

Dayton Planning Meeting - Notes to File
May 16, 2012, 1:30 p.m.
West Richland

Attending:

- Karin Baldwin, Ecology
- Pat McGuire, Ecology
- Mike Kuttel, Ecology
- Dan Tolleson, Ecology
- Craig George, Dayton's Mayor
- Alan Schroeder, Consulting Engineer, Anderson & Perry
- Marti Canatsey, USDA
- Jim Wilson, RCAC
- Jon Galow, Washington Dept of Commerce

The mayor stated that Dayton was now committed to getting the project started and done. They have officially hired Anderson and Perry as their consulting engineers. Alan Schroeder attended as the Anderson and Perry engineer. Their first concern was to explore options for funding and the timing required for each fund source.

The mayor said that the treatment plant was operating at an average of about 250,000 to 350,000 gpd, well below the design hydraulic capacity of 750,000 gpd. The original design took into account the Seneca plant which at the time potentially added about 40% of flow. There are no immediate plans for city to annex land, any big developments or industry coming into town. The new plant could look at a lower design flow, which could help with costs. The city sewer rates are currently at \$46.61 per month.

The golf course was discussed. The course is about ¼ mile away and is part of the county so any exploration of use of water there would include the county. They estimated that the golf course would have a capacity for about 150,000 gpd depending on the season and precipitation.

They will need to do calculations of the level treatment needed for any site. Their next step would be to develop treatment and discharge options. This would include looking at what land was available.

Funding discussion:

The mayor stated that they have resolved their compliance issue with FEMA as of October last year. Because they were not in compliance they could not apply for Ecology or FEMA money until this was taken care of.

The approximate household median income (MHI) for Dayton is \$39,861 +/- \$8,000 (2006-2010 ACS 5-year estimate). The Washington State MHI is \$57,244 (from the 2006-2010 ACS 5-year estimate). The city hasn't done an income survey for CDBG, but they are not sure if any survey would be worth the cost or time involved. Alan estimated the planning budget to be about \$95,000 with SERP/ NEPA and the facility plan. PWTF loan could be used for pre-construction. Dayton would be eligible for Ecology pre-construction 50% grant money, which can be used for planning and design.

The Public Works Trust Fund will have loan money available. There was uncertainty about the pre-authorization issue. Need to check with Cynthia about this and whether Ecology funding could replace Trust Fund money.

Water rights discussion:

Dan Tolleson described water rights issues and options. He noted that the stream was close to regulation levels recently even with relatively wet years. Dan distributed hand out that showed the past few years (since 2003) when Ecology had to take action to protect downstream junior water right holders.

The removal of city effluent discharge from Touchet River would need to account for about 0.5 cfs per day from May through October.

He noted the city has several options:

- The city could buy water rights to be held in trust. When purchasing the city needs to look upstream at the most senior water rights holders.
- Mitigate for the amount of water taken out.
- Pump and dump (not recommended due to lowering groundwater levels).

In the case of mitigation, one possibility is to pipe an open ditch, such as the one for the Hearn District. Local water irrigation districts have put in piping to replace open ditches, saving considerable water. The Hearn Irrigation District is local and needs improvements, so contacting them may be an option. To use the mitigation, the city will need to either:

- Show data that the water applied to the ground gets back into the river;
- Calculate the amount of water loss/leakage from the irrigation ditch and what amount would be used by the irrigation district. The city will also need to determine the time frame for the usage and losses.

It was mentioned that the city could look to the Office of Columbia River (OCR) or NRCS for irrigation efficiency improvement projects.

Conclusion:

The city will decide by the end of 2012 on what type of treatment to use, then start the facility plan. There is no big block of land available for land application. They will calculate acreage needed. The city could use its own money for land acquisition or PWTF.

The city would like to meet with Ecology and funding experts sometime in the fall. They are currently working with USDA RD for about \$25,000 planning money to apply by September 30 (end of fiscal year for USDA) and also looking at PWTF.