

Town of Cusick Water and Wastewater Work Session

February 28, 2024

1:30-2:30 pm

Meeting Notes

Attending:

Everett Alford, Cusick Council
Tina Alford, Cusick Council
Julie SiJohn, Cusick Clerk
Cynthia Fuller, Commerce, Small Communities Initiative Program
Claire Miller, Commerce, Small Communities Initiative Program
Kurt Holland, Varela Engineers (town engineer)
Afton Servas, Cusick Council
Mark Zorica – Kalispel Tribe/City Council, City of Newport
Greg Dobb, Ecology (Financial Management)
Casie Mongie, Contract Operator
Kim Prisock, Ecology (Financial Management)
Robert Rosencrantz – Pend Oreille County Commissioner, District 2
Rustin Rathbun – Distribution System Operator
Julia Whitford, Public Works Director, Kalispel Tribe
Madi Casto – Kalispel Tribe Planning Department
Kate Hupp – Ecology (Cusick Permit Manager)
Brenda Smits, DOH Planner
Nathan Ikehara, DOH Engineer
Nikki Guillot – DOH, Source Water Protection Program Manager

DRINKING WATER

- **Water Treatment Plant Operations**
 - Update (*Town, Health*)

No major upsets or issues at the WTP.

Money is guaranteed. If money is in place, when will project get started? Depends on the willingness of the town to put forth money before being reimbursed. Prepared to get started as soon as funding is available. Town should try and get funds released to get started on design (\$25K) to get Varela started. Needs to get on next council agenda.

- **Water Treatment Plant Upgrade/ Community Grants Funding**
 - Status of application/ Grants.gov

The Community Grants Application is submitted to EPA. Town is waiting for feedback from EPA and a timeline for receiving funds. Because all work is on a cost-reimbursable basis, the town would need to use some of their own utility funds to get started before finalizing the EPA contract. Varela is ready to get started as soon as funding is available to start on design and other needed work, like

evaluation of the distribution system. Varela is drafting a scope of work and costs that could occur before EPA funding is received.

The town received confirmation from the EPA that their Cost Share Waiver was approved and no match will be required for the project.

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

Rustin has been reviewing plans and hasn't seen any lead lines – all concrete and asbestos. Side services have not been evaluated.

The inventory of the distribution system should be entered into the DOH Excel review spreadsheet and sent to Nathan. Nathan is available to meet and go over the spreadsheet with the town.

WASTEWATER

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

Plant is in compliance with their State Waste Discharge Permit.

Operation & Maintenance Manual review due – March 15. Verify the manual is current, and include information on any updates to it over the last year.

An anonymous complaint about a sewage overflow from the Kalispel Tribe's sewer lagoon was made to the EPA, and ultimately routed to Ecology's Environmental Response Tracking System (ERTS).
Complaint:

Tip or Complaint: Sewer lagoon next to Cusick electrical substation is leaking raw sewage from bottom of containment berm nearest the Calispell River. This is just north of Town of Cusick, but this is located on tribal land. Sewage is visible in ditch along road and low areas between lagoon and river pumping plant. Sewage is entering the Pend Oreille River.

Ecology Spills Unit responded, investigated and found no spill. The responding unit went through an emergency response scenario with town representatives and also toured the rest of the facility at the town's invitation.

Ecology should have notified the Tribe, not Cusick staff, about the complaint and should have made contact with a representative from the Tribe. Cynthia will verify the ERTS tracking does not say the alleged leak came from the Cusick lagoons.

Ecology commended Everett and Casie for a "job well done". The turnaround and response time to the Spills Responder was very efficient.

- **Main Lift Station Update**

New pump installed at lift station; old pump rebuilt and sitting on shelf as a backup. Room in the existing lift station for two pumps.

Third Street Lift station pump starting to go out – moisture alarm going off. Old pump has been rebuilt several times and should be replaced with another new pump.

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

Hydrogeologist coming out on March 6 to pull water samples, run e-tape, may camera to inspect casing. Hoping for results back by end of month. The work is more of a general evaluation of the existing wells to ensure they are serviceable/usable versus installing new monitoring wells per the permit before a decision is made on where to potentially site an upgraded/new plant. Ecology will share a list of proposed sampling with the town.

There is a requirement in the town's permit to collect groundwater data. That collection will begin either when the existing wells are determined to be adequate, or when new wells are installed. GW monitoring data will be collected.

- **DOH Source Water Protection Grant Program**

[Source Water Protection Local Assistance Grant Program | Washington State Department of Health](#)

Nikki Guillot gave an overview of the DOH Source Water Protection Grant Programs. The grant can pay for things like hydrogeologic assessments, potential threats to source water (either surface or ground), evaluating changing water sources and other similar projects.

Applications are accepted year-round, and are low barrier and have less requirements than the traditional SRF programs. Projects can receive up to \$30K with no match. Simple application, PDF emailed to Nikki,

Costs are on a quarterly reimbursement basis, and it takes approximately 45-60 days to execute a contract if all the information is provided. Applicants must meet federal requirements and have a Statewide Vendor Number and a SAM.gov account. The funds are available during EPA's two-year biennial budget. Work must begin within 30 days of contract execution, and funds for this application cycle must be spent by June 30, 2025. An extension for time, not cost, may be granted if there is appropriate justification provided.

Besides deliverables, timelines and cost, the value of the study to the existing system should be included. DOH encourages working with other nearby sources in a regionalization effort, if possible.

Next Work Session (Proposed) – Wednesday, March 20 at 11:00 am via Zoom

Casie suggested moving the monthly work session to the third Wednesday of each month to give the town more time to get items discussed in the work session on the agenda. The meeting time will be moved to 11 am, and the meetings will still be via Zoom. Cynthia will send out an updated meeting request for the next meeting with the new date and time.