

## **Dower, Michael [PROCESS/MMI/BOUL]**

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**From:** Dower, Michael [PROCESS/MMI/BOUL]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 12, 2008 7:18 AM  
**To:** Denise Vigil; Helen Stone; Tye Riley; 'jbstapp@comcast.net'  
**Cc:** 'McGee, Mark'  
**Subject:** Minutes

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** Thursday 11.dec.2008  
**Topic:** Sewer plant improvement plan  
**Attendees:** Mike Dower, Mark McGee, Tom Smith (Sewer Plant Guidance Committee)

#### **Details:**

- The meeting was focused on explaining recent history of violations, and Mike's plans for moving forward with improving our system.
- We agreed on the merits of fixing issues proactively rather than in emergency fashion.
- Tom recalled learning that recommended frequency for inspection of sewer collection pipes is 2 years. Since we have not done this in at least ten years (maybe much more than that) all agreed this expense is certainly justified. Further, we agreed that it could probably be split into a few stages to spread the cost over time and impact our budget less. Mike will spend more effort trying to acquire an accurate estimate for this service. First leg to inspect will probably be the northbound run of pipe along Riverview drive, from CR2 all the way to the lift station.
- Tom explained some interesting history regarding several years during which there was 12-month flooding in the ditch in front of his home. Back in the 1930's there was some drain-tile structure installed in the neighborhood, to enable groundwater to run down to the river without creating a marsh (on land that was then farmland I guess). Then in the 1970s some of the builders damaged these drain tiles while installing homes (?) and the result was excessive flooding from groundwater activity. Tom explained that during times when ish rez is filling, the flow spikes dramatically, so I'm not sure of cause-and-effect. Anyway, there is a large blue plastic pipe about 3 feet deep under Tom's culvert, and that pipe is now directed into a smaller (4-inch) white plastic pipe. Portions of this plastic pipe are visible in the ditch along Bill Gray's riding ring, in the ditch. This pipe funnels water down past the homes into the large ditch leading to the lift station. It discharges into the rip-rap near the lift station, but the group agreed we should consider moving the discharge beyond the lift station, and directly into the creek since this is all groundwater that does not require treatment.
- Tom further suggested (unrelated to the bullet above) where might be the primary culprit for irrigation overflow entering our sewage collection system. There is a manhole in front of Bill Gray's riding ring, just south of the intersection of Riverview and Glenview, that is now well below grade. During irrigation days, water seems to pool here quite readily, and probably enters around the manhole cover. We discussed possibly making some improvements to this manhole by adding an extension sleeve of some sort. Mike will investigate this, including an assessment of whether this work would require a state or county permit to perform. Tom theorized that we might be able to accomplish this with a simple pre-cast piece of structure to wrap over existing structure. This may require bringing in more dirt to perform some regarding for safety, we'll see.
- Mark suggested that once I get test results on the acquired bentonite material from CSU, that we invite the engineer's office to send a witness when we actually perform the repair. This way, they will feel involved and connected, and will be less likely to challenge our repair strategy after the fact. Seems like good advice, so I will take that step.
- I mentioned that the state engineer asked us a couple of times about how much flow we receive from RF side, and Earl said "not much". He asked if we have any flowmeter indication from this source, and Earl said no we don't. Tom was pretty sure that the lift station at RF side has its own flowmeter, and was surprised that we did not have access to that info. I will have to ask Earl about that, perhaps he has keys to their facility.

- I mentioned that the engineer was worried about the level of weeds we have growing along the sides in cell number 1, and Tom agreed with that worry. Tom recalled once or twice having to do a burn down there, and further said that killing them with roundup is NOT an ok solution. So I may have to schedule a burn activity for some time in spring of 2009, possibly sooner if we can get earl to fill that pond and resume using all 3 ponds as suggested.
- Tome and Mark agreed with the board's plan for keeping earl's grandsons actively engaged in our system, even if it means a salary increase to compensate them adequately. Further, we agreed on the advisability of contributing the \$400 tuition fee for operator training next year.
- We agreed to delay whatever improvements we could, unless the state explicitly objects to our improvement schedule and asks us to accelerate some particular improvement.
- We agreed that we should avoid making excessive improvement to a system that may have limited life. Let's only spend what we must to keep our existing system capable of meeting code for the next 2-6 years, but be sure we're proactive enough to avoid costly emergency repairs.
- We discussed the upcoming restriction on limits for E-Coli in our effluent. We agreed on the advisability of researching cost and details for installing a UV treatment system to replace our current chlorine system. Mike will research this cost in more detail to learn exactly what would be involved in such a system, and how to accomplish such a change. This is perhaps the most important line-item in our improvement plan for year 2009.
- Tom suggested that at the annual meeting, we remind all homeowners about the meaning of the siren, and about what actions should be taken when the siren is heard.
- Once the "inspection report" letter arrives, hopefully today or next week, Mike will make copies and distribute. Then I will probably reconvene briefly to help me review a response letter before mailing, since this response will have to include an improvement plan and schedule. If this letter does NOT arrive in time to be reviewed before our annual meeting, we'll have to make some assumptions about expenses.
- Tom and Mark suggested that since 2009 and 2010 will include large sums for capital improvements, that we recommend to the board that we pay for some portion of that (percentage TBD) from our reserves, but not directly from the "sinking fund / contingency fund". This detail will obviously affect dues for the next few years, so we should make this decision fairly soon to enable budget preparation.
- We agreed it's probably fine to spread out the sludge pumping expense also. Specifically, schedule one pond to be pumped in 2009 and the other in 2010, to reduce the impact of this large expense.

Mike Dower | New Product Design | Micro Motion, Inc.  
 Emerson Process Management | 7070 Winchester Circle | Boulder | CO | 80301  
 T +1 303.530.8473 | F +1 303.530.8569 | M +1 303.408.5862 [Michael.Dower@Emerson.com](mailto:Michael.Dower@Emerson.com)