

TOWN OF SILVER CREEK
CASTLE DANGER SUBORDINATE SERVICE DISTRICT MEETING
March 18, 2014

The Castle Danger Subordinate Service District meeting of The Town Board was held on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at the Town Hall. Present were Supervisors – Mike Hoops, Greg Hull, Larry Lampart; Deputy Clerk – Kristina Pirsig, Road Foreman – Rick Grupe. Clerk – Frederick R. Whitney was not present.

Hoops called the meeting to order at 7:25p.m.

CONSTITUENTS CONCERNS:

None

CASTLE DANGER LAND USE:

Hoops updated the Board that he, and both the Clerk and Deputy Clerk met with the Town attorney, Mr. Morris, regarding the Tidball property and the remedies available to the Town regarding the variance violations on that property. The general conclusion was that the Chair, Clerk and Deputy Clerk first meet with the Lake County Administrator prior to the Town proceeding with a hearing. Jointly, the Town and the County could proceed in that some of the violations occurred prior to the Castle Danger Subordinate Sewer District formation and is therefore the County's responsibility to enforce. The Board agreed.

Hoops then discussed the retirement of Mr. Morris. Mr. Morris is planning on retiring soon, and did not want to take on any Town work that would take an indefinite amount of time to conclude. Therefore, Mr. Morris suggested that we search for a replacement in the months ahead.

The Chair agreed to search for a replacement – in town and in Duluth.

WASTEWATER OPERATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT:

January 26, 2014

2013 Annual Report

Town of Silver Creek – Castle Danger WWTF

MN Permit #0063908

During Calendar Year 2013 this facility:

Received 9.210 million gallons of influent.

Discharged 12.682 million gallons of effluent through the drip irrigation system between May 1 and September 30. Wet conditions during May and June reduced the amount of water irrigated during those months. Higher than normal rainfall throughout the year has filled ponds to levels higher than I would like to see at this time of year.

Nutrient loads met the requirement of the permit, with no monthly average out of compliance.

Problems that were encountered during the year included:

1. *As mentioned above, a wet May and June reduced the amount of effluent discharged and higher than normal rainfall have filled ponds to where we need to catch a break to allow for discharge in 2014.*
2. *The "computer system" originally designed for the irrigation system has failed. It is no longer supported and in fact the company is no longer in business. At this time we are negotiating a contract for a SCADA system that will operate the irrigation and be much more operator friendly. It will allow the operator to use cell phone technology to monitor the system across the internet.*

It should be noted that the previous data system was designed approximately 15 years ago and used a desktop computer connected through a dial up connection across a land line.

3. *Samples of effluent at certain times show Total Phosphorus to be over the limit, as allowed by our permit. This required the application of alum to the pond to precipitate out phosphorus. Due to the slow discharge rate of the irrigation, at times a second application of alum is required to keep phosphorus within limits.*

4. *It should be noted that rainfall was higher than normal in 2013. This rainfall accounts for the great discrepancy between gallons received and gallons irrigated. Northeastern Minnesota typically has high humidity and also a short "evaporative season" and the numbers typically are skewed.*

Monitoring of the slump area discussed in the 2003 Annual Report continued with little movement.

No erosion appeared across the drip irrigation site.

No runoff appears to be taking place from the drip irrigation site.

Weed control and mowing were accomplished as needed to maintain the pond site.

Work required during 2014 will include the following:

Checking of all lines and fittings prior to irrigation. The site will be checked for erosion prior to green-up. All lines will be flagged as to location.

Phosphorus will be mitigated as needed.

The slump area will continue to be monitored.

Normal maintenance will be scheduled in a timely fashion.

Filamentous algae will be controlled in the pond being discharged from to prevent unnecessary shutdowns of the irrigation.

If there is a need for more information than provided in this report, do not hesitate to call me.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Hoops, Chief Operator

Certification #C-5123

218-834-3263

218-391-4003

WASTEWATER OPERATOR'S QUARTERLY REPORT: March 18, 2014

December – Received 0.6643 million gallons influent

January – Received 0.5439 million gallons influent

February – Received 0.4582 million gallons influent

The district received 7,500 gallons of trucked-in waste in during this quarter.

For this quarter, influent flows were up for all three months as compared to the same quarter one year ago. This would be expected with the increased tourism brought on by snowfall.

As usual there was no irrigation during this quarter.

We have 3 proposals in hand for a new control system for the irrigation system. I would hope that decision on these bids can be made at tonight's meeting and the bid awarded to begin work.

Service calls on failed pumps were performed as needed. We have had some issues with pumps at one of the units at Grand Superior Lodge. It appears that it might not be an issue with pumps and something that is/has been flushed into that tank. Further work will give us more information. As we have had in the past, the line over Camper's Creek coming from Scott Roen's grinder station has frozen due to cold temps and low flow. As we get to the point where the temperatures warm and flow picks up we will jet the line and try to keep it flowing. We would also like to video inspect the line feeding that grinder station for I&J. We believe there is water coming in from above the station. There have been 2 cases of water freezing between the house and the grinder station. These were diagnosed and the homeowner's have resolved the issue.

All monthly reports and sampling required by MPCA sent in a timely fashion.

Work planned for next quarter will include the startup of the irrigation system May 1, as well as inspection of all dripper lines.

Rate Review Hearing is scheduled for April 8, 2013. The clerk and operator will be working to analyze past budgets and project the future budgetary needs of the district. These will be presented at the hearing and new rates set at that time.

