

MINUTES
SHERWOOD WASTEWATER TREATMENT COMMITTEE

July 2, 2022

ACTIONS TAKEN

1. Heard a report of issues being reviewed in relation to consideration of an interlocal agreement with North Little Rock.
2. Received a request from residents regarding pump station problems in the Indianhead area.

The Sherwood Wastewater Treatment Committee met on July 5, 2022. Chair Amy Sanders called the meeting to order. Present were Chair Amy Sanders and members Eric Fleming, Suzanne Stair, and Sarah Breshears; Kevin Lilly was absent. Also present were City Engineer Richard Penn, engineer Jesse Morrison, Wastewater Manager Scott Greenwood, and Dennis Webb from the Utility. Attorney Larry Carpenter was also present. City Council member Mary Jo Heye-Townsell attended the meeting along with Daniel and Karen Horton, city residents.

The Minutes of the June meeting were approved.

The Operations Report for May was reviewed. The financial reports for May were also reviewed.

There was a brief review of issues related to the NLRWWU proposal for an Interlocal Agreement related to repairs and upgrades by NLRWWU in the area where it intersects with the Sherwood System.

City Council member Mary Jo Heye-Townsell introduced Daniel and Karen Horton who reside on Ford Elks Point in the Indianhead area. They related their problem with the line serving their residence being below the collection lines. This requires a pump station which is located on Shoshone. They reported recent power outage problems which have caused the pump station to stop operating with the result of sewage backing up at their house. Ms. Heye-Townsell had suggested they bring the problem to the Committee.

The Hortons asked about a generator being placed at the pump station and related that the power had sometimes been out as long as a week. Richard Penn related that the Utility currently does try to install generators, though it is a matter of cost. Scott Greenwood said there are some stations without a generator. Richard said that when he worked in Hot Springs the policy was to install at bigger pumpstations before moving to smaller. Mary Jo asked whether a plan based on need rather than size of the pump station was workable. Richard asked the Hortons about back-up in their house and the Hortons said their toilets had been affected.

Eric Fleming suggested every pump station should be required to have a back-up power system in place for times the electricity is out. He also asked about check valves or other temporary solutions.

Richard said that there is a question of funding the cost of placing generators at every pump station. Discussion raised the question of funding. Eric asked about alarms on the system for when the station shuts down. Mr. Horton said that there is. Eric confirmed that the staff has a contact number for the Hortons. Richard said the Utility will add working a solution to the Utility plans and said he would present this to the City Council for funding assistance. The Hortons thanked the Committee members for hearing them and left the meeting.

In further discussion Sarah Breshears asked if cities usually provided this sort of assistance and Eric Fleming said that in his experience they did. There was brief discussion of frequent problems in the Indianhead area before the city took over responsibility for the area.

Amy Sanders asked if the Department were aware of this problem and Scott confirmed that it was. He added that generally power to that area of Sherwood is a problem. There are pump stations powered by three utilities, Entergy, NLR, and 1st Electric. Richard discussed getting a backflow preventer installed in a way to direct back-up away from the house. Richard acknowledged there were problems in the area. Richard said he would put together a proposed project and present it to the Council with a request for funding assistance.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 2, 2022, at noon in the Harmon Center.

 Sept. 3, 2022
Chair Date

 Amy Sanders
Date Chair