

Water Quality Management Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 28, 2006, 1:30 p.m.
PPACG Conference Room

1. Call to order / Establish a quorum / Roll Call/ Introductions

Chairperson Jerry Jacobson, called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. and stated for the record that a quorum was established. Introductions were made and attending were:

Members

Todd Dahlberg
Jerry Jacobson, Chairperson
Roy Heald
Matt Lewis
Mike McCarthy
Kip Peterson
Mike Poeckes
Walt Roberts
Jim Schultz
Dave Stanford
Mike Wicklund
Kathleen Williams

Representing

Colorado Springs Utilities
Academy Water & Sanitation District
Security Water & Sanitation District
USAFA
El Paso County Health Department
Cherokee Metropolitan District
Donala Water & Sanitation District
Schriever AFB
City of Woodland Park
Garden Valley Water & Sanitation District
Monument Sanitation District
Palmer Lake Sanitation District

Staff

Rich Muzzy
Jayne Blewitt

PPACG Environmental Program Manager
PPACG Website & Publications Coordinator

Guests

Roger Sams
Ted Knutzen
Melanie Jollett
Charles Cothorn

GMS, Inc.
URS
URS
Springs Engineering

2. Agenda Approval

Mike Wicklund moved to approve the agenda. Jim Schultz seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3. Public Comments – Items not on the agenda

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of the August 22, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Jim Schultz requested a clarification in the minutes of the PPACG Board of Directors Report (Item #7) that the Board of Directors motion to approve the Woodland Park Wal-Mart Lift Station also included the upgrade of the expansion of the Lower Southside Lift Station. Roy Heald of Security Water & Sanitation District asked that there be a correction to agenda item #6 stating that a letter was requested by Security Water & Sanitation District to Riverbend Crossing Lift Station regarding

the ability of Security Water & Sanitation District to treat the wastewater and stating if they are in violation of any permits. Roy clarified that Security was in violation for mercury discharge. Dave Stanford moved to approve the minutes as amended. Mike McCarthy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5. Site Application for Falcon Highlands Reuse WWTP

Charles Cothorn of Springs Engineering gave an overview of the Falcon Highlands site application for a reuse wastewater treatment plant. Springs Engineering has been working with Falcon Highlands Metropolitan District for the design of the system. The Falcon Highlands district wanted to explore a way to control their water rights and in order to do this URS was hired to look into onsite wastewater treatment to reuse the water for irrigation of commercial properties and landscaping along roadway open areas. This option would be offered to the school district as well. URS put together a study and were hired to design and construct the plant. The district is already connected to the Woodmen Hills Metropolitan District which goes through the Paintbrush Hills WWTP. The plan is to treat and reuse 30,000 gpd, storing it and running it through a reuse irrigation system.

Jim Schultz asked Charles Cothorn about the water rights issue and if it is the driving force behind this plan. Charles Cothorn stated that about one third of the district's water will go towards irrigation. If we use wastewater for irrigation then there is more potable water which will allow for more of a cushion on internal uses.

Mike Wicklund asked if the discharge to the wetland is considered a tertiary treatment. Charles Cothorn responded that all of the treatment will take place in the WWT Facility. The wetland was an augmented wetlands area that was approved by the Army Corps of Engineers through a 404 permit. The wetlands were already in existence in the Metro district which was processed in 2001. The wetlands are not dependent on the wastewater treatment plant but could supplement the wetlands as the discharge goes through them to an unnamed tributary of the Black Squirrel Creek.

Ted Knutzen of URS added that the PEL's are for surface water discharge and under the PEL's the discharge can be to a wetland or to a drainage ditch. The wetlands are a convenient place and it is more beneficial and ecological to the wetlands. The effluent from the wastewater treatment plant will meet the PEL's.

Mike Wicklund asked about their compliance with Regulation 84 and is there any special treatment that is needed to comply with Regulation 84. Ted Knutzen responded that it is their understanding that they need to comply with the PEL's and that will take care of it. Mike Wicklund added that you cannot just land apply discharge without doing anything to it.

Todd Dahlberg of CSU stated that Regulation 84 is designed to govern reuse of wastewater. There are e-coli and turbidity requirements that need to be met. Because the plant will be discharging to a wetland and using water for landscape irrigation, requirements of both Regulation #22 and #84 need to be met. Under Regulation 84 a letter of intent needs to be submitted and then a note of authorization from CDPHE for landscape irrigation needs to be acquired. Regulation 84 is designed for public health protection.

Jim Schultz asked that the committee allow URS to present the technical side to this project and address the SARC questions.

Ted Knutzen of URS explained that they were hired to conduct a study and have selected three

alternatives for treatment that would comply with the PEL's. The recirculating sand filters were selected. After meeting with the SARC committee, Ted stated that he had concerns regarding the ability of the recirculating sand filter to meet the PEL's for the ammonia discharge limits. During a normal winter he stated that will be met but during colder than normal winters there are concerns regarding the ability to nitrify and meet these ammonia limits. There are other alternatives, such as the Advan Tex System or an RBC Wheel that will nitrify it completely. The other alternative that is being explored but is not much benefit to Falcon Highlands Metro District is to stop discharging water to the wetlands and to can stop accepting sewage and send it all into the Woodland Hills Metro District and hold it in storage on cold winter days.