Still working to resolve issues with County Coordinator, County Attorney and our legal counsel to move forward with the work that is required to complete enforcement action for zoning violations within the district.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Hoops, Operator

DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS:

The Scott Roen and Robert Nelson accounts are over 30 days past due. Robert Nelson's account was underpaid by \$3.00.

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT – 12-31-13:

Town of Silver Creek
Interim Financial Report by Account Number (YTD)
As of 12/31/2013

600 - Enterprise Fund

	<u>Actual</u>
Receipts:	
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	\$2,675.55
Interest Earnings	\$157.52
Residential	\$29,136.06
Commercial	\$58,796.20
Connect/reconnect fees	<u>\$19,094.11</u>
Total Revenues	\$109,859.44
Disbursements:	
Sewer	<u>\$109,005.12</u>
Total Disbursements	\$109,005.12
Beginning Cash Balance	(\$783.29)
Outstanding 600 Fund Balance	\$71.03

602 - Enterprise - replacement

	<u>Actual</u>
Receipts:	
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	\$474.80
Interest Earnings	\$114.02
Future Replacement	<u>\$26,581.81</u>
Total Revenues	\$27,170.63
Disbursements:	
Sewer	<u>\$46,102.99</u>
Total Disbursements	\$46,102.99

Beginning Cash Balance \$58,495.10

Outstanding 602 Fund Balance \$39,562.74

Hull made a motion, second by Lampart, to accept the Operator's Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Hoops presented three bids for the filter building control system; In-Control, Inc., Peterson Onsite (Peterson Supply), and SY/COM, Inc. Hoops indicated that SY/COM, Inc. was the most responsive to our requests, and that their bid included items that were not in the others; one year of prepaid cellphone service. Additionally, Hoops felt that their bid will go down significantly as they fine tune the proposal and will ultimately be the lowest bid. Hoops recommended that we pursue the SY/COM, Inc. proposal.

The Board agreed that the Chair be directed to pursue the SY/COM, Inc. proposal for the preapproved budget of \$17,500. If the final amount is greater than 15% over the \$17,500, the Chair will be required to come back to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

CASTLE DANGER LAND USE CONTINUED:

Grupe reported that the automatic generator transfer switches will be installed in early spring. Scott Roen property's culvert has frozen up again, and the sewer pipe is freezing. The Grand Superior Lodge grinder station that serves the cabins has been having trouble. We have installed 5 pumps in the past few months. Hoops indicated that we will remove all pumps and vacuum out the entire station in order to see what is damaging the pumps.

STEWART RIVER WASTEWATER PROJECT:

Hoops presented an update email that was from Wenck dated 03-18-14:

The following email provides an update on the Stewart River project.

- (1) Wenck submitted the PER/Facilities Plan to MPCA and Rural Development on March 7, 2014. This has met the MPCA deadline for project placement on the 2015 Intended Use Plan (IUP) and being eligible for 2015 Clean Water Revolving Fund funding.
- (2) Request for placement on the 2015 IUP shall be done to the Public Facilities Authority by June 6, 2014.
- (3) MPCA believes there will be Green Project Revolving (GPR) funds available for 2015 projects. You must indicate this on the 2015 IUP request letter. MN Statute allows 25% of eligible costs on the Clean Water Revolving Fund loan up to \$1 million. Therefore, a CWRP loan is required for GPR funds.
- (4) Applications for the PFA Point Source Implementation Grant Program will be due the end of July 2014 for use in 2015 projects. This program provides 50% grants up to a max of \$3 million for projects necessary to meet a total nitrogen limit of 10 mg/L for a land based treatment system. When this application comes out, I will send and assist as necessary.
- (5) Wenck has not submitted the required Environmental Report (ER) to RD or Environmental Information Worksheet (EIW) to MPCA. We are still waiting on responses from SHPO and the Mn/DNR. Once we receive these responses the documents will be finalized and sent to the appropriate agencies.
- (6) The Duluth Archaeology Center completed their Phase 1A assessment for the Stewart River project. They have recommended a Phase 1 survey be conducted at the treatment site because this land is undisturbed and between two streams. They also recommend the survey be conducted at two other sites within the project area due to possible disturbance. The collection system was essentially cleared of further investigation as the areas have been previously disturbed. I asked Sue Mulholland on an estimate for conducting this work. I have attached her email response. This work should be scheduled for this spring/summer.
- (7) A public hearing will need to be completed prior to RD or MPCA officially approving the reports. This should be conducted early this summer (May or June). This will provide sufficient time for the agencies to respond to the reports. There is not a set deadline for this public hearing; it just has to be completed prior to approval.
- (8) Wenck has been in contact with Nancy Johnson and Bill Dunn of the PFA and MPCA. We updated them that costs have gone up. I sent Nancy a link to the ftp site for her to download the report. She requested a copy as her and Jeff Freeman would like to discuss funding options.

- (9) Wenck talked to Brian Boyda of RD and requested that he determine a date to come to Silver Creek and meet the Town Officers. We can tour and discuss the project details pertaining to schedule and funding. I asked this be completed in early summer 2014.

I will keep you updated on ER and EIW submittals any other correspondence pertaining to the project.

Sincerely, Eric

ADJOURN:

Hull made the motion to adjourn at 8:27 p.m., second by Hoops. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Frederick R. Whitney, Clerk