

PARADISE SEWER REGIONALIZATION PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, 10 MAY 2021



BOARD MEETING LOCATION: ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Steve Crowder
Vice Mayor Jody Jones

Mayor Andrew Coolidge
Vice Mayor Kasey Reynolds

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

TOWN OF PARADISE STAFF PRESENT:

Kevin Philips, Town Manager
Marc Mattox
Katie Simmons
Melanie Norris
Dina Volenski

CITY OF CHICO STAFF PRESENT:

Mark Orme
Erik Gustafson
Debbie Presson

CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD STAFF PRESENT:

Clint Snyder
Bryan Smith
Eric Rapport
Jeremy Pagan
Gene Coughlin

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT WHO WERE IDENTIFIED:

Leslie Tice (HDR Engineering), John Buttz (HDR Engineering), Debra Lucero (Butte County), Steve Lucas

AGENDA ITEM 1 - INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Snyder called the meeting to order.

Emails from the public included Sawyer Stevens (Indiana), Jeffrey Obser (Chico), William Kellogg (Paradise)

Mr. Snyder introduced Water Boards staff present, Mr. Phillips introduced Town of Paradise staff present, and Mr. Orme introduced City of Chico staff present.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Committee unanimously approves meeting minutes.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMUNICATION

Mr. Crowder – Looking forward to getting process going, everybody knows how badly a sewer system is needed, grateful for help.

Ms. Jones – nothing

Mr. Coolidge – nothing

Ms. Reynolds – Inquired about having a County Supervisor on future meetings? Debra Lucero confirmed to be on the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – STATUS UPDATES

a. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Ms. Tice, HDR Engineering

Reviewed new project website, paradisesewer.com. Specifically called out public engagement opportunities, wants tool to be useful for project stakeholders and public.

Issued NOP May 3, 2021, public review and comment period ends 3 June 2021. Letters to tribes have gone out. Town of Paradise identified as CEQA Lead Agency.

Responsible agencies include City of Chico and Butte LAFCO.

Scheduling 2 virtual public scoping meetings – May 13, 6p and May 25, 12p noon.

Public meetings have been shifted away from the holidays in December 2021 to Q1 2022.

Environmental studies ongoing now until late summer 2021. Historic record search to identify where previous studies have identified cultural and arch resources, field teams trying to fill in information gaps. Desktop analysis of biological resources with field teams making verifications. Species surveys ongoing.

No questions from Committee members.

Question from Steve Lucas – comment that flow chart is missing LAFCO component. Ms. Tice stated she will add to the project schedule flowchart.

Question from Ms. Lucero – wondering if one month of scoping is sufficient time for all agencies involved, concerned it's too short. Ms. Tice stated it is a prescribed timeline per CEQA.

Mr. Snyder added that the Water Board is commonly asked for CEQA comments and it is typical to have a 30-day scoping timeline, hopeful that Butte County should find it reasonable.

Question from Ms. Lucero – why is the County not on the Committee? Mr. Snyder deferred to Town and City.

Mr. Phillips, Town Manager, said the County will be involved throughout as appropriate when in their jurisdiction. Loso Osos project in SLO had a lot of unincorporated area involved, unlike this project.

Ms. Lucero stated she is doing her due diligence to be sure the County is involved in the process.

Mr. Phillips said they County will be involved moving forward as needed.

b. COOPERATIVE FUNDING AGREEMENT SCOPE OF WORK

Mr. Gustafson, City of Chico

Working on scope and costs with consultant Carrollo Engineering. Main goal is that the City's timeline doesn't impact the timeline of the EIR as a whole.

No questions from Committee members.

c. OTHER FOLLOW-UP ACTION ITEMS FROM SRPAC

None.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – PRINCIPALS OF AGREEMENT WORKING SESSION

John Buttz, HDR Engineering

Committee ultimately needs to come to agreement on 11 areas. Could be more areas in the future, but for now 11. First 8 areas of agreement come from the City of Chico's existing municipal code, "Regulation of Waste Received from Other Jurisdictions"

General concept is to have discussions during the meeting. Simple items can be handled in the meeting as they come up. Other times for more complicated items, the item will be tabled and can be revisited in a future meeting.

11 areas of agreement for the Committee to consider are:

1) sewer use ordinance, 2) user inventory, 3) pretreatment, 4) pretreatment data access, 5) wastewater limits, 6) wastewater monitoring, 7) access to facilities, 8) remedies for breach of agreement, and

9) connection fees (initial and ongoing), 10) monthly user fees, and 11) O&M of facilities

Working to have the Town and City attorneys engaged “sooner than later” in developing the POA.

Break for Questions:

None from Committee

Mr. Lucas – Will Paradise retain the right of ownership of the wastewater after treatment? Or will Chico? Mr. Buttz did not have an immediate answer, said will have to get more information and then respond at a later date.

