



## **PUBLIC MEETING**

September 14, 2021  
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers, Room 330.

### **Roll Call**

Chair Andy Hunthausen called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Commissioner Jim McCormick and Commissioner Tom Rolfe were present. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Baltz, Nicho Hash, Dan Karlin, Ann McCauley, Christopher M Goodman, Jason Crocker, Ryan Williams, Nick Palkovich, Jean Riley, Linda C. Wilson, Carrie Gardner, Joanne Gores, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone recited the pledge.

### **Consent Action Items**

- a. Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification. (Tammy Potter)

Roger Baltz reported on the consent action item 2 a and recommended approval.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner McCormick and seconded by Commissioner Rolfe. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

### **Contract Between Lewis and Clark County and RESPEC. (Dan Karlin).**

Dan Karlin, County Engineer, presented the five-year contract with RESPEC for engineering services needed for Augusta Flood Mitigation Project. Lewis and Clark County requested proposals from engineering firms to provide consultant services. Based on the scoring results, RESPEC was selected. The contract requires the consultant submit a Task Order for each phase the County asks them to complete. Each task order will include the scope of work, a detailed outline of key elements, a schedule for competition, and a cost breakdown. Each task order will be approved separately to assure funding. Staff recommends approval of the contract with RESPEC.

Mr. Karlin explained the reason the project is setup with a blanket contract and individual task orders thereafter. He additionally gave a brief overview of the project beginning process.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Rolfe and seconded by Commissioner McCormick. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

**Request for American Rescue Plan Act Direct Allocation Funds. (Ann McCauley)**

Ann McCauley, Grants Administrator, presented the request for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) from the Craig Water and Sewer District (District). Necessary improvements to water and/or sewer infrastructure, including planning, are an eligible expense category under ARPA's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery program.

The District has experienced ongoing issues with their existing wastewater treatment plant over the past year. To adequately address the issues, the District is requesting the funds from Lewis and Clark County's Direct Allocation of ARPA funds (Pot A) for \$14,750 to conduct an engineering technical memorandum and a systems analysis health check for the plant. The request amount was based on estimates from Great West Engineering. However, after a District meeting on September 13, 2021 with Great West Engineering in attendance, they would like to increase their request to \$20,000. The increased request would accommodate additional engineering should it be necessary to complete the planning phase. Approval of the higher amount does not mean the District would utilize the entire amount, it allows for flexibility.

Once complete, the recommendations and cost estimates would guide the District's next steps in prioritizing recommended actions and seeking funding to implement the work. And will likely include a request to the Commission for minimum allocation (Pot B) funds. These funds require a 1:1 match and the funds from Pot A can be utilized as match funds. The technical memorandum and health check are expected to be complete by November 2021. The ARPA eligible expenditure category for the project is 5.1 Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment. Staff recommends approval of the amended request of \$20,000 from the Craig Water and Sewer District.

Chris Goodman, Craig Water and Sewer District President, stated this all started with the resort tax that raised funding for the sewer and the local fire department. They received a TSEP loan, a DNRC grant, funding from the USDA and built the sewer plant at the cost of \$4.8 million. There has been a series of issues with the plant. With COVID, receipt of the resort tax was limited and is the primary funding for the wastewater treatment system. Mechanical issues have cost a considerable amount of money. The available funding would help with the mechanical issues, to acquire backup parts, and getting a contract with H2OI to complete the health check.

Jason Crocker, Craig Water and Sewer District Vice President, stated they have a significant shortfall. The funding is crucial for their little community to run the plant successfully. Everyone is on wells as there is no community water. The failing components are compromising the system and there is leakage. This is a critical issue. They were told to get the plant to where it should be operating would cost approximately \$250,000.

No public comment was received.

A motion was made by Commissioner McCormick to approve the request of \$20,000 as presented and corrected. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rolfe. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

**Request for American Rescue Plan Act Direct Allocation Funds. (Ann McCauley)**

Ann McCauley, Grants Administrator, presented the request from the Eastgate Village Water and Sewer Association, Inc. for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) direct allocation funds (Pot A) of \$250,000. Eastgate has been working towards a major water systems project for a number of years. Necessary improvements to water and/or sewer infrastructure are an eligible expense category under

the ARPA's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery program. The total proposed project cost is \$1,517,000. On July 22, 2021, the County Commission approved a request of the County's Minimum Allocation funds (Pot B) of \$750,000 for the Association's project. At that time Eastgate also submitted a state competitive grant water and sewer project to fund the other half and unfortunately they did not rank high enough in the process and will not received those funds in the first round.

