

Judith Basin County – Geyser Water and Sewer District Wastewater System Improvement

Public Meeting May 1, 2024 11:00 a.m.

Cody called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending. He then turned the meeting over to Stahly Engineering. Robbie Culver introduced herself, Matt Smith from the Billings office and Aaron Kensinger from the Great Falls Office.

Matt began the presentation with a brief rundown of the DEQ inspection and the problems that were found at that time. Due to the age of the system, there are problems with the air relief valves being corroded, and no longer functioning, one is missing and the lift station pumps are inoperable. The high-water alarm is not functioning, the generator isn't currently operational and the lift station structure is insufficient. Additionally, there is no flow monitoring system of the lagoon and the condition of the liners are unknown but they are concerned they are leaking and wastewater is could be leaking into groundwater.

Jerome Kolar, Clerk: there is water getting into the system somewhere so the system is siphoning, so he isn't worried about the low point and the lift station system not working.

Irrigation sprinklers also do not work, heads are missing.

With that synopsis there are several options to consider.

1. No Action, do nothing, won't cost anything but doesn't solve any problems
2. Upgrade lift station and air relief valves \$449,081.
3. Liner replacement at lagoon \$592,701
4. Do both projects \$1041,783

The projects could be done in phases, decide what is the biggest priority first.

Jerome didn't think the generator was a big problem, probably a minor fix.

Robbie talked about 2 grants to apply for, MCEP, Montana Coal Endowment Program and a RRGL grant, Renewable Resource Grant and Loan program. Will also have to apply for a State Revolving Fund Loan.

The grants need to be submitted this month, so time is getting short. If the grants are awarded, it would be 2026 before anyone's rates would go up or any work would start.

Additional Rates Option 1 no grants \$45.60, option 2 \$105.40, With grants and loan funding, option 1 \$10.33 option 2 everything \$40.23

District has been making around \$18,000, that could be used, but Jerome didn't think it could be counted on.

There is a possibility of getting a hardship to help lower the match. Other funding sources could be CDBG and USDA Rural Development Grant and Loan programs.

Roger Riley - Operator, reminded everyone there is no solid evidence there is a leak or where it is. There are no decisions made yet, or rate increases, this is just the preliminary work to decide what should be done. The board will do everything to keep rates from increasing.

Jerome- guessing 20% of customers are already having a hard time paying

Cody noted that no one wants to pay more, but costs keep going up and the longer you wait the more it costs.

System currently using 58 units, designed for 85 so there is room for growth

Local support for grant applications is important, everyone should participate and get letters to Robbie.

Petition for support was passed around, some felt they needed more information first.

No one had further comments or information, Cody closed the meeting at 12:16



Cody McDonald, Commission Chairman



Jim Moore, Commissioner



Don Hajenga, Commissioner

PUBLIC HEARING: Geyser WSD ^{Waste} Water System Improvements
 Public Meeting

DATE 5/1/24

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