

Eureka Township
Dakota County
State of Minnesota

Special Eureka Townboard Meeting

May 19, 2004

Chair Don Pflaum called the Special Meeting of the Eureka Town board to order at 7:01 pm.

Town board members present were Chair Don Pflaum, Supervisor Kenny Miller, Supervisor Mark Malecha, Supervisor Dan Rogers and Supervisor Connie Anderson. Clerk/ Treasurer Nanett Leine recorded the minutes.

Agenda: Elko/ New Market Waste Water Treatment Plant
8:00 pm open and review Town Hall Bids

Elko/ New Market Waste Water Treatment Facility

Ed Shukle, Interim Elko City Administrator made introductions those present on behalf of the City of Elko/ New Market. Several speakers presented additional information on the proposed treatment facility. This is a follow up to the Stakeholders meeting on April 20, 2004.

Bob Stark, engineer with TDKA oversees projects with wastewater services. Ben Lao, is project manager. They handed out a list of overhead projection from the stakeholders meeting. The comments come from 5 different categories.

- The standards for the effluent are based on the trout stream designation.
- Erosion disposition- the discharge from the waste water plant- the velocity range will not be pushed to the level of erosion (1ft per second)

Mark Kasma, Bolten & Menk Engineering addressed storm water ordinances.

- In 2002 the City of Elko and the City of New Market adopted storm water ordinances that were recommended by MPCA.
- Storm water rate control- not increasing water run off during 2 year, 10 year, etc. events. Ponding is used. Increased flooding or increased rate will not happen due to storm water rate control.
- Vegetative Buffer areas have been adopted as recommended by MPCA.
- Trout stream- the city is going thru with the recommendations for trout stream for rate control. Rate and volume. (Infiltration) at a rate of less than 10 years. Elko and New Market have areas to do this.
- Strict language in Ordinance for tributaries directly to the Vermillion River.

- Water Quality pond- Both cities are implementing the Walker pond design, it removes 90% of phosphorus, turbidity (cloudy water), promotes infiltration and a more constant outlet.
- Scott WMO- both Elko and New Market need to buy into the Watershed rules by February 2006.
- Vermillion Watershed- a portion of both cities lie in this water shed; as soon as their plans come in they will adopt into their rules also.
- Need to follow MPDS phase 2- MPCA rules.

Jim Jacques, P.E., TKDA looked at the flood insurance study on the Vermillion River.

- Looked at 100 year event. If the treatment plant puts out 1.5 cu.ft., a channel free flowing 5 ft wide the water rise would be 3”.
- Potential health impact pathogenic potential.- the limits established by the PCA- require the output be suitable for recreational contact.
- Comment on Increase in disease carrying mosquitoes. Require stagnant water.
- Treatment alternatives- transport to another wastewater treatment plant.
- Long term goal- pipeline.
- History of plant- there has been problems over the past several years where they have been unable to meet their permit. After all this thru, they may still not meet their permits.

Ammonia- aeration ponds to remove ammonia. Not removed quick enough
 DOD's (measurement of organic strength of the wastewater)- amount of oxygen that is utilized in parts per million. DOD limit is 15, they are currently operating at 8.

Improvements have been made to the treatment plant.

Ben Lao- current there is a 8” pipe from the treatment plant. The proposal is for a additional 14” pipe.

The Eureka Town board presented pictures of the Vermillion River as to locations within Eureka Township.

Is the wastewater coming out of the treatment plant safe to go into the ground water? At times it is a dry bed. Where does the water from the treatment plant go when the river is dry? There are shallow point wells in the area, that are being used in the homes.

Dave Sahli, PCA, project engineer for review for the permit and EAW. The limits for the discharge are set for potential low flow as zero; the limits are set that at times it may be a dry stream. There is no dilution that the effluent will infiltrate. The standards are for animal use, not for water used in homes.

Kelly Garvy, PCA, Environmental Review- The wells would need to be tested, to see what the potential problems are. This issue had not been addressed as part of the study.

