

July 9th, 2008

Board Members present:

Terry Lynch, Larry Rudy, Ray Perry, Milt Neumann, Carlos Landa, Chuck Simpson and Dick Behm.

Guests/ Speakers:

Bruce Rawls, Spokane County Utilities and Dave Moss, Engineer for Spokane County Utilities (New Waste Water Project Manager)

Bruce and Dave reported that Washington State Ecology has given final approval for the construction of the new treatment plant. Bruce stated that the cost to amortize the plant will be shared in the whole by all those that use the county waste water system equally. The anticipated cost for the plant will be in excess of \$140,000,000.00 and a contract to design and operate it has been inked with CHM2HILL. This is a local firm.

The location is the old Stock Yards Inn which the county has purchased and cleared across from Spokane Community College.

The treated waste water can be used in many ways; for recharging the river, watering lawns and maintaining water levels for lakes (Shelly Lake being one under consideration) and flooding Saltese Flats (340 acres) which will turn it back in to a wet lands which is was originally before Mr. Bud Morrison's grandfather started to drain it for his ranch business. This is all under consideration and discussion at this time.

It is expected considerable use will be made of the eight million gallons of processed water daily. The maximum capacity of the plant will be twenty-four million gallons per day. The water will be 99% purified, cleaner than the water in the Spokane River at this time.

This plant will be utilized 70-80% by the city of Spokane Valley with the balance to come from the un-incorporated areas on the east side of the county. It must be up and running no later than 2013 or a moratorium on building construction in Spokane County could be imposed. The demands of the Sierra Club have raised the cost of the plant two fold. If they win in court that the water must be 100% free of phosphates there will be a need to discharge the cleaned effluent on to the Saltese flats or some other wet lands as it is not harmful to fish, fowl or plants. To be pumped back to the river or the aquifer, it may be deemed by the court case to have to be 100% rather than the anticipated 99%. The problem with the phosphorous is many faceted: it comes from the air, old mining, up river in Idaho that is not as diligent as we are and this complicates the problem. As of July of this year no Cascade Dish Soap is available in Washington State due to the phosphorous content, Idaho still has it on the shelf. The increased treatment rates will be in the \$7.00 to \$9.00 range per month to help pay for the new plant.

A short discussion was held with Carlos Landa on a problem concerning the demand by the City of Spokane Valley that all "offices" and firms selling to the public must have two bathrooms if their space is over 300 square feet. Carlos raised the issue with *Ms. Mary Kate Martin*, Building Official for the city and they agreed there would be a written response requested from the State of Washington department that makes the building rules. This will clarify confusion in the SV

City's Building Department to what the state rule really is. Miss Martin said it was the intent for SV to use the state guidelines. The problem seems to be there appears to be two versions of what the state is saying verbally.

A bathroom that is ADA approved can cost in excess of \$10,000.00 and to have two for a business or office as small as 3-400 square feet is a huge burden on the businesses that bear this expense and the developers when building facilities for lease or sale.

**Minutes Respectfully Reported By
Terry Lynch, Chair SVBA**