

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING/WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
BACA GRANDE WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT

May 26, 2020

1:00 PM

District Office – 57 Baca Grant Way South
Crestone, Colorado 81131

Meeting held via Zoom due to COVID-19

ATTENDANCE

Directors in Attendance:

John Loll
Robert Salmi
Gregg Conlee
Mike Smith
Bill Peck

Also in Attendance:

Marcus Lock; Law of the Rockies
JoAnn Slivka; District Manager

Members of the Public:

Gwynn Busby; Town of Crestone Treasurer (for a portion of the meeting)
Dan Gray

CALL TO ORDER

President Loll opened the meeting at 1:05 PM.

Mr. Lock introduced the meeting as a work session therefore no decisions will be made on topics until the June meeting. This being a work session meeting, President Loll encouraged discussion and different points of view among the directors.

The meeting began with a concern from Director Peck regarding the remote Zoom meetings. He would like the Board to meet together in person without wearing masks and be more public.

Discussion followed about the health concerns during this COVID-19 time. All understand and agree it is always best to meet in person but it is important to keep everyone safe and healthy; community and staff included. We have a small staff and we need them to stay healthy as they are front line workers. This is a public health and political issue and we are among thousands of public entities in the State of Colorado legally meeting via video conference.

1. Personnel

Directors Conlee and Salmi will work with the District Manager as representatives on the personnel committee to consider what we are looking for in an Operations Manager.

Considerations

Job description and requirements
Current Operations staffing and certification levels
Desirable situation would be to get someone who wants to be in our community
Long term who wants to stay here, 5-10 years, have a real commitment to staying with the district
District Organization Structure
Interviews

A status update will be added to the June meeting agenda.

2. Town of Crestone IGA

Mr. Lock provided background on the history of the agreement with the Town of Crestone (“Town”) and the District. The agreement is almost twenty years now since originally executed (February 22, 2002) with one amendment in 2011. There is a provision in the agreement that states the agreement will automatically renew every five years. If either party does not intend to renew, they need to notify the other party in writing at least two years ahead of the renewal date. That date would be on or before March 1, 2020. Per the Board’s direction, Mr. Lock sent a letter to the Town of Crestone on January 31, 2020 notifying them that the District believes the agreement is dated and we do not intend to renew the agreement as it currently stands. In the letter it was clearly stated that our intention was not to sever the agreement or relationship and we want to work collaboratively with the town to reach a good outcome for both the Town of Crestone and the District.

Considerations

The wastewater treatment Plant is approaching capacity for biological loading. The Town contributes more to this loading than to the volume. We need to determine what the accurate cost is to provide services to the Town, taking into account both the cost of actual service and treatment as well as capital improvement costs associated with a potential plant expansion, then renegotiate on what the actual cost is to provide these services to them.

Next steps:

1. Meet with town representatives (virtually if needed) and have this same discussion with them as a participant
2. Give priority to consider engagement of a consultant to evaluate the true cost of services
3. Perhaps all parties should share costs for this investigation, each might want to retain their own consultants
4. Consideration of growth rates of the Town and the District

Ms. Busby from the town agreed that they would like to meet with the District also.

Director Salmi provided an update on his fine bubble diffuser investigations.

Mr. Lock is correct in his explanation that the organic loading is holding our feet to the fire as far as being able to keep going on with what we are able to treat.

Director Salmi received a quote of \$40,000 – \$50,000 to put in fine bubble diffusers, which are intended to increase the organic loading capacity of the wastewater treatment plant. The cost would include process control and consultant's time.

Director Conlee noticed the Town flow statistics last month and inquired as to why the numbers jumped so high especially considering the school and brewery are not in operation right now. Discussion followed regarding possible causes including I&I (inflow and infiltration). Operations staff are aware and are monitoring the flow.

3. USFW Lease and Purchase

Mr. Lock provided an update again, nothing has changed since his report at the May 15 meeting. We are on hold until we hear back from USFW. He suggested the Water Service Agreement (“WSA”) be sent to the Board for their review and understanding. He is available should any directors have questions after reading the WSA.

4. EIAF- 8965 Energy Resiliency/Redundancy Grant

Director Loll and Ms. Slivka gave an update on the DOLA grant for alternative energy. A lot of the work was accomplished through the grant process with the Department of Energy. We had a conversation with DOLA recently; perhaps we should investigate the possibility of requesting a modification to the contract to assist with the new treatment for the plant.

Discussion followed regarding USDA Grant Opportunities and earlier efforts towards a SEARCH grant with the USDA. Ms. Slivka will continue to work with local representatives on this matter.

6. Storage Tank Rule

Ms. Slivka provided an update on research and quotes received for the water storage tanks. We have to consider the priorities and budget accordingly in the future to be compliant with new State rules. Interior painting is extremely expensive and a careful, detailed plan will also need to be put in place for these projects.

The Motel Well and storage tank are also a high priority for fire suppression.

7. Board Orientation- Facility Tour

The Board is interested in a facility tour to better understand the total system. Mr. Lock reminded us to keep in mind any Public Health orders as it relates to the logistics of social distancing etc.

8. Budget Committee

Budget season is coming up, Directors Conlee and Peck will be the board representatives this year.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 2:15 PM.

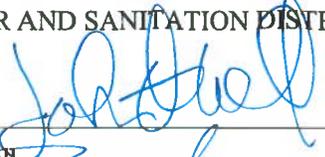
THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR
June 19, 2020

Respectfully submitted,



JoAnn Slivka
Secretary for the meeting

THESE MINUTES ARE APPROVED AS THE OFFICIAL May 26, 2020 MINUTES OF THE BACA GRANDE WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SIGNING BELOW:



John Loh


Robert Salmi


Gregg Conlee


William Peck


Mike Smith