

Council Considers Additional WWTP Improvements

City Administrator Josette Mitchell informed the City Council at their September 21, 2015 meeting that the city engineer for the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) upgrade project is recommending a change order to the project to include additional treatment for ammonia.

According to a letter sent to the City by Tetra Tech engineer Gordon Munro, it became clear during design and permitting of the WWTP improvements, on which construction has recently begun, that DEQ may require the City to provide additional treatment for ammonia during discharge of winter effluent. The City's current

permit does not require treatment for ammonia but, according to Munro, the new permit that will be formulated at the end of construction will include winter ammonia limits, meaning the City would be out of compliance as soon as the new permit is written.

Munro suggested the City take the opportunity to include predesign, design and construction of a winter ammonia treatment system as a change order to the current project and include it in the funding package already approved, rather than go back and try to get additional funding after the project is complete. Munro did not provide an estimate of the cost for design and construction.

The current WWTP upgrade project will raise the dikes around the sewer lagoons to protect against future flood events. It also includes the installation of a hyporheic discharge system that allows the city to discharge treated effluent into the river during the summer months, using the ground for final treatment and removal of ammonia before it reaches the river. During the winter months, when the City sewer system takes in an abundance of storm water runoff, the City would discharge effluent directly into the river.

City Councilor Bruce McNair, who has been actively involved in the WWTP upgrade project, said he believes it is premature to make a change order. According to Public Works Committee

member George Tice, DEQ has been discussing adding winter ammonia regulations for about ten years and they have yet to be implemented, but Tice said the new regulations are expected. Tice also said the Public Works Committee has researched new bio dome technology to treat ammonia. City Administrator Josette Mitchell told Council she has had a discussion with a company that manufactures bio domes and they are interested in placing them in Vernonia at minimal cost to the City as a pilot project in the state of Oregon.

Council made no decision about a change order to the project and asked staff to provide more information at their October 5, City Council meeting.

What's Happening at the Vernonia Library

Upcoming Events

Oregon Author Visit: Molly Gloss
Monday, October 26, 5:30 pm
Special guest author Molly Gloss will be attending Book Discussion Group to talk about her novel, *Falling from Horses*. Call or visit the library to reserve a copy of the book.

Movie Showtimes
Thursday, October 22, 6 pm
Thursday, October 29, 6 pm
Relax and enjoy a new movie and free popcorn. Call or visit the library for movie titles.

Ongoing Programs

Stamp Club
October 1
1st Thursday of each month, 4:30-5:30 pm
Open to all ages! Come join us for some stamp learning, collecting, trading, and all around fun!

Tabletop Gaming
October 13 and 27, 4 pm
2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month, 4pm. For Teens and Adults. New and experienced gamers welcome. Primary game will be Pathfinder, but Game Master's of other titles are welcome to bring their game of choice. Sign up at the library.

Writer's Group
October 15

3rd Thursday of every month, 6 – 7:30 pm
Opportunity for writers with all levels of experience to get together, write, and get feedback.

Book Discussion Group
October 26
Last Monday of every month, 5:30 pm
Selection for October: *Falling From Horses* by Molly Gloss (with special guest, Molly Gloss)

It's Always Craft Time at the Library. Ask at the checkout desk about our Craft Box. Activities are switched out every couple of weeks.

Storytimes

Baby and Toddler Time
Mondays, 10:30 – 11:15 am
Songs, rhymes, books, toys, and bubbles! For ages 0 – 3. Older siblings welcome.

Preschool Storytime
Fridays, 10:30 – 11:15 am
Stories and a craft/activity. For children up to age 5.

Library Hours & Contact
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10 – 5
Tuesday, Thursday: 1 - 7
Saturday: 10 – 4
Closed Sundays
Phone: (503) 429-1818
E-mail: library@vernonia-or.gov

Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

City Council Meetings are scheduled for 7:00 pm:
Monday, October 5, 2015
Monday, October 19, 2015


City Closures are scheduled for:
Wednesday, November 11, 2015
Veterans Day Holiday

Dates and times subject to change due to conflicts of schedules



The Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD Board of Directors will meet Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at 7 pm at the Main Station, 12525 HWY 202, Mist, OR. Agenda items include but are not limited to usual order of business, citizen input, Fire Chief's report, financial reports and any other business needing to be discussed.
William DeJager
-Board President

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