

To: Mayor and Town Council  
From: Michelle Metteer  
Date: December 18, 2024  
Agenda Item: Water Treatment Plant Funding & Direction

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**REQUEST:**

The Minturn Council to provide direction to staff regarding the construction and implementation of a new membrane water treatment plant.

**INTRODUCTION:**

The need for a new water treatment facility has been at the forefront of Minturn staff efforts and public discussions with the Town Council for years. The most recent direction provided by the Council was to determine any remaining WTP funding opportunities available and present those findings prior to subsequent direction from the Council.

**ANALYSIS:**

Water treatment plant funding opportunities for Minturn are limited due to the Town's above-average area median income and lack of listing as a disadvantaged community. Opportunities are further hindered by the restrictions imposed on the ability for an Enterprise Fund (Minturn's water utility) to accept outside dollars. The limitations of Minturn's funding opportunities are additionally outlined in the Sustainable Strategies Minturn Water Treatment Plant Resourcing Memorandum (attached to this memorandum).

Much to the Town's credit, grant funds have been approved for \$3,000,000 in Congressionally Directed Spending as well as \$159,000 from the Colorado River Water Conservation District Community Funding Partnership program. In addition to these funds, Minturn has applied for a \$3,000,000 grant through the Bureau of Reclamation program. That program will announce award recipients in March of 2025. Of note, as part of the Bureau of Reclamation grant application, definitive dates were required for the water treatment plant project start and completion. This is common for most grant applications which require specific notice of firm project start and end dates.

Additional long-term funding relief may come from the ability to sell one or more recently acquired parcels of land through the Battle North settlement agreement and possibly the inclusion of Battle North's potential/future development project within Minturn's post-2008 water service area. This information, along with an updated water rate analysis, and future WTP projected cost increases due to construction delay and inflation, will be presented to the Council the evening of December 18<sup>th</sup> so as to facilitate a final water treatment plant discussion and request for direction.

**COMMUNITY INPUT:**

Community feedback has been included in public conversations pertaining to Minturn's water treatment facilities dating back to 2018.

**BUDGET / STAFF IMPACT:**

TBD/Approximately \$13M+ before long-term additional cost savings.

**STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITY OR VALUE:**

**INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION:**

- Direct staff to proceed with the design, engineering and construction of a new membrane water treatment plant.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Minturn Water Treatment Plant Resourcing Memorandum
- Water Treatment Plant Timeline and Associated Materials