

**1. Call To Order**

The special meeting of the Biggs City Council was called to order at 2:01 p.m. by Vice Mayor Frith, Councilors Arnold and Crawford were present. Mayor Busch was absent. Staff present: City Administrator Pete Carr, City Engineer Dave Swartz and City Clerk / Finance Director Deanna Carbajal.

**2. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: None**

**3. SPECIAL BUSINESS: Consider responses to Request for Proposals for Waste Water Treatment Plant Plan. City Engineer Dave Swartz stated this plan would ultimately be the decision making guide that would come back to council and move forward with a future plant upgrade. This upgrade would be necessary before the next WWTP permit renewal in 2011.**

Presentations / Interviews:

- A. *Psomas*. Mike Thalhammer stated he had been designing waste water treatment facilities for small communities for 35 years. His assistant Dave Powell would be part of quality control as well as permit advocacy. Mike stated coordination would need to take place with the Regional Board along with special reports that were part of the discharge permit.

Mike presented three alternatives.

1. Biolac Secondary with Conventional Tertiary System – This system would maximize the use of the existing facility. It would be appropriate to turn it into an equalization basin. He recommended turning pond #2 into a Biolac System which would take the ammonia and convert it to nitrogen and then convert that to nitrogen gas which would meet the new ammonia discharge level. The system would be flexible and phaseable, have a low operations cost, and a medium capital cost. This system would cost about \$800,000.
2. The second system was similar to the first but instead of a clarifier and filter, the same job would be done in a natural system in constructive wetlands. A piece of property would need to be bought or leased. The constructive wetlands would have to be harvested once a year at a “pretty good cost”. This system had a medium capital cost, the system was phaseable, and had a higher operations and maintenance cost.
3. Membrane System – This was similar to a reverse osmoses membrane. What came out of the membranes was advanced tertiary treated, very good quality waste water. Minimum space would be required for this system because it was very compact. The system cost would be \$1.7 million now but a low investment cost later.

The cost to do the study would be \$53,000 plus about \$15,000 for a GeoTech Report.

- B. *Eco Logic*. Rich Stowell stated one of the things they do is teach classes for the state and regional board. He gave Dave Swartz a copy of the current teaching manuals.

Project Manager Tiffany Knapp stated her company specialized in water and waste water in small and medium size communities. She stated Rich Stowell had over 35 years of experience in permitting and small community solutions. She said the overall project

approach was regulations govern disposal of waste water and disposal in turns governs treatment.

Rich Stowell gave a presentation stating facilities planning started with the existing permit, the studies, the results, and how that may lead to a new permit. He said that for a pond plant in the upper valley, the most complicated of the current contaminates to meet was ammonia and coliform limits. Another part of the permit was the receiving water limits with the most complicated controversial aspect relating to dissolved oxygen. He stated the ponds were the right technology.

Tiffany stated their plan was not great if it can't be funded, if it is not operable, or if it couldn't be implemented. She felt Eco Logic could present a plan that would work for Biggs.

- C. *Nolte Associates*. Graham Calciano stated his company looked for straight forward solutions. The feasibility study could be written to feed right into a USDA loan program or grant program. Graham stated team member Dave Richards had 30 years experience in building, designing, and planning treatment plans. David Dauwalder would be in charge of permitting.

Graham presented alternatives for Biggs such as working with what the city already had by using extended aeration or oxidation ditches. Tertiary options would be membrane bioreactors or a continuous up flow filter. The cloth disc filter would be an excellent option if the city had to go to the tertiary system.

David Dauwalder stated the main purpose of the feasibility study was to look at the alternatives and choose the best one for the project. They looked at growth, the general plan, land use, value of land, and buffers. Nolte looked for practical solutions with minimal rework.

Vice Mayor Frith asked if Nolte's plan could expand with development and expansion in Biggs.

David stated it did and if the city wanted to stay with a land based system which was the least expensive to operate and maintain, they could project into the future how much land the city may need and set that aside with a land use plan.

Councilor Crawford asked how much land was needed and David stated probably another 20 acres.

After the Nolte group left, council began discussion of the presentations.

Vice Mayor Frith asked what the plan cost for each group was and Dave stated Psomas was \$68,000, Eco Logic was \$89,000 and Nolte was \$40,000. Dave said he checked references on all of the groups and they all had good references except Nolte had one bad reference, which related to a project about 12 years ago.

Motion/Second to direct staff to select Psomas as the most qualified consultant and to allow Pete and Dave to negotiate a contract which would be brought back to council in March. (Frith/Crawford, MCU, Absent: Busch)

4. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF BIGGS  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
ATTEST:

February 22, 2008

APPROVED:

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Deanna Carbajal  
City Clerk

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John G. Busch  
Mayor, City of Biggs