

**Oak Lodge Sanitary District
MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wastewater Treatment Plant Pre-Design Project
Public Outreach Project
Summary of June 24, 2008 Meeting**

The June 24, 2008, meeting of the Oak Lodge Sanitary District Master Plan Community Advisory Committee (MPCAC) convened at 6:05 pm in the Conference Room of the District Administration Building at 14611 SE River Rd, Milwaukie, Oregon.

Committee members attending this meeting were Tom Foeller, Jerry Foy, Thelma Haggemiller, Greg Leedy, Bob Murch, Margaret Pritchard, Henry Schmidt, Brad Smith, Leonard Waldemar; and William Wild attending as representative from the District Board of Directors.

Members absent were Matt Anderson, Myron Martwick, Sylvia Milne, Leah Robbins, and Charlie Stephens.

District staff members attending were J. Michael Read, General Manager of the District; Brett Arvidson, Manager of Planning and Engineering; and Kay Deines, Administrative Support Specialist.

Consultants attending were Clark Worth and Libby Barg, Barney & Worth, Inc.; and Dave Green, CH2M Hill Principal-in-Charge.

Members of the Oak Lodge Sanitary District Board of Directors attending the meeting were Paul Savas, President of the Board; Jim Martin and Doug Woods, members of the Board of Directors; and William Wild, Board representative to the MPCAC.

No public attended.

J. Michael Read, General Manager of Oak Lodge Sanitary District, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. He explained that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the decision of the Board of Directors at their last meeting to move forward with a selected treatment process alternative (Cannibal System) for Pre-Design although they have not selected a backup alternative; and then to discuss the current status of Clackamas County's Task Force on regionalized wastewater treatment. Michael then turned the meeting over to Libby Barg of Barney & Worth, Inc.

Libby Barg asked Paul Savas, President of the Oak Lodge Sanitary District Board of Directors, to make an introductory statement to the Committee.

Paul Savas thanked the MPCAC for their willingness to participate in the selection process and make recommendations from the community to the Board regarding the treatment plant renovation alternatives. He noted that the Board will keep possible regional solutions in mind and would bring them to the community should viable options be developed.

Libby Barg then asked those members of the District's Board of Directors present at the meeting to take chairs at the front of the room and make themselves available for discussion with the members of the MPCAC. She requested that the Committee members ask questions of the Board

members during the comment process. Libby then asked each Board member to comment in turn on the most important factors that led them to vote in favor of design of a Cannibal System treatment plant.

- Board member Jim Martin stated that the Cannibal System met the requirements of safety, effectiveness, reliability, and also met his wish to have a lower cost solution than was previously recommended.
- Board member Doug Woods stated that he was impressed with the flexibility of the Cannibal System treatment plant. He stated one of the things he has always heard while learning about sewage treatment, and the District wastewater treatment plant specifically, was that the operators always said that they would like more tanks; and the Cannibal System offers the most tanks and treatment flexibility of all three options considered. Also, Doug was impressed that the supervisor of the Peru, Indiana plant had not believed the process would work when it was first presented to him, and now he is a strong supporter of it as an effective and reliable wastewater treatment method.
- Board President Paul Savas stated that he was impressed with both Alternatives 1 and 3. He likes Alternative No. 1 because it offered so many opportunities to stretch out the construction period and only replace facilities as they are absolutely necessary. However, Alternative No. 3 impressed him with the vastly reduced amount of biosolids to deal with and the large financial savings that offers, along with bypassing possible future problems linked to land application of biosolids. He does not like that the District has to take on the financial responsibility of building the complete plant at once.
- Board Vice President William Wild stated that the main reason behind his vote in favor of the Cannibal System was that it most closely met the requirements of the MPCAC criteria as defined in the original set of meetings in 2006. His only reservation on that count was that the system is relatively new technology, and one of the criteria was to use a tested and reliable treatment system. He was also persuaded by the flexibility of the system and the ability of the Cannibal System to meet changing treatment requirements. William recalled that in the first MPCAC meeting he stated that the citizens who began the process of initiating planning and construction of a sanitary sewer system in the Oak Grove and Jennings Lodge areas had created a facility that has served the community for 50 years, and that it was his hope that the current process would serve the community as well as the first one did.

Libby then asked the Board members if they had any unanswered questions about the process that they would like to discuss. This portion of the meeting became a general discussion between the members of the Board of Directors and the members of the MPCAC on various aspects of and concerns relating to the Cannibal System.

A. Other entities and their experiences:

- Jim Martin wants staff to check with other entities using the Cannibal System and ask about any problems or situations of which Oak Lodge Sanitary District should be aware prior to purchasing the Cannibal System.
- Michael stated that Brett Arvidson has reached out to his contacts at Black & Veatch to see if they knew of any circumstances of which the District should be aware. Brett stated

that Black and Veatch has not yet designed a Cannibal plant, but they are very interested in the process, and provided him with an article with solid research information regarding the possibility that while the technology works well, the biosolids reduction rates have not always been as good as advertised or promised.

