

MINUTES

1. Attendees

- Great West Engineering:
 - Chad Hanson, Principal
 - Crystal Bennett, Project Manager

- Worden-Ballantine W&S District:

<u>Board Members</u> Dan Ewan Gary Fredericks Judy Becker Joey Oltrogge	<u>General Manager</u> Dan Krum
<u>Others</u> Pat Zimmer	<u>Operators</u> Sandy Kust Don Dvorak

2. Complete Preliminary Engineering Report

- Complete PER write-up, including proposed well project w/ potential well locations
Great West will have a draft report ready by the next Board meeting on July 13, 2020 with the exception of the final funding strategy (see comments below related to the funding strategy)
- Complete funding strategy:
 - How much/if any does District want to contribute? Great West will try to make an educated guess at what Rural Development will require the District to contribute to the project. In the meantime, the District will review finances and decide at their next Board meeting on July 13, 2020 how much they feel they can reasonably contribute to the project.
 - Do you want to apply for CDBG? Great West will identify a way to phase the project to include the 2nd railroad crossing into the project. If the phasing seems feasible, the District will apply to CDBG for the phase that would include the water line crossing. A final decision will be made at the Board meeting on July 13, 2020.
- Schedule public hearing – end of July/early August??? Discussion was held regarding how to ensure public can be informed of the project but also being able to maintain adequate social distancing to keep public safe. Tentative plan is to have a public hearing/open house on Saturday, July 25th. The District will look into locations to host to host the event and let Great West know final plan and in what ways Great West can support and help with the event.

- **Complete environmental report** Great West will complete the RD environmental report and the public hearing for comment on the enviro report will be held in conjunction with the hearing for the PER.

3. Requirements for Wells

- **Review of DEQ requirements** Discussion was held regarding DEQ requirements for both test wells and production wells.
- **Sample Buy/Sell Agreements (see attached)** The District will work with their attorney to put together agreements applicable to their project and the specific landowners.
- **Test Wells:**
 - General guideline is 40-100 feet from proposed production well location, we recommend 40-50 feet maximum
 - Can be completed relatively cheap and without DEQ approval or engineering design
 - Used to ensure water quality and quantity available prior to drilling more expensive production wells
- **Productions Wells:**
 - Production wells must have DEQ approval, requiring engineered plans and specifications
 - Cost will likely drive into competitive bidding situation
 - Based on DEQ correspondence, unlikely to get deviation on drilling method

4. Engineering Agreement

- **Break into 2 projects?**
 - **Phase 1: Well design and drilling/completion**
 - **Phase 2: Design and construction to tie wells into existing water system**
 - The District Board agrees with this phased approach. Great West Engineering will provide an amendment to the task order to the Board prior to the Board meeting on July 13, 2020 for "Phase 1" which would include design, bidding, and construction of the production wells (but not connecting to the system) in addition to submitting the water rights application.
 - Another amendment will be prepared for the design and construction of the necessary improvements to tie the new wells into the water system as "Phase 2". The intent would be to complete the design so that once Rural Development funding is in place, the project would be ready to bid. Splitting out the second phase will help expedite construction of the wells.

- A third phase may be added to the project, which would include the 2nd water main crossing under the railroad. This portion of the project may be dependent upon funding.
- **How much assistance does District want with land acquisition?** The District will work with their attorney on land acquisition/leases/easements.

5. Discussion/Questions

- Water Rights – Water rights applications are submitted to DNRC after the production well has been completed and been tested. There is no guarantee of obtaining water rights. Great West can submit the application. In the event there are protests or challenges in obtaining the water rights, it would be in the best interest of the District to obtain a specific water rights attorney.
- The District will proceed with getting agreements and drilling of the test wells. The District will provide the well logs, water quality information, and water quantity information to Great West upon completion to be used for final design of the production wells.