

**TOWN of MAY
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
OFFICIAL TOWN BOARD MINUTES
201 SEWER SYSTEM / MPCA
February 12, 2020**

The Board of Supervisors of the Town of May convened a special meeting regarding the 201 Sewer System on Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at the May Town Hall. Those present included: Board members John Adams and Bill Voedisch; Clerk/Treasurer Linda Tibbetts; Tyler Gagner from Natural System Utilities; Brian DeSmet from SD Consulting; Hailey Gorman and David Sahli from Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Voedisch called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.

Adams started with the important thing from his standpoint; the timeline, which is driven by funding. We have 83 users on the system. It would take time to find sources for grants, user fees, potential bonds.

This summer the town hopes to have a community meeting with the users to explain the Nitrogen Mitigation Plan. Adams stated the town is probably looking at preassessments which will increase their yearly operational bill from 2020 forward. We will pre-collect for a number of years and at the time of implementation, we might need to bond. Sahli mentioned MPCA's low interest program. He also mentioned, with regard to the funding portion of the project, there are new statutes for compliance schedules which require them to take into account current financial situations. They have a worksheet to get consistent information for covering township debt.

The funding application takes in to account the debt the current system has (none), average household income of users, number of units, and operation and maintenance costs of the current system. MPCA said the current ten-year plan proposal fits its ten-year permit. MPCA wanted to know if the town has a current wastewater replacement fund. No, we do not. The MPCA would need a Project Priority List (PPL) application by March 6, 2020 as it takes three years minimum to get through process for funding. Gagner mentioned the MPCA permit cycle gives flexibility in terms of when we update the system.

As of this meeting, the town is not on the PPL but right now we would only qualify for a loan. There are grant programs, but we need to be on the PPL. The PPL is a "gateway application" wherein the preliminary score will show what range the town is in for funding. The age of our system would give us 20 points; we get additional points for other aspects of our current system so we might be close to the funding age.

Sahli noted the permit writer would need a letter outlining a specific amount of time to complete the upgrade.

Adams noted the notion of pre-collection from users will allow them to enter the process early as a stakeholder and gradually build up, rather than billing the users all at once. We need to prepare

our residents as well for the increase in higher operation and maintenances costs that will come with the new system.

As outlined in the engineering report, the town is asking for ten years to complete the upgrade. The town's permit renewal application was submitted to the MPCA early last year. The town's engineering firm might be able to help us pursue funding for this project.

The MPCA would like to see the minor safety issues identified in the engineering report fixed sooner rather than later. The MPCA agrees to the proposed timeline for the project.

Adams noted if the electrical grid is lost, it is not feasible to have Olson Sewer run pumper trucks. We need to have the system working with failsafe measures like a generator. The drain field is 35 years old. We might want to make some assumptions in terms of age limits. DeSmet said for this system, it is required to have quick connect universal generators.

Sahli mentioned a new rule (Minnesota Rule 7081.0020) that has been proposed and is being reviewed by the Revisor's Office. This new MPCA rule would allow systems of less than 10,000 gallons of flow per day to be exempt from their permit process. This means the town's operating permit would be issued by Washington County. To qualify, the town needs to record daily flows for 90 consecutive days over a high occupancy period and an additional 40 weeks of weekly recordings. Adams noted the system has 83 users and we are not at capacity and further mentioning that the town has had only five new connections in 24 years. The system is designed for 121 units.

Adams asked how do we measure flow? Do we measure from lift station to drain field? Gagner said he has the ability to do daily flow monitoring but didn't elaborate on the location. We might want to consider a meter that can read by time so we can get that daily flow information which will be needed for annual logs. MPCA is working on a spreadsheet for easier record keeping for the system. The time period for peak monitoring will be June, July and August because it has to span equally over the Fourth of July holiday.

Gagner said the design flow is something he will be keeping an eye on. Gagner stated he would get daily flow information from his computer at his office and would log in every day to get it.

If we qualified for this proposed MPCA rule, our permit would be governed by Washington County and we could use its nitrogen best management practices.

DeSmet warned us to be aware of potential future events that might impact our ability to meet the performance standard of 10 mg/L. Gagner said that to safely move forward, we need the flexibility to meet future performance requirements. In other words, we should build this system only once.

Project Priority List:

1. Fill out application – DeSmet will work on this. *[completed]*

2. Complete Current Debt Load Worksheet. [*working*]
3. Send letter to MPCA justifying ten-year timeline. (Sahli recommended to put into the schedule those minor safety issues and a time certain to fix them.)

Voedisch asked if the town is permitted through Washington County, could we still use MPCA funding? Sahli replied yes.

Potential Funding Sources:


1. Wastewater Interest Fund Grant – it will buy down principal to get it to 1.4%
2. MPCA Loans
3. 201 User Money
4. Federal Grants

DeSmet mentioned one more piece of information about well depth. Adams noted the town does not conduct ground water monitoring.

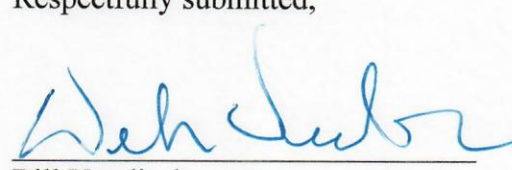
Adams moved, seconded by Voedisch, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Attest,

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Tibbetts
Clerk/Treasurer



Bill Voedisch
Board Chair

