

La Conner Wastewater Advisory Board
1st Quarter 2022 Meeting
Tuesday, May 24, 2022

The La Conner Wastewater Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. This meeting was held via Zoom. Information to join was posted on the WAB Agenda and on the Town website. Present were Administrator Scott Thomas, Manager for the Swinomish Utility Authority Mike Poppe, Plant Operator Kelly Wynn, Councilmember Annie Taylor, Finance Director Maria DeGoede and citizen Dan O'Donnell.

Approval of Minutes:

Mike Poppe moved to approve the minutes of December 10, 2021. Motion seconded by Councilmember Taylor. Motion carried.

Finance Report:

There were two finance reports, one for the fourth quarter of 2021 and one for the first quarter of 2022. Finance Director DeGoede also sent the end of 2021 finance report to the Tribal office. No other comments regarding the Finance Reports.

Public Forum:

Citizen Dan O'Donnell submitted a Cost Matrix that was included in the WAB packet. He wanted to correct the Engineering fee and Professional Services. He believes the amounts are listed incorrectly. Citizen O'Donnell mentioned \$100,000 was spent for reserves that was not listed anywhere in the budget. Finance Director DeGoede corrected Citizen O'Donnell by stating it was in the budget for a project that didn't get completed. These funds were put into a reserve for future use.

Old Business:

Administrator Thomas mentioned we have an RFP that will be issued by the end of next week. This is for starting the process to design the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades. These upgrades are due to regulations and the overall need for an upgrade. He anticipates by the end of June we will receive the RFP responses and we will go through a selection process. By the end of August we should have an engineering firm on board to look at the upgrades.

New Business:

Administrator Thomas stated Skagit County issued a letter to the treatment plant regarding noxious weeds in the area. Plant Operator Wynn made sure this was taken care of. Mike Poppe asked if the plans for the pipe in the town for when the Tribe starts their sewer capacity study were available electronically. Plant Operator Wynn stated he does not believe they have electronic copies.

Operator's Report:

Plant Operator Wynn stated operations are normal. They just finished some cleaning. In the fall they will look at I&I. The last time they did I&I they used Bayview. They are replacing a pump now. Administrator Thomas asked Mike Poppe if the Tribe has an I&I program. The Tribe is going after funding for this. The Tribe is trying to move forward with building new homes. The cost of homes has slowed the process down, but the goal is to put in 20-30 homes in the next couple of years.

There being no further business, Councilmember Taylor moved to end the meeting, seconded by Administrator Thomas. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 11:18 a.m.