

Opinion (continued)

From Page 2

We don't have those earmarks. We don't have two years to pay a consultant to get it for us. Two year's delay could also mean a \$2 million to \$3 million increase in construction costs. In addition, DEQ could start fining us for non-compliance and not staying on schedule.

Phase I

It has been suggested that we stop phase I and look for additional funding. Are we going to continue? The answer is YES and here is why:

- The contracts are all signed sealed and delivered. With the contractor who has started working and our contract with DEQ
- We have the oldest Mutual Agreement and Order (MAO) on record. Stopping opens up a whole can of financial liability worms including fines from DEQ
- We need to have the work done

Kennedy Jenks Confidence

It has been suggested that we "shop" around.

- Clean Water Services of Washington County – We haven't had an opportunity to talk to them. We are setting up a visit to see what they can do for us. Just remember, if it's going to cost us money, its going to cost them money. IT will still come out of our pocket.

- Mr. David Orlebeck – We will talk to him, but don't hold out any hope that his plan would meet DEQ requirements.

- Kennedy-Jenks Plan – We have had "other" knowledgeable eyes look at the work Kennedy Jenks has done. It is a good plan. No fat. No Cadillac and they are always willing to help in any way to make this project all it needs to be.

Level II Effluent

It was suggested that we put our current level II effluent on the 35 acres the city acquired instead of having the effluent going into the river. IF any of you has attended football games in the fall and experience the aroma from the lagoons you could expect to experience that year round. Vernonia Lake, Senior Center, Schools and homes would all be adversely impacted. Health issues may rear its ugly head.

Corps of Engineers – If we have to build up the existing lagoons, they may be an option to cut costs – heavy emphasis on may. Our best bet at this time is to con-

vince DEQ to let us discharge effluent in May and October. This could mean we will not have to spend 1.5 million on building up the existing lagoons.

Fund Finding

In May 2006 we were anticipating receiving:

- 1.5 million from FEMA – turned down on minor point, but we can resubmit.
- 1.0 million from CDBG – allowed to apply for \$600,000 for engineering and planning phase II – have not had an award yet.
- \$750,000 from OECDD – still need to apply. Working on it as we speak

Here again, I am grateful for Commissioner Hyde's political clout and know how. If there is money out there, I am sure they will find it. There is the possibility to save 1.5 million by convincing DEQ to let us discharge effluent in May and October. This keeps us from having to build up the lagoons by 10 feet. Here again, if the Corp of Engineers would do the lagoon build up that would even be better.

Is There Any Good News?

- Yes, because of our diligence now, we will be free of sewer concerns for at least 20 to 30 years.

- Yes, because of our diligence now, the grown of our community will continue. These will be homes and businesses that will help us pay for the improvement in the long run.

- Yes, because of our diligence now, we will have a level IV effluent that can irrigate and be put into the Vernonia Lake and have other unforeseen uses.

It is not easy doing the hard work that has to be done, but the citizens of Vernonia elected this council to do just that. We take that responsibility very seriously.

Vernonia Justice Court

From page 21

David Craig Brewer, 46, Vernonia, Harassment & Disorderly Conduct charges dismissed by DA; case closed.

Donovan Ogden, 32, Vancouver, Washington, DUII Diversion Revocation charge dismissed by DA; case closed.

Michael Roy Taylor, 37, Vernonia, Two counts Harassment charges dismissed by DA; case closed.

Nathan R. Riley, 21, Vernonia, found guilty of Criminal Mischief II; 1 yr probation, 365 days jail-suspended, no contact order, \$1295 FF&A.

Traffic..... 10
Fish & Game.....11
Marine..... 45

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To Current State Farm Customers
Let Us Quote Your Auto or Homeowners Policy
before September 30, and
IF we can't Beat Your Rate we will Buy you Lunch*
At any Local Vernonia Area Restaurant
Call Us at 429-2010

*Value of the Lunch \$10.00. Must be a new policy to our agency. One per household.

