

MENDOCINO CITY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
Post Office Box 1029
Mendocino, CA 95460
Business Phone (707) 937-5790 Treatment Plant (707) 937-5751 Fax (707) 937-3837

Minutes of May 8, 2017

Special Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. in the business office at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Present were Directors Kerstein, Hauck and Schwartz. Directors Stubbs and Kraynek were absent. Also present were Superintendent Mike Kelley and Secretary Jodi Mitchell.

Approximately 25 people attended the special meeting to voice their concerns about the rehabilitation of the sludge drying beds, which was one component in the application to USDA, Rural Development for the Wastewater Treatment Facilities Improvements and Recycled Water System Expansion Project.

Ginger Kraynek, 10470 Kelly Street resident and adjoining neighbor to the treatment plant, suggested postponement of any vote to proceed with an application to the USDA. In her opinion, posting the agenda in three places was not sufficient notification to the community for such a major undertaking. She stated the proposed project had positive and negative aspects. Positive aspects were recycled water with delivery to the high school and fire hydrants, and negative aspects were visual obstruction, odor pollution, noise pollution, increased traffic, and reduction in property values.

Dan Potash, 10450 Kelly Street, agreed with Ginger Kraynek and added that he disagreed the meeting's objective was to inform the community about the project because, in his opinion, it was not adequately noticed so the working community could attend. He noted the Mendocino Beacon previously devoted an entire article regarding the replacement items, with not one mention of the drying beds, and he questioned whether it was even discussed at a meeting.

Staff noted the agenda was posted in accordance with the Brown Act at the Corners Community Bulletin Board on Ukiah Street, Firehouse on Lansing Street, and the Business Office at MCCSD. It was also posted on the District's website. The Secretary said anyone can request to be placed on the agenda mailing list and a sign-up sheet for the Agenda mail list was passed around the room.

Maxine Carlin, Calpella Street, was concerned with the stench and health hazards from sewage drying in the beds.

Superintendent Kelley explained that the existing drying beds were already an approved component of the treatment plant, and the plan was to upgrade the existing redundant sludge drying system. If there was a major shutdown, or necessary emergency repair to the Dryer, the sludge would be transferred to the drying beds. The upgrades were discussed in September of 2015, and in 2016 when the preliminary contract was approved. No one from the public attended those meetings. The project included lining the drying beds.

It was Ginger Kraynek's understanding that \$300,000.00 was planned towards upgrading the sludge drying beds and, as described in the SHN Report, would include plumbing, concrete lining, and access ramps. It seemed to her that the beds would be utilized on a regular basis. Further, on page 16 of the SHN report it stated that during warmer months, the drying beds would be used as an energy efficient alternative to the

current treatment process. The public was concerned about unconditional use of the sludge drying beds, since they had not been used for 27 years and the dryer funding was previously obtained to replace the drying beds.

Michael Dickson said he was a retired Grade 4 Treatment Plant Operator, and commented that he didn't think treatment plants even used drying beds in today's world, and he might be able to offer a good idea, but first, he thought he should tour the plant.

Blair Foster, Rundle Street, was supportive of the Board's service, and realized they had researched the issues, but admitted this was a bit of a surprise. She would appreciate more education, and a period of time to understand the proposal. She was happy the beds were not in use, and inquired if they would be used periodically versus continuously.

Director Hauck agreed that the Community needed to be completely aware of the proposed project. He explained that the purpose of the meeting was for the Board to authorize the application to proceed with the USDA RD Grant/Loan application. Then, if money was available, the Board could vote on receipt of the funds and the construction project contract.

Tom Herman, SHN Principal, indicated that the District would apply for a USDA Rural Development loan/grant for the proposed project. At the end of May, the money would be re-pooled back into National funds. They hoped to get authorization to fit into this year's funding pool, while there were still funds available in the Federal pool. The Goal was to access grant funding of up to 35%. If application was made for next year's funding, it may not be available, and if delayed, the community could lose an opportunity for grant funding or diminished grant funding. Mr. Herman said it could take up to two weeks to two months to know if the application is approved. Once USDA accepted a contract, the loan/grant package would be in place. Then, the Board would review the terms of the loan (loan grant process), which would include the grant and loan amounts prior to Board approval of the agreement.

Dan Potash asked that given the concerns voiced regarding reactivating the drying beds, and while in support of a grant, could the District leave out any mention of the drying bed portion of the project?

Superintendent Kelley reiterated that the Drying beds were already approved by 14 regulatory agencies as a component of the Treatment Plant, and the intention was to use the beds as an alternative during future repairs to the Dryer. He noted it was great that the beds were not used for the past 27 years, however, the options were to 1) use the beds as they are or 2) use them after upgrading the beds with a liner.

Rich Aguilar, Heeser and Main St. resident, asked if there was any re-course if the drying beds prove unsatisfactory in terms of odor.

Director Schwartz explained that the proposed project for necessary upgrades would allow the District to maintain the sewer rates at the level that presently exists. If the terms were different because the District missed the timing of the loan/grant application, it may result in increased sewer rates. The Board predicated that rates would not be increased this year.

Carolina Robb, Little Lake Street, said she had been involved in several Federal Grant projects that were based on an annual cycle, and the District could apply next year. The Board was concerned about going into the next funding cycle because grant funding may not be available and the District had an opportunity for up to a 35% grant. Her concern was that any changes to the application may be difficult once the application was submitted.

Cheri Taylor – 45350 Ukiah Street, asked if there had been any input from the Engineer for a redundancy system other than the drying beds, and whether that could be incorporated into the funding.

Superintendent Kelley explained that the drying beds would only be used if there was a problem with the main dryer system during repairs. Mike indicated it wouldn't be feasible to stock up on dryer parts, because any number of things could happen. Further, a technician would be needed for dryer repair, and it could take up to several weeks to repair the equipment.

Eric Leeds said that a \$300,000 cost to upgrade the beds might be a temptation to use them more frequently. He asked if the project should include a more modern system, since there was only 8 years left on the useful life of the machinery.

Other suggested ideas were to cover the drying beds with a screen or building, relocate the beds and the proposed equipment building, haul the sludge off in a truck and install a second dryer.

Director Hauck suggested to the public, that the Board could authorize the application for funding, and the District could hold a public meeting, in a larger venue, and present elements of the project and solutions and costs. He thought it would be financially irresponsible to not try to get as much of a grant as possible for the upgrades to the aged treatment equipment.

SHN would re-write the report to eliminate the ambiguity in the language regarding the drying beds.

A public meeting would be scheduled in June.

Resolution No. 2017-251

Director Hauck read aloud Resolution No. 2017-251, a Resolution of the MCCSD to apply for United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Loan/Grant.

MOTION Hauck/Kerstein To approve Resolution No. 2017-251.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	AYES:	Directors Kerstein, Hauck and Schwartz
	NOES:	None
	ABSENT:	Directors Stubbs and Kraynek

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Mitchell, Secretary

