



City of Fort Bragg

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Meeting Minutes - Final Public Works and Facilities Committee

Thursday, February 18, 2016

3:00 PM

City Hall Conference Room, 416 N. Franklin Street

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Committee Member Turner at 3:06

ROLL CALL

City Staff Present: Linda Ruffing, Tom Varga, Crystal Prairie. Members of Public
Present: Marianne McGee

Present: 2 - Dave Turner and Lindy Peters

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve Minutes from January 21, 2015

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Marianne McGee commented regarding public restrooms. The condition of the restrooms at the Coastal Trail on Monday was very poor around 4pm. Also, the Town Hall restrooms were locked. Mentioned the Open and "Closed" sign is still not being used at Town Hall, nor is the restroom sign up. The south trail restrooms were in good condition.

There was discussion among staff members that there was a holiday and there may have been miscommunication, and that's probably why the Town Hall restrooms weren't unlocked.

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Continue Discussion of Desalination Technologies

Public Works Director Varga introduced the Desalinization Planning Handbook, which he has used to do research prior to his report.

Potential Challenges of Desalinization Plant:

- Environmental impacts, brine discharge. There are 2 ways to handle this, dilution or evaporation ponds. High salinity levels in brine and discharge levels are issues.
- Economic cost constraints: Construction estimate: \$1M to build something that will produce 100K gallons per day (incrementally.)
- Operation Costs (energy): \$300/\$100K produced per day. \$50-\$100K per year in energy cost.
- Equipment failure seems to be a common problem with desalinization.
- Waste is a potential issue, with possibly 30 trucks per day disposing of the brine.
- Land Use: Desal is industrial use, so location could be an issue. Along Noyo river was potential location, conceptually.
- Location is important. Most likely would be brackish groundwater, which is a few miles away from

the desired dilution/discharge point at treatment plant.

-Effective public involvement from the beginning is important.

-Effective interaction with permitting agencies. Coastal Commission has rarely approved a desal project in decades.

Other Considerations:

-Make sure to maximize water conservation first.

-Mobile desal: \$3/\$3.50 per gallon.

Case Study: Cambria Desalinization Plant

Was an emergency project. Circumstances similar to Fort Bragg. \$4.4 M to build a 300GPM facility. Environmental Mitigation: return of 100GPM back into groundwater. Brine disposal is by evaporation pond. Facility is in estuary next to waterway and next to existing production well. Successful as an emergency project because environmental impacts were small, plant is in existing footprint, and has a small evaporation pond. The process involves taking water out from a well, pulling out from separate location brackish water, and then putting water back into groundwater. Using facility 8 or 9 months/year. Pending lawsuit regarding water quality issues and emergency project status.

Case Study: Monterey Bay Region

8 proposed projects, 2 existing. Facility in Sand City runs .05 to .75MGD. There were two, but one was shut down due to environmental impacts. One facility at Monterey Bay Aquarium. Relatively small amount of brine. Just for the exhibits. AMBAG is trying to put together a regional system. Little progress has been made in 20 years.

A potential funding opportunity for a feasibility study was discussed. There was discussion regarding other projects that are underway in order to increase water supply, such as Summer's Lane Reservoir, and test wells.

Committee Member Peters contacted someone in Cambria regarding their plant. It would be best for a representative to go there, rather than have someone come to Fort Bragg to take a look at the plant and talk to the people involved. He volunteered to go there and come back and give a report to this Committee. Carillo was the engineer, and staff will contact them.

There was some discussion regarding rehabilitating Pudding Creek Dam. There is a possibility that the reservoir is not on GP property. The capacity is currently around 37 acre feet (undredged.) The fish ladder that is currently at the location may not be adequate. Water rights would have to be established. Water would need to be treated.

There was discussion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade project, currently in design, and funding for the project.

There was discussion of the Summers Lane Reservoir Project, design is nearly complete on the project.

A full report on water will be going to City Council on March 28, 2016.

MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE / STAFF

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by Committee Member Turner at 4:15pm.