness using financing available from Wedbush. The Wedbush proposal will be presented to the Public Works Committee on 2-26-13, and be brought forward to City Council on 3-4-13.

WWTP BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

The Planning Commission approved a 720 sq. ft. concrete block building that will provide secure space for the DAF (Dissolved Air Flootation) and Disk Filtration system. The electrical and instrumentation for these features will all be housed at this site. The building may also afford a future secure location for the lab.

WWTP DYKE ELEVATION PROJECT

Otak will assess the use of aggregate that Custom Excavating creates through the demolition of the school campus project. Shannon & Wilson will conduct an onsite review of the materials to provide a geotechnical assessment of these building materials. If this source of rock and gravel can be used, it should provide a cost savings to the project, over importing gravel and engineered fill from our closest quarry. In the short-term, the City will use some aggregate from the school site

as temporary surcharge ballast to compact soils associated with the pipe connection at the Headworks prior to the dyke elevation project. The dykes will nominally be elevated four feet, or to no less than 622.7 feet above sea level - at this height the improvements are above the 500 year flood plan required by DEQ/FEMA.

WWTP PIPE GALLERY INSTALLATION PROJECT

Tetra Tech and Otak are working on establishing the construction logic for the installation of the pipe gallery under the linear trail, and the related modification in the trail when restored to a lower elevation to reduce flood water damage in the event of a high water event in the future. The pipe gallery will be manually operated by city staff.

WWTP ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Pacific Habitat continues to develop an environmental assessment to meet DEQ/EPA requirements. This past week they were onsite to complete an archeological assessment of the project improvement area.

BIOSOLIDS PLAN

Otak developed a Biosolids Sampling Plan and submitted it to DEQ. The Plan intends to secure approval from DEQ to direct our efforts to sample the biosolids to then determine the method of processing that we will need to follow. The sampling will include locations with Lagoon One & Two only. The chemical composition of the sampled biosolids also determines costs as "hotter" biosolids require most comprehensive testing and land application methods. The cost component of processing is a variable at this time as it is dependent on the following: (1) biosolids sampling that describe the quantity and chemical/nutrient quality of the sampling estimates, (2) coordinating of the project within the larger construction project that minimizes delays and mobilization costs, and (3) timing of transport as after July 1, 2013 more farms nearer us are available, prior to July 1, 2013, the land application sites are as far away as Hermiston.

HEADWORKS PARSHALL FLUME & RELATED IMPROVEMENTS

Under separate contract with Otak, a Headworks Flume Improvement project plans and specifications is developed and submitted to DEQ for concurrence. The project will involve earthwork, soil compaction, excavation, pipe installation, adjustments to measuring devices and a modification to the Parshall Flume section of the Headworks. The project includes a modification of the Par-

shall Flume that will increase the accuracy of the measured flow from the three pumping stations through the headworks. The project will also install eight hundred feet of 18 inch pipe that will allow the effluent to move more freely from the headworks into Lagoon One - Replacing a 12 inch pipe. The City intends to bid this repair and see construction completed within the next three months so to not delay the start of construction on the larger project - WWTP Improvement Project.

RFQ PRESELECTION OF BIDDERS

Otak in conjunction with the City Attorney designed a Request for Qualifications to secure an eligible pool of bidders for the wastewater treatment plant facility improvement project.

CDBG CLOSEOUT UPDATES

The City will work with CDBG Program Representatives to close out CDBG Grant P06021 (Wastewater Facility Design) and CDBG Grant D08018 (Wastewater Facilities Plan Update). The City received an extension through June 2013 on P06021. The City is on schedule to close D08018 within 45 days. When both of these CDBG grants are administratively closed by CDBG program staff, the City will be eligible to pursue future CDBG program applications.

OTHER PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITY

MASTER CAPITAL PLAN AND SEWER AND WATER RATE STUDIES

The consultants working on the sewer rate study, the one year look back at the water rate study and the master capital plan team are sharing information to make their projections similar. We are hoping that the sewer and water rate study will be in reasonably complete form to allow the FY 2013-2014 budget to be informed, but it may not work out that way. The same is true with the Master Capital Plan. Regardless of the timing of these studies the City will work to see that they are completed.