Ms. Lucero – Who owns the pipes/pumps; is that still to be worked out? Mr. Buttz said there could be discussion regarding the ownership, but likely scenario is that Paradise will be the owner.

Ms. Lucero – If development comes off the pipeline, does that trigger a whole new EIR process? Mr. Mattox stated that any future modification to the sewer service area or the pipeline would require its own separate environmental review.

Ms. Lucero – What about design/build contracting legislation currently proposed? Mr. Mattox stated this shouldn't be an issue for this project.

End of questions.

Drafting of the POA, one by one:

1) Sewer Use Ordinance - draft language proposed by Mr. Buttz.

Ms. Jones stated language seemed reasonable, but would like to see a copy of the City of Chico's sewer use item.

Mr. Coolidge stated City staff should weigh in and be comfortable with the POA language drafted by Mr. Buttz.

Mr. Snyder questioned if the phrasing “in place” in the POA draft language should be more specific.

Mr. Snyder inquired if the sewer use ordinance should go before Town and City councils?

Ms. Jones stated that ordinances need to go before councils for first and second readings, should be considered for timing.

Need recommendations for moving a sewer use ordinance forward, to be discussed later.

2) User Inventory – draft language proposed by Mr. Buttz

Ms. Jones asked if this was in arrears or looking forward?

Mr. Buttz clarified that this inventory would be a point in time, annually for instance.

Mr. Coolidge and Ms. Reynolds requested that timing of inventory coordinate with City's current reporting deadlines.

Mr. Snyder suggested that inventory not only include current users but also projected users. Mr. Mattox responded that should be simple to provide. Mr. Gustafson echoed Mr. Snyder's suggestion. Mr. Gustafson suggested quarterly updates to the inventory.

Mr. Snyder suggested that "entities" should be classified differently, i.e. residential, commercial, industrial, etc. Mr. Mattox responded this sounded reasonable. Mr. Gustafson agreed.

Mr. Snyder asked Mr. Buttz if the draft language needed to be more specific, or if this is the language that can be handed off to the City and Town attorneys? Mr. Buttz said this language can be given to the attorneys for their review.

4) Pretreatment Data access – draft language proposed by Mr. Buttz

Ms. Jones would like more clarification regarding "pretreatment activities", what does the Town need to do?

Mr. Buttz suggested using the City's PT program as an example. Mr. Gustafson explained the City's PT program and referenced the City's website for reference materials.

Mr. Snyder stated the Water Boards and USEPA have some level of involvement in PT program audits/inspections as well, reiterated the PT program is in place mainly for industrial dischargers and to prevent upset at the wastewater plant.

Mr. Buttz clarified the Town is not creating their own PT program, just that the Town's commercial/industrial users need to comply with the City's PT program.

Mr. Gustafson explained the City's role in their PT program. They have two industrial inspectors and survey their industrial dischargers once per year depending on the character and flow of the discharges. Also have FOG program they implement for restaurants.

Ms. Jones stated that this seems to general and needs to be more specific to what is actually required of the Town. For instance, does the Town need to hire their own industrial inspectors or would they contract this service through the City?

Mr. Buttz stated that a copy of the City's PT program will be provided to Committee members.

7) Access to facilities – draft language proposed by Mr. Buttz

“Facilities” would include the Town’s sewer, export pipeline, pump stations, etc.

Mr. Snyder asked if advanced notification should be included as a requirement before access to facilities is granted. Mr. Coolidge stated this seemed reasonable. Mr. Gustafson agreed.

Mr. Gustafson stated the importance of agreement/collaboration between the Town and City for accessing facilities and conducting joint inspections.

Mr. Orme and Mr. Phillips had nothing to add.

Mr. Buttz asked the Committee if they wanted to cover more items or call it.

Mr. Phillips requested the draft POA language come out early ahead of the meetings to help facilitate review and input.

Mr. Buttz said he will save the draft POA document as “version 1” and it will be available for Committee members to review before the next meeting.

Mr. Snyder stated the Committee members can review the draft language created at this meeting but also look ahead to other draft POA language for future meetings.

Mr. Buttz will indicate which draft POA items will be discussed at the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – PUBLIC FORUM

Ms. Lucero (concerned citizen NOT Butte County) – will the draft POA doc be uploaded to the website? Mr. Snyder suggested including the language as part of the meeting minutes.

Mr. Lucas – question regarding how future sewer connections within the Town sewer service area would be addressed. Mr. Snyder said he would follow-up.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – CLOSING COMMITTEE REMARKS

Mr. Coolidge – glad to see progress, appreciate staff time

Ms. Reynolds – appreciate starting work on POA

Mr. Crowder – ditto

Ms. Jones – Thinks this is a good process, thanks Mr. Buttz for keeping us on track, asks for the next meeting to be in-person.

Mr. Snyder stated that the goal is to meet in-person at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Clint Snyder adjourned the Committee meeting at 3:51p.