City of McCleary

STAFF REPORT

To:	Mayor Miller and City Council
From:	Kevin Trewhella
Date:	June, 2025
Department:	Water and Wastewater

Wastewater

With summer rapidly approaching we have seen the wastewater temperatures rise quickly. When we looked at the specifications for ordering the Chiller we were basing all specifications on the Old NPDES Permit. In February a New NPDES Permit was issued by the EPA. This new permit dropped the effluent Max temperature 2.2 degrees Celsius. From 19.9C down to 17.7C. 17.7C is the Temperature that the old chiller was set to turn on to keep us in compliance.

We have now had the first opportunity to fully test the capabilities of the new chiller. We, Joe and I, had some concerns. We were initially seeing the water cool by 0.1 degrees. We made several observations and started testing the system. We first backflushed the pump into the heat exchanger, No problems.

Next we disassembled the effluent piping and watched the flow. We were supposed to be having an effluent flow of 85gpm. We had 2.5gpm. next we went to the influent side of the heat exchanger. We disassembled the influent line. We had 85gpm. We went to run a hose down the influent line and hit a blockage. Unbeknownst to us and nowhere in the drawing there was a “Y” filter which was full of biologicals. We cleaned up the filter, reinstalled it in the “Y”, reassembled the entire influent-effluent piping. Turned on the Chiller system and within 2 hours the effluent system was cooling the water leaving the WWTP by more than 2C I am confident we will be able to stay within compliance.

Water

The Variable Frequency Drives (VFD's) that were installed, last year, out at the wells, are saving the city of McCleary about 1000 kilowatts a month. Having trouble with 900mHz communication pumps. Besides the security risks that these radios can present we need to look at alternatives to radio communications between the wells.

Kevin Trewhella