- Several MPCAC members expressed a desire for the District to gather as much information as possible from owners and operators of other Cannibal System treatment plants.

C. Employee Training

- MPCAC members stressed the importance of training for District operators and management in the operation of the new process.
- Dave Green stated that CH2M Hill would include carefully defined levels of technical and practical training in the RFP in order to ensure that the bid prices from equipment suppliers would include thorough training for the staff. He noted that typically CH2M staff would be involved in some of the training also.

D. Communication and New Technology

- The members of the Board of Directors and MPCAC members expressed their conviction that the public be informed, involved, and educated about wastewater treatment and the decision-making process before and during both the design and construction of the renovated wastewater treatment plant. They expressed concerns that perhaps the recent process proceeded too quickly to a resolution. Because one of the criteria of the original MPCAC process was that the technology used be established and reliable, they wanted to know how the public would be educated before and during the process of designing a treatment plant that uses ‘new technology’. The selection of a safe and reliable treatment process is of paramount importance to both groups.

- Margaret Pritchard, member of the MPCAC and an engineer involved in designing an early version of the Cannibal System, informed those present that this is not truly new technology. The process uses standard and reliable technologies combined in an innovative way to produce a clean effluent with extremely low residual biosolids.

- Paul Savas expressed his appreciation of open lines of communication between the staff, management, and the elected officials. He asked that staff and management contact with other plants and entities running Cannibal System treatment plants with the request that they keep Oak Lodge Sanitary District informed of problems arising, and to tell us about anything that they might do differently if they were to construct another Cannibal plant.

- Following discussion, there seemed to be a general consensus that the Cannibal System should be explained clearly as an innovative combination of existing technologies used to produce an effluent that is significantly lower in biosolids than conventional treatment system. A system with the flexibility needed for treating the widely variable sewage produced by the Oak Lodge area during the wet and dry seasons, and the capability to meet the expected changing permit limits.

E. Backup Alternative

- MPCAC member Tom Foeller asked why staff was considering a backup alternative for the Cannibal System project if everyone is confident that Cannibal is a good solution. Michael Read explained that the backup alternative is necessary during negotiations with the supplier of the Cannibal system equipment.

F. MPCAC Process

- Margaret Pritchard suggested developing an MPCAC timeline to show the process the MPCAC has followed from its inception two years ago to the current stages of the Master Plan and Wastewater Treatment Plant Pre-Design projects.

Michael Read then presented a synopsis of the process followed by Clackamas County while examining the situation and determining how best to provide North Clackamas County with sanitary sewer and surface water management services in the future. Michael reviewed the monetary figures used by the County for their calculations and how they arrived at those figures. He stated that while it did not appear to be a fiscally responsible position for Oak Lodge Sanitary District ratepayers for the District to participate in the proposed solutions, the Board of Directors decided to stay at the table in order to be kept abreast of the situation, to be available to participate in any regional governance solution that might be advantageous to the ratepayers, and to ensure that all service delivery options that seems viable to the District were examined by the group. He reported that the District's representative voted 'NO' on the Task Force recommendation because it stated that the representative regional approach offered financial savings for all groups and that was not true for the residents of Oak Lodge Sanitary District.

The Task Force has now requested that the Directors/Commissioners of each entity involved in the process "embrace" its recommendation. Embracing the recommendation would result in that entity becoming part of a provisional partnership to lay the ground rules for a potential partnership, which would then be empowered to set rules and ordinances that would apply to all members of the provisional partnership. Michael reported that on June 18 the Board held a Special Meeting to discuss the alternatives to this request, which are:

1. Continue on in the process as part of the provisional partnership and the development of the activities and to embrace the foundational assumptions that were made part of the Task Force Recommendation;
2. To defer the decision and meet with the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners as they have requested so that the two Boards can to discuss the situation before making any decision; or
3. Decline to participate further in the process or to sign the recommendation without further discussion with Clackamas County or other entities involved with the Task Force.

The Board of Directors asked the members of the MPCAC for their comments and advice regarding these options.

Discussion among the members of the Board of Directors and the MPCAC resulted in these general comments:

1. The findings generally do not point to any benefit to the ratepayers of Oak Lodge Sanitary District to participate in the proposed regional solution as it stands. The costs, both long and short term, are predicted to be higher to District ratepayers if the District participates in the proposed recommendation.
2. The members of the Board and the MPCAC want to see more information and more accurate and refined numbers from both Clackamas County and CH2M Hill .
3. It is important to keep lines of communication and cooperation open between Oak Lodge Sanitary District and Clackamas County. Oak Lodge Sanitary District does not exist in a

vacuum; it is part of unincorporated Clackamas County and needs to maintain a good working relationship with the County. Brett Arvidson listed numerous projects on which Oak Lodge Sanitary District and Clackamas County have cooperated and collaborated, to the benefit of both entities. It is important that the District does not become isolated.

