



**CITY OF RIVER FALLS WISCONSIN
UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 21, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by Utility Advisory Board Chair Kellen Wells-Mangold at 6:36 p.m.

Utility Advisory Board Present: Adam Gierl, Scott Morrissette, Mark Spafford, Tim Thum, Mark Wespetal and Kellen Wells-Mangold

Staff Present:

Utility Director Kevin Westhuis; Finance Director Josh Solinger; Interim Wastewater/Water Superintendent Dean Seemuth; Utility Administrative Assistant Lanae Nelson; IT Specialist Jon Smits and IT Specialist Sterling Hackney

Approval of Minutes:

Meeting Minutes: 01-18-2022

MSC Morrissette/Thum approve minutes. Unanimous.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Acknowledgment of the following minutes:

West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility Commission: 11-18-2021, 12-01-2021, 12-16-2021 and 01-20-2022

MSC Thum/Morrissette approve minutes. Unanimous.

REPORTS:

West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility Preview and Update Report

Westhuis presented the revised City of River Falls Biosolids Facility Financial Analysis updated by Trilogy Consulting, LLC. He reviewed the purpose of the study with two options: Alternative 1-The City constructs its own biosolids handling facility producing Class A biosolids and Alternative 2-The City renews its contract with and continue to haul to West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility (WCWBF) with a construction of sludge drying to 90% and removal of lime stabilization.

Westhuis and the board discussed further on hauling transportation impacts, increase in population, capacity demand, financials, and the pros and cons of both alternative options. A joint City Council workshop with the Utility Advisory Board (UAB) regarding Biosolids will be on March 8.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Dam Grant Application and Decommissioning Activities Update Report

Westhuis presented the update on the progress of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Dam Grant Application and Decommissioning Activities. He showed a picture of the wing all damage from the June 2020 flood. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) had requirements to have the wing wall repaired and the recent repairs done, turbine removed, trash rack cleaned and the sluice gate removed on Powell Falls before they turned the decommissioning to the DNR. The Electric Department worked hard on these tasks and completed them; the trash rack is 81% clean as the rest of it is frozen.

Westhuis reviewed that Ayres Associates, Inc. Senior Project Manager Peter Haug and the City staff have been working hard on the requirements from FERC to have the permit be changed to the DNR. In addition to this, they have also been working on the DNR \$1 million grant application that is due in

March. The board discussed with Westhuis the trash rack flow, fundraising, potential lake bounce and the DNR ownership.

Finance Report

Finance Director Solinger gave a brief overview of the finance report, which was included in the packet. He thanked Accounting Manager Tracy Biederman for her work on the preliminary unaudited financial statements and accounts receivable.

Utility Dashboards

The 2022 January utility dashboards were included in the packet.

Monthly Report

The 2022 January monthly utility reports were in the UAB packet for review.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Westhuis thanked Lead WWTP Operator Bill Swenson for his work on the Waste Activated Sludge (WAS) pump at the cost of approximately \$8,000 - \$10,000. Swenson took it upon himself to search the Wastewater Treatment Facility for a replacement solution without having to make the investment and eventually found all the parts he needed to rebuild the pump himself. Now the Utilities basically has a new pump at a very minimal cost. This was a great savings to the Wastewater department, and we can't thank him enough. A great example of an employee taking ownership of his/her job, going above and beyond, realizing that what "you" do does matter, and also demonstrates a supervisor that allows for some creativity in our workplace.

Westhuis thanked the Customer Service Representatives and their work on promoting the new self-serve online utility customer tool, MyAccount. Because of their efforts, around half of the RFMU customers are on this new platform.

Westhuis thanked Water/Wastewater Operator David Paynotta on his Bald Eagle Survey credentials from his previous career. The North Water Tower project has a required Bald Eagle Survey that must be completed and Paynotta has offered to do this for the Utilities, and we will be saving over \$35,000 by him doing this.

Chair Wells-Mangold welcomed new UAB member Adam Gierl to the board.

IT Specialist Smits welcomed new IT Specialist Sterling Hackney who helped run the meeting.

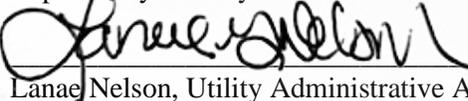
Electronics Recycling is April 23 from 9am-1pm at the Public Works Garage.

ADJOURNMENT:

MSC Morrissette/Thum to adjourn. Unanimous.

UAB Chair Wells-Mangold announced meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Reported by: Utility Administrative Assistant Lanae Nelson



Lanae Nelson, Utility Administrative Assistant