

Manager's Report for April 2011

Manager's Report by Mike Langley

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### **Financial Report by Celeste Lilley**

#### **Water Reclamation Facility**

- Holmes Harbor Sewer District on Whidbey Island invitation still stands, with a couple days notice.

- I've met with G&O engineers at their Seattle offices and it is my understanding that I will have a completed draft facility plan update for your perusal at the next scheduled commissioners meeting in May. This date hinges on timely response from DOE & DOH. Would the commissioners rather meet with G&O before the draft facility plan is out or after they've had a chance to review that document?

- Still awaiting word from Lake Stevens Sewer District regarding a surplus reclaimed water filter.

I propose that, following confirmation that the equipment is still available, I make request to G&O for an estimate of cost to perform limited determination tasks of:

1. Will the equipment Lake Stevens has available fulfill the needs of SWD?
2. What would it take to install and get it operational?

- Chuck Hoffman of WSDOE will be visiting SunLand on April 21st to get an introduction to the physical plant and our general sewer operations. Mr. Hoffman is the individual charged with reviewing and renewing our wastewater discharge permit. He is also working with DOH with regards to how we can use some of our reclaimed water for irrigation of the golf course.

- In consideration of the current method of disinfecting the reclaimed water at the contact chamber utilizing chlorine gas;  
What may be some options to this method?

1. On-site hypochlorite generation

This method would eliminate the need for importing, using, and storing cylinders of chlorine gas. The chlorine would be generated on site as needed. This option comes with a large up front capital expense for the specialized equipment. More information needed.

2. Oxyozone generation

This method of disinfection is attractive due to the absence of all chlorine gas but may require a small amount of chlorine to maintain a residual level following treatment. Ozone is created in the chemical reaction that takes place when oxygen comes into contact with an electrical spark. In nature this occurs when lightning strikes. Ozone is a

much stronger disinfectant than chlorine due in part to its extremely unstable nature. Ozone wants to get back to Oxygen as quickly as possible and therefore attacks anything available such as any contaminants that may be in the water. This level of disinfection is good because it takes less disinfectant to reach purification, in less time, and there is no residual or by product to deal with down the line. The only byproduct at all is pure oxygen and that's a good element to have in the water. If an instance existed where oxygen levels were too high oxygen could easily and inexpensively be off-gassed.

The down side of using ozone at the SunLand Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) is the cost of the equipment and the problem of still having a dangerous gas in a confined space. More information will be forthcoming on this method as an industry representative will be visiting our WRF soon.

### 3. Ultraviolet disinfection

This is the method recommended in the existing SunLand WRF Plan. This is the system currently in use at the Sequim WRF. UV systems typically come with a very large capital expense up front. That's the bad.

The good is that it would eliminate the situation of having toxic gases in a confined space. There are no gases and all the disinfection equipment is located at the contact chamber, away from any enclosures.

Recently the City of Sequim as you know has made major improvements to their WRF. As part of that process they replaced their existing UV disinfection system and may be interested in putting it up for surplus. I understand that the contact chambers at the Sequim WRF are quite similar to SWD's and that the retired equipment may well meet our needs and that the surplus price may be quite affordable.

I propose that I continue to research all possible options for disinfection of reclaimed water as well as future biosolids and that I request assistance from G&O to confirm that the equipment Sequim has available will meet our disinfection needs, will meet current regulatory requirements, and is compatible with our contact chamber design.

#### **Biosolids**

- I spoke with Paul Haines regarding the biosolids handling issue we have. He stated that though a contractual agreement has yet to be penned he was confident that the rate would remain unchanged from what it currently is.

As you know that rate is 10 cents/gallon, plus about \$18,000 for trucking.

If we truck to PA the rate would be 12 cents/gallon and the trucking would be five times what it is now. That over-all cost to the rate payers would nearly double for waste disposal. It would go from \$70,000 to \$135,000.

#### **Meter Setters**

- The meter setter program has begun for this year, starting with all connections on Protection Place.

### **Consumption Meters**

- Readings from our water meters on occupied single family residential lots in SunLand are averaging 121gpd in March. The clubhouse averaged 457gpd for the same period.

### **Outreach/Funding/Partnerships**

- SWD sponsored the March meeting of the PNCWA at the Gathering Place on March 9th. That event was well attended and, from the complements received, greatly appreciated. The PNCWA would like to extend a special **thank you** to the SWD commissioners for supporting this effort. Typically this event has one training session incorporated into the program. The event at SunLand had four training sessions for operators plus a tour of our reclamation facility.

- The Washington Water Trust is continuing to have discussions and gather information to build a case for the possibility of using SWD reclaimed water for irrigation of the SunLand Golf Course.

### **Franchise Agreement**

- I contacted Carl Gay's office and requested a status update. No word back as yet.
- Regarding the reclaimed water pipeline I see SWD having an unrecognized asset. Under the potable water system ownership/management style of operations SWD assumes ownership of all pipe, fittings, and appurtenances, along with the responsibility for maintenance and repair for same. Along with that SWD has perpetual control over the asset and the water flowing from it. Why would the reclaimed water style of operations be any different? It is my understanding that SWD already owns the two-thirds of the planned reclaimed water transmission line that is already in the ground. For SWD to be consistent in its infrastructure management style, some entity or individual would install the reclaimed waterline to the satisfaction of SWD and any other regulatory agency and then turn over ownership and management to SWD. If SWD intends to have a franchise agreement with Clallam County, then why would reclaimed water lines be excluded from that agreement? Help!

### **Regarding Other Issues**

- The new Ford Ranger Truck is in service and performing flawlessly. These little trucks are a great tool for SWD. I don't understand why Ford is removing the Ranger from production.
- Mike L went to school at the American Waterworks Academy and it went to his head. He apologizes for the great length of this un-brief report. When I was in college my professor would start every lecture with "just briefly". Only "just briefly" was never brief.
- Scott Garner has completed his cross-connection control training and will be testing for certification soon.

- Mega Disaster!!

Following the events in Japan I have been approached about how the water district is prepared for and would deal with a disaster like has befallen Japan. I believe it would be prudent for SWD to give some thought to this. Though we are not threatened by nuclear waste, we do provide some essential services that could become critical under some circumstances.

Just one example to ponder “just briefly”,

SWD has a back-up generator at well no.2 that allows us to pump water and distribute it to all of SunLand. But that well is in the tsunami zone subject to flood and contamination. We have no back-up generator on well no.1. Hmmmmm.

- Both reservoirs have been emptied, cleaned and re-filled this spring.

- The water line repair at Sunland Drive and Sunset Place has finally been resurfaced with asphalt.