

La Conner Wastewater Advisory Board
2nd Quarter 2023 Meeting
Tuesday, September 12, 2023

The La Conner Wastewater Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 11:06 a.m. This meeting was held in-person only at the La Conner Civic Garden Club. Present were Administrator Scott Thomas, Manager for the Swinomish Utility Authority Mike Poppe, Swinomish Tribe Representative Brian Wilbur, Plant Operator Curtis McCauley, Councilmember Annie Taylor, Finance Director Maria DeGoede, Shelter Bay Representatives Rod Proctor and Bill Palmer, and citizen Dan O'Donnell.

Approval of Minutes:

Finance Director DeGoede moved to approve the minutes of April 26, 2023. Motion seconded by Councilmember Taylor. Motion carried.

Finance Report:

There were no questions or concerns in regards to the Finance Report. Councilmember Taylor moved to approve. Motion seconded by Mike Poppe. Motion carried.

Public Forum:

Citizen Dan O'Donnell attended, but had nothing to report. Brian Wilbur questioned the Town's plans on expansion as the plant has been running at high-capacity levels and the Tribe is building more homes and apartments. There is also the possibility of Thousand Trails joining their system.

Old Business:

Flows were discussed. Administrator Thomas mentioned they are reaching higher levels, with one month being exceedingly high. This triggers the urgent need for an expansion of the wastewater treatment plant. The Town requested RFQs, and they received two. This is for expansion upgrades and engineering. Administrator Thomas reviewed what the report will include. There will be interviews of the 2 consultants. He asked if the Tribe would like to have a representative present during the selection process.

The limit on nutrient discharge has to be addressed. The Town received a grant for \$162,000 for the engineering analysis. The Tribe's capacity analysis will include Shelter Bay. BHC Consultants will be doing it to cover 20-year growth. The Port is another one to take into account. Development information is unknown at this time.

The agreement with the Tribe needs to be redone to accommodate the upgrades, costs, etc. Our consultants will do 2 proposals one with Shelter Bay and one without. Administrator Thomas mentioned it is possible the estimated costs could reach 15 to 20 million. Brian Wilbur mentioned the Tribe is waiting to build 75 homes; they don't want a road block on building.

Discussion on possible meter replacements.

New Business:

The 2024 Rate increase needs to be discussed soon.

Operator's Report:

Plant Operator McCauley mentioned there are problems with the Tribal Meter from the flood. They are waiting on costs for a new meter and pipe. The Public Works eco-block wall is mostly along the slough side to protect the plant.

There being no further business, Mike Poppe moved to end the meeting, seconded by Councilmember Taylor. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 11:38 a.m.