
To: Chairman Board and members of the Public Works Commission
From: Peter Hartz – Water Systems Manager

October 16, 2024

Re: October 22, 2024, Public Works Commission agenda items

Water Systems:

1. **Review and take possible action** 2024 Allerman lift station project

Background: On February 13, 2024 this commission approved moving forward with Strand Engineering to study the Allerman lift station service area and provide a preliminary engineering review and report of their findings engineering reports for the Allerman and Concord sanitary sewer lift station. Strand is in attendance to review the findings in the preliminary engineering report (copy included).

Allerman Lift Station history:

- Constructed in 1963 to service 20 homes, original pumps and controls are still in service.
- Currently servicing 197 homes (110 of which are draining to S. Concord lift station, which drains /dumps to Allerman Lift Station).
- In 1990, the sanitary sewer service plan report identified the Allerman Lift Station as servicing a much larger area of undeveloped land outside the corporate limits on the east side of the Hwy 16 bypass and a new force main running to Franklin St. (or possibly Air Park Dr, or down Boomer St to Utah St)
- S Concord lift station was built in 2006 and is capable of handling property as far S as Beryl Dr, and currently has an 8in stubbed out of the S side of the wet well for future growth in the city limits.
- All this currently runs to Hidde lift station, in Basin 18, which is a known trouble spot in wet weather. We have a change to take that load off Hidde which helps that drainage basin and pumps the wastewater one less time.

Budget goal: Aligns with investments and infrastructure planning.

Financial Impact: There are a few options to consider, all significant, depending on the recommendation from the commission, there is always an option to do nothing.

Recommendation: Hire Strand to move forward with this project (route selection to be further reviewed) and submit the Intent to Apply application for a clean water fund loan to fund this project. Project anticipated to be in fiscal year 2026.

2. **Review and take possible action** Virridy carbon credit potential from the water quality trade land MOU

Background: Virridy is a company working to figure out an angle to bring money from the voluntary carbon market into compliance decision-making – they published carbon methodology on a global registry earlier this year which lays the steps out for project developers working with water treatment facilities to figure out the difference between a facility upgrade and a watershed alternative in terms of carbon emissions, and then generate that difference as saleable credits. Virridy has previously pre-sold carbon credits as well to Mortenson Construction, so they know there's some initial demand.

I was introduced to Virridy when doing a species germination inspection of our water quality trade land along with the biologist from Ducks Unlimited last month. Virridy is already doing analyses for Madison and NEW Water (Green Bay) in Wisconsin to see the carbon benefits they may be able to generate via their Adaptive Management programs, and are interested in seeing if there's a similar opportunity with Watertown. The key on their end is sorting out what municipal upgrade we avoided by working with DU on this wetland (and future wetlands?) - the size and energy requirements of that avoided upgrade drives much of the carbon life cycle analysis work.

Budget Goal: Could be a new revenue stream for the wastewater department.

Financial Impact: There is no cost to explore potential carbon credits with Virridy.

Recommendation: Enter into agreement with Virridy to explore the carbon credit potential from the water quality trade land.

Sincerely,
Peter Hartz

Water Systems Manager