They are asking for additional funds to meet the 1:1 match minimum allocation requirement. They also are committing \$517,000 of their own reserve funds. The ARPA eligible expenditure category for the project is 5.13 Drinking Water: Transmission and Distribution. Staff recommends approval of the request from Eastgate Water and Sewer Association.

Jean Riley, Eastgate Village Water and Sewer Association, Inc. President, stated the water system is over 40 years old and was never designed to be really conducive. There is no backup and no way to bypass the pump house. If the pump house goes down there is no water. This year they are down 33% on production due to the drought. Most of the original shallow wells have gone dry. This project would consist of installing another deep well, up grading the pump house with a bypass system, and emergency generators. They want to look at being able to get water from the tank for residents if there was ever an earthquake. They had to enforce water restrictions this year because they could not keep up with firefighting capabilities. The two big wells are being taxed. There are just under 2,000 residents in Eastgate I and Eastgate II. The subdivision is mostly built out. They have three wells in the deeper aquifer and trying to build another to replace the lost wells.

Carrie Gardner, Great West Engineering, stated there has not been any wells to replace the dry wells. The Association has seven wells completed, but three have gone dry and abandoned. The depth of the original dry wells are about 100 feet with the deeper wells being about 200 feet. The future wells would probably be around 200 feet. The issue of the pressure in the system provided by booster pumps, also known as the pump house with no way to bypass the pump house should it be necessary. Regarding a timeframe, they are looking at starting design work of the new well fall of 2021 with hopes of constructing the project the spring of 2022. The water right is in place.

Nick Palkovich, Eastgate Village Water and Sewer Association, Inc. Water Operator, stated they have been retrofitting things as much as possible in the pump house to make things more energy efficient and more conservative with the water. They are still in a position where there are different valves they cannot operate due to age.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner McCormick and seconded by Commissioner Rolfe. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

#### **Request for American Rescue Plan Act Minimum Allocation Funds. (Ann McCauley)**

Ann McCauley, Grants Administrator, presented the request for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) minimum allocation funds from LaCasa Grande Estates Water and Sewer District (District). Necessary improvements to water and/or sewer infrastructure are an eligible expense category under ARPA's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery program.

LaCasa Grande is requesting \$88,500 from Lewis and Clark County's Minimum Allocation of ARPA funds (Pot B) to complete a well replacement project. The total proposed project cost is \$177,000. The District is committing \$88,500 of their own reserve funds to meet the 1:1 match requirement. The ARPA eligible expenditure category for the project is 5.13 Drinking Water: Source. Staff recommends approval of the request from LaCasa Grande Estates Water and Sewer District.

Ryan Williams, LaCasa Grande Estates Water and Sewer District Vice President, stated they are asking for funds to add a redundant deep well. They also have wells that have gone dry over the years



and have two wells with one only producing 40 to 60 gallons per minute. If the large well were lost, the small one would not be enough to maintain adequate water. There are approximately 152 connections that service approximately 1,000 residents. LaCasa Grande is built out.

Carrie Gardner, Great West Engineering, stated this is a similar situation as Eastgate. Over the last few years, LaCasa has been proactive in looking at different solutions where there was an existing well dedicated to irrigation. Through the DEQ process and investigating the well construction, it was found to have a lead packer. Because of that, they do not want to connect the well to the public water supply system. They are looking at building the new well in the same general area where there is a park and an existing easement to do so. She explained the lead packer issue noting there were small indications of corrosive water and the fix is drilling a new well.

Nick Palkovich, LaCasa Grande Estates Water and Sewer District Water Operator, stated if the primary producing well is lost there would be no fire suppression should a large event occur.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Rolfe and seconded by Commissioner McCormick. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

**Public comment on any public matter within the jurisdiction of the Commission that is not on the agenda above.**

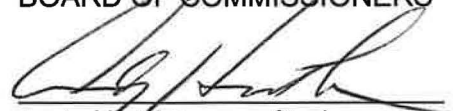
Joanne Gores, Mill Road, distributed a handout and stated people are using Sierra and Mill Roads to get to Montana Avenue from Green Meadow. They drive 60-65 mph down these roads and others that are posted 35 mph. She reached out to neighbors to see if anyone else had a safety concern related to the speeding. She received considerable response regarding different road all listed on the handout that she read. She asked for maybe more patrol or flashing speed limit signs that displays the drivers' current speed.


Commissioner Hunthausen stated they would share the information with the Sheriff's Office.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:56 am.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
Andy Hunthausen, Chair

  
Jim McCormick, Vice Chair

  
Tom Rolfe, Member

ATTEST:

  
Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board