An EIS take 2 to 3 years to complete. The first step in the process is to come up with a scoping document, determine what things need to be studied.

Ben Lao- The current treatment plant effluent is not suitable for land application on a consumed crop.

Kelly Garvy- They have had troubles in the past, they are currently under a stipulation agreement, their enforcement tool to get them back into compliance. The next permit will need to meet more restrictive water quality standards because their flow is going up and the river is still the same flow. To meet fishable, swimmable and recreational uses for the Vermillion River (Class 2 river).

If the existing circumstances stay the same for the next 3 years?

They will continue to violate their permit. Right now the facility is at its maximum, it is treating at its best of its ability, and they are under a sewer moratorium until they fix the problems they have right now. They cannot consistently meet the standards and will continue to violate their permit.

Council member from Elko- commented that Elko/ New Market area are 2 small communities that an EIS would not only take 2 to 3 years but over a million dollars. They will do whatever it takes to work with Eureka Township. The MPCA is aware of the issues and these will be addressed.

A motion by Supervisor Dan Rogers: To extend question and answer period for 15 minutes. Motion seconded by Supervisor Connie Anderson. Motion carried.

Citizens and town board members expressed concerns on the effluent in the river, cleanliness of the river, the additional water flow, additional storm water with growth. The culverts cannot handle the additional flow.

Elko/ New Market representative- Do you want clean water in the stream now, or do you want to keep holding this up for many years and have them keep violating their permit. They are trying to fix the problem.

Chair Don Pflaum- commented that Eureka Township is requesting an EIS because you are negatively impacting the community. It is the town board's job to look after the health and welfare of our citizens. The infrastructure needs to be in place before growth so you do not negatively impact your neighbors.

Elko/ New Market Representative- that cannot afford the EIS, but they can afford to expand the plant. (9 million dollars) Elko/ New Market support a pipeline.

Chair Don Pflaum commented that the Vermillion River is a highly sensitive river. 1.2 million gallons of water per day will impact the water flow, it will base flow and the sensitivity to the community for flooding, and there are concerns over the quality of the water. There are other options for alternatives in the interim until a pipe can be built. Trucking or land application of the water. Not convinced that this amount of water is healthy for the river.

It was suggested that surplus be trucked, to correct the violations of today, before trying to move forward with expansion.

Chair Don Pflaum- In closing, if you come up with a proposal that is not putting additional water into the Vermillion River, that you might see some help from the township, otherwise we are going to fight it tooth and nail.

This portion of the meeting concluded at 8:20 pm.

Open and Read Town Hall Bids

The township received two bids for the new town hall.

1. Met Con Construction Services, Faribault, MN
2. Healy Construction Company, Faribault, MN.

Both Companies presented complete bids along with Bid Bonds.

The clerk read out loud the two bids that were received.

A motion by Supervisor Connie Anderson: That the bids were received and publicly read, they will be forwarded to the town hall committee for recommendation at the continued annual meeting on June 1, 2004. Motion seconded by Supervisor Mark Malecha. Motion carried.

Bob Johnson, past Lakeville administrator commented on the Elko/ New Market Waste water treatment plant. He suggested that the town board strategize on alternatives to the EIS. He suggested that they expand the treatment plant to 3times it capacity, advocate of a pipeline in a timely fashion. No more building permits issued until the new plant is completed. The Walker ponds are only required for new construction, not the old developments. There is unmanaged stormwater (current problem)

The town board has hired a consultant to help with this issue.

The town board set up a strategy meeting for Wednesday, June 2, 2004 at 7:00pm for Town board, Planning commission and their consultant.

Special Town Board Meeting- Wednesday, June 9, 2004, allies to Eureka Township in the Elko/ New Market issue will be invited.

The town board discussed whether they would review the new town hall building proposal before the presentation to the continued annual meeting. It was decided that they would not review the proposal.

A Motion by Supervisor Kenny Miller: To adjourn. Motion seconded by Supervisor Dan Rogers.

Meeting adjourned at: 9:40 pm.