STREETS DEPARTMENT

CALIFORNIA AVENUE BUSINESS PARK

The City continues to work with Brad Curtis (owner of Photo Solutions) and Casey Mitch-

ell (owner of land along undeveloped California Avenue) to assess whether the City coordinate an application for Special Public Works Fund and/or Immediate Opportunity Fund resources to assist in the development of a small business park.

PARKS DEPARTMENT

OPRD SPENCER PARK DEVELOPMENT

The City signed and returned the Agreement No LGP0252-1 Spencer Park Development. The award of these funds will be used to purchase and install a restroom in the replacement park that will be built on the site of the old school campus. The funds will pay for a restroom, picnic shelter and some ADA walkway improvements.

OPRD MASTER PARK PLAN

The City provided Jim Sandlin, project manager with MacKay and Sposito Landscape Architects with information to assist them prepare for the Master Park Plan process. The Master Park Plan intends to look at all of the city's land holdings from Vernonia Lake to Anderson Park. We will use this process to also look at the connection between Hawkins Park, Shay Park, and the open space proximate to these land holdings. The goal of this process is to identify a meaningful approach to the long term development of City park properties that will promote recreation, tourism and economic benefits to the community.

VERNONIA LAKE - RESTROOM INSTALLED

Public Works Department installed the replacement restroom at Vernonia Lake to serve both campers, fisherman, and the community allowing for greater recreational opportunity.

VERNONIA LAKE PUMPING FACILITY

City staff met with Oregon Fish and Wildlife,

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Budget Committee Position Open

The Budget Committee consists of the members of the local governing body and an equal number of citizens at large. The citizens are appointed by the governing body and serve terms of three years. Terms are staggered so that about one-third of the appointed terms end each year. This fiscal year 2013-2014 has one (1) volunteer opening for citizens for the Budget Committee. Please fill out an Application for Appointment (found on the web page City Info/ forms & documents) or you may pick up a form at City Hall, 1001 Bridge Street, Vernonia OR 97064. The Budget Committee Meetings will begin March 2013.

Questions please contact

Angie Handegard, Finance Administrator
503-429-5291 ext. 107

HOW TO APPLY

Please complete a volunteer Application for Appointment and return it to City Hall, 1001 Bridge Street, Vernonia OR 97064 or Fax to 503-429-4232. The Volunteer Application is available on the cities web page at www.vernonia-or.gov City Info/Forms and documents or you may pick up an application at City Hall.

A copy of the Ordinance for Committees is available at City Hall. Questions please contact Joann Glass, City Recorder 503-429-5291 ext. 106.

City Information and Updates Available by Email

Citizens who wish to receive meeting information and updates can request to be placed on an email list at City Hall. Please contact Joann Glass at joann@vernonia-or.gov and asked to be placed on the "Citizen Notification List."

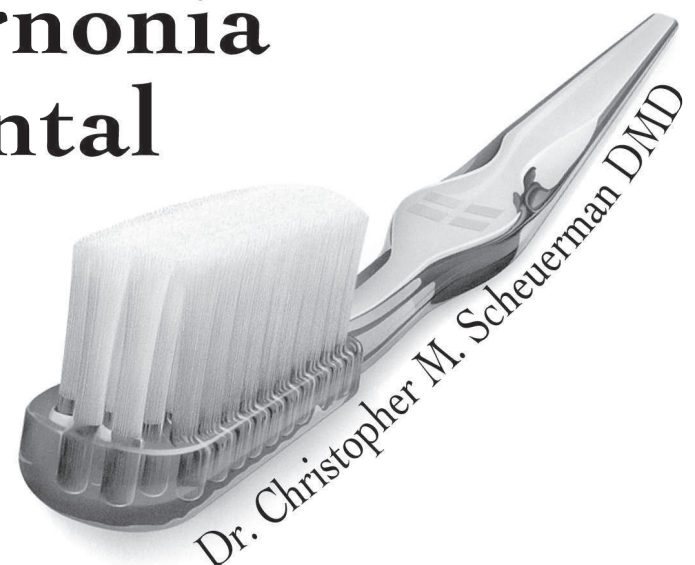
Vernonia City Council Meetings

City Council Meetings are scheduled for 7 PM:

Monday, March 4
Monday, March 18

Dates and times subject to change due to conflicts of schedules

Vernonia Dental



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