

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
**BACA GRANDE WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT**

**February 23, 2023 - 2:00 PM**

District Office – 57 Baca Grant Way South

Crestone, Colorado 81131

Meeting held via Zoom

**ATTENDANCE**

Directors in Attendance:

Vivia Lawson

John Loll

Rick Hart

Also in Attendance:

Marcus Lock, District Legal Counsel

JoAnn Slivka, District Manager

Gary Potter, District Director of Utilities

Natalie DeBon, District Administrative Services Manager

Nick Marcotte, District Engineer

Community Members and Guests:

dan gray

Bill Folk

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Lawson opened the meeting at 2:00PM.

Board Roll Call: Directors Lawson, Loll, and Hart were present. Director Smith previously excused from today's meeting.

**DISCLOSURE OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

*Attorney Lock has discussed with the Board the requirements pursuant to Colorado law to disclose any potential conflicts of interest to the Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District Board of Directors and to the Secretary of State. It was noted that a quorum was present and members of the Board were requested to disclose any potential conflicts of interest with regard to any matters scheduled for discussion at this meeting. No new disclosures were made.*

**AGENDA**

**Discussion of the Wastewater System Improvements Preliminary Engineering Report**

I. Preliminary engineering report summary

II. Wastewater system improvements - Preliminary engineering report

**The Board and District Staff discussed and reviewed the Preliminary engineering report (PER) with Nicholaus Marcotte from Element Engineering. Mr. Marcotte presented to the Board the following options for Wastewater system improvements:**

**Alternative I – “No Action”**

This alternative will not be evaluated because the system's organic loading has surpassed the 80% permitted capacity. Additionally, the district currently experiences several deficiencies within the existing AIWWTF. This alternative is deemed impractical and would leave the district's system in generally poor condition and in violation of the permitted organic limit, therefore, will not be discussed further in this report.

**Alternative II – Consolidation**

Mr. Marcotte said consolidation is not an option for our District. The nearest municipality with a treatment facility is the Town of Saguache, located approximately 25 miles to the northwest of the AIWWTF, well beyond the 5-mile radius normally considered the limit for consolidation. The distance to the Town of Saguache makes Alternative II – “Consolidation”, an unfeasible option. Additionally, the Town of Saguache does not currently possess the hydraulic or organic capacity to accommodate additional flows.

**Alternative III – Expansion and Improvements to Existing AIWWTF**

Mr. Marcotte stated that this alternative proposes the use of existing buildings for the construction of a third Fluidyne SBR treatment train, with each train operating independently. Mr. Marcotte stated the advantage of choosing this alternative is that it is the least expensive compared to other options. However, the maintenance costs would be high in the future and it is uncertain how severe the structural issues may be, and there is a possibility of uncovering additional problems during excavation process. Also, Mr. Marcotte mentioned that this alternative comes with the inherent risks of designing and upgrading an existing facility that was not originally built to code and has been in operation for many years.

**Alternative IV – New Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) AIWWTF**

Mr. Marcotte presented alternative IV, and this alternative includes all other options, including keeping and utilizing the current equipment. Mr. Marcotte said Element Engineering would recommend this Alternative IV to the District.

This alternative is the most feasible alternative and would provide necessary improvements to the Aspen Wastewater facility and collection system.

This alternative would include the construction/installation of the following items:

1. SBR system (basins, valves, diffusers, blowers, controls)
2. UV disinfection
3. Effluent flume and flow meter
4. Building (lab/office, restroom, blowers, disinfection)

Mr. Marcotte said the advantage to this alternative – we will be able to design modern treatment equipment with improved technology. Although it may not be the most cost-effective option, it requires fewer operations, less wear and tear on the plant and ultimately lower maintenance costs compared to alternative # III.

This alternative is very commonly used though Colorado and throughout the world.

**Alternative V – New Integrated Fixed-Film Activated Sludge (IFAS) AIWWTF**

Alternative V – New IFAS WWTF would include the decommissioning of the existing AIWWTF and the complete replacement of the AIWWTF with an integrated fixed-film activated sludge (IFAS) plant and all associated processes. Mr. Marcotte also mentioned that this alternative will require an excessive process though permitting.

**Alternative VI – New Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) AIWWTF**

Alternative VI – New Membrane Bio-Reactor (MBR) would include decommissioning the existing AIWWTF with a membrane bio-reactor (MBR) treatment system and all associated processes. Mr. Marcotte mentioned that operation of an MBR system is significantly more complex than other alternatives. Chemical cleaning will be required further increasing operational complexity.

The Board of Directors and District Staff reviewed and discussed all the alternatives including a discussion of importance of Community outreach, as this process moves forward, and once the Board and District have better figures the District will inform and provide more information to the public. It is vital to engage with the community and keep them informed about the developments to maintain transparency and trust.

**MOTION:** FOLLOWING DISCUSSION, UPON MOTION DULY MADE BY DIRECTOR HART, SECONDED BY DIRECTOR LOLL AND UPON VOTE, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THE BOARD APPROVED MOVING FORWARD WITH THE PROJECT AND APPROVED THE (PER) PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING AND DIRECTED ELEMENT ENGINEERING TO COMPLETE THE RDAPPLY APPLICATION AND TO APPLY TO USDA ON THE DISTRICT'S BEHALF. **ADJOURNMENT:**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, UPON MOTION DULY MADE DIRECTOR LOLL, SECONDED BY DIRECTOR SMITH AND UPON VOTE, UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 03:38 PM.

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR  
March 15, 2023

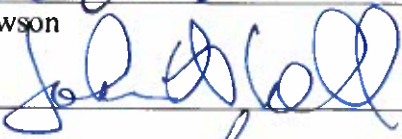
Respectfully submitted,

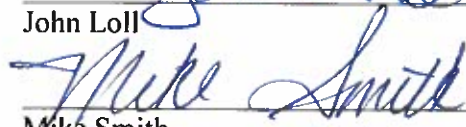



Natalie DeBon

THESE MINUTES ARE APPROVED AS THE OFFICIAL FEBRUARY 23, 2023 MINUTES OF THE BACA GRANDE WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SIGNING BELOW:

  
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Vivia Lawson

  
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John Loll

  
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Mike Smith

  
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Rick Hart