

Town of Cusick Water and Wastewater Work Session
January 31, 2024
Meeting Notes

Attending:

Mayor Duane Schofield
Everett Alford, Cusick Council
Afton Servas, Cusick Council
Kurt Holland, Varela Engineering
Abby Gromlich, Varela Engineering
Julie, SiJohn, Cusick Clerk
Nathan Ikehara, DOH
Casie Mongie, Contract Operator
Cynthia Wall Fuller, Commerce
Claire Miller, Commerce

DRINKING WATER

- **Water Treatment Plant Operations**

- Update (*Town, Health*)

Minor repairs being made at plant. Influent valve rebuilt, pump for sample water from pH and turbidity meters went out. Looking for right pump for replacement.

Interim operation language is included in the EPA grant application. It will be difficult to update existing treatment plant and keep it operating normally. Need to make sure there is funding to have operator on-site more for hands on operation and work.

The water meter across the bridge that measures water going to the tribe was replaced. It is calculating about the same number of gallons as the old meter did.

There is a leak in the meter over by the casino. There are two meters that were installed in 2019, and the water is not looping through one of the meters as designed. The contract for supplying water is expired and should be revisited. It could include language about the town having authority to service meters and valves on the meters that measure water to the tribe.

DOH had their quarterly compliance meeting – expecting proposed new dates when project is moving forward and will update the compliance order.

Boisefort Valley (Lewis County) – doing very similar rehabilitation of their water treatment plant. Same brand, smaller plant. Nathan will send operator contact information to Kurt if he is interested in talking with them.

Roberts Water representative coming out to be on-site.

- **Water Treatment Plant Upgrade/ Community Grants Funding**

- Status of application/ Grants.gov

Grant application finalized – Cynthia needs to unlock project narrative attachment form in Grants.gov. Application will be sent to the town for review, then the Pend Oreille County Planning Department for comments. After that, it will be submitted to the EPA.

RCAC has a contract with EPA to assist communities with completing their applications. They may have funding to assist with management of the grant also.

- **Lead Service Lines Inventory Update** (due October 2024)

Rustin working on lead service line inventory.

WASTEWATER

- **Wastewater Treatment Facility Update**
 - Compliance with SWDP (*Town; Ecology*)

North ponds pretty low level, transfer pump running and just keeping up transferring to storage pond.

Main lift station doing everything to keep up, but not keeping up fully. No overtop or standing sewage.

Water over top of some of the manholes where tribe is building is still an issue. This could be resolved by having the town create their own ordinances. Kurt will send some examples from other towns.

The town should research which ordinances are currently on file with Pend Oreille County before creating new ones.

The Newport Miner archives would have publications about prior ordinances. A subscription may be needed to search the archives. Tina Alford has a subscription.

The town should plan to solicit for general engineering services for the wastewater plant and collection system. Casie has a draft RFQ that can be used as a start. The topic should be added to the next council agenda.

- **Main Lift Station**
 - PWB Emergency Loan Application Status

Next Board meeting is on March 15. PWB will send a link to the meeting so the town can attend.

- **State Waste Discharge Permit - Update**
 - Groundwater Evaluation Study by a hydrogeologist – weather delayed

Due by June 1 or before first application of WW to land.

Afton reported the Cusick--Usk sub area planning being put on hold for now – until water and sewer issues allow for new development. Group will move on to Diamond Lake while town finishes up infrastructure shoring.

NEXT WORK SESSION – Proposed – Wednesday, February 28 at 1:30 pm via Zoom