4. Oak Lodge Sanitary District does not want to relinquish governance of the sanitary and storm sewer systems and the wastewater treatment plant within the District to a regional board.
5. The Board of Directors should meet with and have a substantive discussion with the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners. They should inform the Commissioners that the Board of Directors of Oak Lodge Sanitary District has decided on the Cannibal System for a renovated wastewater treatment plant, and plans to move towards that end, but would like to discuss options and future plans with the Commissioners and to stay abreast of the County's plans and processes. The Board of Directors must keep in mind at all times the best interests of the District's ratepayers and the ownership of the capital resources.
6. The MPCAC would like to see the Board move forward with negotiations on the Cannibal System.

Libby Barg proceeded to update the MPCAC membership on the status of the Public Involvement Project. The next event for this project is a meeting on July 14, 2008, at the District Administration Building of those residents that are deemed to be "neighbors" of the wastewater treatment plant. The MPCAC membership is invited to attend the meeting, which will run from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Greg Leedy asked that the consultants present graphic representations of the proposed plans for the new plant and the surrounding landscaping, and also to be prepared for the meeting to last longer than one hour.

Thelma Haggemiller reported that Citizens Informed & Aware (CIA) will devote their entire meeting time on July 9 to the wastewater treatment plant re-development. Michael Read will give a presentation on the process that has been followed and the plans that are in the works, and will accept questions from the attendees on the subject of the treatment plant.

Brad Smith requested an updated list of Public Outreach events that has dates associated with the event names. Barney & Worth is currently working on that update.

Libby stressed that the events on the list and those being discussed tonight are times and places where the presence of MPCAC members is strongly encouraged – these events are meant to educate District residents regarding the wastewater treatment plant re-development project, the reason it is necessary, and to keep the public informed on the ongoing process of evaluation and decision-making. The MPCAC members are encouraged to serve as ambassadors for the public information process and the treatment plant project.

Clark Worth reported on the update of the Oak Lodge Sanitary District website. The MPCAC page has been updated. Clark also requested that the MPCAC members complete the sheet included in their packets tonight with their recommendations for the District's website and newsletter.

Libby Barg then discussed efforts being taken to disseminate information on the Pre-Design Project and the Board's decision to move forward with the Cannibal System design. A special

edition of the District's newsletter will be published and distributed along with a media release. These pieces will contain information the District decisions, the facts that led to those decision, the status of the planning process, and upcoming meeting information. In addition Libby will produce a fact sheet for distribution locally that will have the same basic information as the newsletter but will not be as extensive.

MPCAC members requested a small fact sheet/speech provided to them so they could communicate as much information as possible in as concise a way as possible – an “elevator speech”. Members of the Committee and the Board requested a concise statement from Barney & Worth that will answer both “Why?” and “Why now?” questions from the public.

Michael requested that the members of the MPCAC attend the CIA meeting at Rose Villa on July 9 in order to be available to answer questions. He and Brett will be present as District staff, but the Committee members should be the ones to answer questions from the citizens of the District.

Brett Arvidson gave a short presentation on the recent Surface Water Management Facility and Project tour that he gave to members of the SWM CAC and their guests. He stressed that Oak Lodge Sanitary District is about more than sanitary sewage treatment – it is also the steward of the surface waters in the area. Brett expressed his intention to keep this duty of Oak Lodge Sanitary District in front of the public. He showed pictures of various wetlands and creeks in the area. He showed photos of Boardman Creek showing the large portion of it that can be considered a reed canary grass swamp, of Boardman Creek at it's outfall to the Willamette River, and of Boardman Creek where it runs through the new Stringfield Family Park which is in the process of being remodeled and re-vegetated to show how the creek could be restored to a more natural and effective state. Brett also showed photos of River Forest Lake and the outfall to the Willamette River. Tom Foeller praised the tour, which he attended, for its content and the opportunity to see areas where the District has installed projects, projects that are underway, and some areas that are earmarked for future improvements.

Michael announced an MPCAC Summer Barbecue to be held on August 14 at River Villa Park. The picnic will start at 5:00 and will feature a pig roasted by Michael. Michael invited the MPCAC and their families, the Board and their family members, and the Consultants. District staff and plant neighbors will be invited also. The park is adjacent to the treatment plant, and so there will be plant tours available.

The next meeting of the MPCAC will be held at the District Administration Office on September 30, 2008.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.