

Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority  
Conference Call Meeting, April 23, 2009  
MINUTES

Meeting called to order by Vice-chairman George Spence at 1:05 p.m.

Board members present, in addition to Mr. Spence, were Jack McHaney, Bruce McElroy, Mayor Bob McCaslin, Larry Fletcher, Robert Hukill, Frank Holzkamper, and John Ratzki.

Staff members present were John Sampier, Michael Lindsey, and Jim Crouch acting in the absence of Charles Harwell.

Other attendees were Steve Yonker of Burns & McDonnell and Rob Smith of the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

The first order of business was consideration of approval of a change order in the facility contract to remove the standard filtration component. Steve Yonker discussed the proposed change order to the wastewater treatment plant construction contract to delete the conventional polishing filters from the project. This was initially discussed with the Board at its meeting on February 26, 2009. Since then, a proposal by ADEQ for a 3 year operating permit with a 1 mg/l phosphorus limit with no mention of a 0.1 mg/l phosphorus limit thereafter was not accepted by EPA Region VI. EPA Region VI maintains a 0.1 mg/l phosphorus limit starting in 2012 will be required to protect water quality. Subsequent to this, ADEQ has put a draft operating permit that is acceptable to EPA which includes a 0.1 mg/l phosphorus limit starting in 2012 on public notice. The proposed change order for deleting the conventional polishing filters includes a negotiated credit or deduct of \$1,266,000.00. Steve Yonker asked the Board to consider whether or not to accept the proposed change order. Mr. Spence asked if the opinion of the engineer is that the negotiated figure is satisfactory. Mr. Yonker responded in the affirmative. Mr. Spence then asked if the new filtration system would be put out for bids. Mr. Yonker responded that it will be a board decision yet to be decided.

Mayor McCaslin was recognized and made a motion to authorize the requested change order. Second by Mr. McElroy. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Steve Yonker then gave an update on the evaluation of advanced filtration options. After reviewing available technologies for meeting a 0.1 mg/l phosphorus limit, three have been selected for detailed evaluation based on having proven this level of performance by several operating installations. Processes that have a very limited number of operating installations were not considered for detailed evaluation. The three technologies and their approximate costs are as follows:

	<u>Capital Costs</u>	<u>Annual O&amp;M Costs</u>
Two Stage Sand Filtration	\$7,000,000	\$110,000
Membranes	\$8,700,000	\$150,000
High Rate Clarification and Filters	\$8,300,000	\$130,000

These costs are subject to revision as the evaluation is finalized. Two stage sand filtration has the lowest first cost and also the lowest annual O&M costs. Mayor McCaslin asked if the membrane process would provide a higher degree of treatment that may become necessary in the future for meeting tighter effluent limits. Steve Yonker explained that membranes will provide a higher degree of treatment, but it is unknown if that may become necessary to meet future effluent limits. Responding to a question from Mr. Spence, Mr. Yonker reported that a decision on the new filtration system should be an item for business at the regular board meeting in May.

Steve Yonker mentioned the ADEQ construction permit was issued on April 16, 2009. Two objections to the permit were made. One of those objections by the State of Oklahoma was determined by ADEQ to have been received after the end of the public notice period and is therefore not valid. ADEQ has also placed the operating permit on public notice which will end approximately May 25.

Steve Yonker explained that past user rate forecasts for the NACA project were based on total construction costs of just over \$52 million. Actual construction bids total just under \$38 million. Because of this, the project with the addition of an advanced filtration process will still be below the budget costs used for forecasting user rates.

There being no other business, Mr. Spence adjourned the meeting.

Approved:

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Jack McHaney