Jim Schultz began discussion as to what the direction of this committee is today because this site application is based on a design of a specific facility and whatever you select has to meet all of the requirements for the uses of that water. There are two sets of criteria, one is for reuse which includes turbidity and e-coli and the other set of criteria must meet specific discharge standards. The applicant appears to be deciding what process to recommend to the owner that can meet both of those criteria. It is difficult for the committee to make a recommendation on a site application that does not have a process selected.

The committee agreed that the site application needs to be revised and re-submitted to the WQMC to state what their intentions are and specifically how they will meet the PEL's and comply with Regulation 84.

Jim Schultz commented on the on how question #210 was answered and suggested that when it gets filled out, the form should be 300. The population equivalent is 30,000 gpd divided by 100 so the population should say 300 gpd.

6. El Paso County Onsite Wastewater Systems Regulations

Mike McCarthy of El Paso County reviewed the proposed changes the county will be making to the Onsite Wastewater System Regulations. The current regulations were last revised in 1996 and during the last ten years a few minor adjustments have gone through the Board of Health. Regarding the 208 Plan there are no huge changes and the changes that have been made are performance based criteria for the building of wastewater plants. The regulations are based on accepted practices throughout the United States and the EPA. Most of the items within the regulations are for contractors and engineers to design specific onsite wastewater systems for a property or residence or even commercial application if it is less than 2000 gallons, which will not change because it is a state requirement. The county has never had good scientific evidence that the septic systems up Ute Pass are contributing to the nitrate or e-coli issues in the Upper Fountain Creek. What is now built into the regulations is the ability to conduct a study and if there are problems identified the Health Department will now be able to go to the Board of Health and ask that the septic systems be addressed and that the systems need to be maintained. This will address the possibility of renewable permits for septic systems. There have always been issues with percolation tests and how to interpret soil data on a property where septic systems are installed. The Dawson Formation up in the Black forest, Monument area is consolidated soil and is impermeable, but is not truly bedrock. Bedrock addressed within the regulations states that septic systems need to stay within four feet of it and as a result the County is looking to standardize it with a new provision. Some new definitions have been added such as Bedrock and alternative treatment systems, and bedrooms.

Mike McCarthy asked the group for their general comments and provided a few copies for review. If others would like to review a copy, Mike stated he could email a copy out. The county hopes to go before the Board of Health with these revisions in January and adopted in February and then there will be a waiting period of 45 days by statute.

7. Arkansas River Basin Issues and Formulation Hearing

Rich Muzzy reported on the Arkansas River Basin Issues and Formulation Hearing that took place last week in Alamosa. A memo with the issues that the Water Quality Control Division stated should be addressed at the June 2007 Hearing was distributed to the members present.

This information is also available on the state's website at www.cdphe.state.co.us. Looking at page 14 of this document it reviews the specific considerations and proposed changes for each of the segments within the Fountain Creek Watershed. Also being considered is the implementation of the sediment standards because at this time there are no standards. There are about four segments listed in the Fountain Creek Watershed Plan for selenium so this could become an issue. Another issue raised by Security Sanitation District and Triview are the levels for copper. And also Paintbrush Hills has some concerns with regards to meeting their final permit limits for their new discharge permit. New standards are being requested for the segment that they discharge to along the Black Squirrel Creek.

Todd Dahlberg attended this hearing and added that there are three big things that they will be looking at and they are: use protected designations along use protected streams, whenever there is a temporary modification they will institute a rule making hearing to review it, possibly adding water plus fish organic standards to several fishable streams locally that do not currently have them.

Lastly, representatives from Kansas gave a presentation about the acute and chronic selenium levels along the along the Arkansas River Kansas Colorado border. They have a TMDL working now in the stream segment from the state line into Kansas and were asking the Water Quality Control Division for cooperation to not approve any temporary modifications without first identifying what impacts point source dischargers have on selenium loading along the river.

8. PPACG Board of Directors Action Items Report for July

Rich Muzzy reported that the Cowperwood-Campus Point Realty Corporation sent a response to the letter that the WQMC sent on August 23, 2006 notifying them that there were approval process issues discovered after the committee had already recommended approval of their site application. A copy of this letter was distributed to members present. This site application was approved by the PPACG Board of Directors and also by the State.

The Site Application for Riverbend Crossing Lift Station was also approved by the PPACG Board of Directors.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting has been re-scheduled for Wednesday, December 27, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. rather than Tuesday, December 26th.

10. Other Topics and Announcements

There were no announcements.

11. Adjournment – Jerry Jacobson moved for adjournment at 3:00 PM.