

Eureka Township
Dakota County
State of Minnesota

Special Eureka Townboard Meeting

Agenda: Meet with Elko officials on the Elko/ New Market WWTP Expansion Project.

March 11, 2004

Supervisor Mark Malecha called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm.

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town board members present were Dan Rogers, Mark Malecha and Connie Anderson. Clerk/ Treasurer Nanett Leine recorded the minutes.

The Eureka Town Board met with Elko Mayor, Carolyn Miller and City Administrator, Ed Shukle, Elko Attorney Matt Brokl and Ben Laos- engineer on the Elko/ New Market WWTP Expansion project.

Ben Laos gave a brief background of the existing treatment plant. The city of Elko/ New market started their sewage plant in 1986 with a lagoon. 1999 they upgraded the system. If Elko/ New Market want to continue their growth, they would need to upgrade their existing plant. An interceptor would not be feasible for 5 to 10 years. They are planning to upgrade the plant to mechanical treatment system, which is more reliable. A mechanical treatment plant has better quality out put and higher standards for discharge.

The facility plan and EAW has been submitted as well as non degradation review. The increased flow would be 859,000 gallons per day. (Dry weather flow) This would be 6% of the rivers flow at the Empire plant location. Now it is less than 1% of the flow. The outflow pipe has a 18" diameter.

Butch Hansen commented that violations of dumping pollutants into the river have occurred. What assures us that this won't happen in the future? Why did it happen?

Ben Laos commented the only assurance would be upgrading the plant to a mechanical plant. The water coming out of the plant is cleaner than the water in the river.

Mayor Carolyn Miller commented that they were inexperienced and growth happened too quickly. The consulting engineer said they had plenty of capacity and were fully capable of treating the wastewater. The engineer was not doing his job and violations

occurred. They made mistakes and are trying to fix it. They need to upgrade their treatment plant.

Eureka Supervisors commented that the increase in flow in the Vermillion River running through Eureka Township would be greater than 6 % of the river flow, because the river is much smaller in Eureka than what it is at the Empire Plant. The flow would be ten times of what it is now. Currently the River overflows its banks, increasing the water flow would cause more flooding problems to Eureka Township residents.

The impact of increased water flow through the township has not been taken into consideration by engineers on the project.

The township needs to know what the water flow is in the township not at the empire plant. They felt that a study of the river in Eureka Township should be done to evaluate the impact on the township.

Supervisor Mark Malecha commented that water flow has increased every year. We have farmers that have lost farmable ground, resident that have water flowing through their property. The culverts were designed prior to 1987, there will be more water through them, during high water times be will be losing more roads, water will be going over them. Residents have water in their basements. We will be paying bills for all your water. Eureka residents are losing their basements and land because of the increase of your water flow. We haven't even addressed storm water runoff.

Elko said that they tried hard to get the MET Council to put in a pipe. Other local government entities blocked it. They tried this first.

Mark Malecha questioned why Elko/New Market didn't come to Eureka 2 or 3 years ago and ask for help. Eureka was left out of the loop. You have not done your job to inform your neighbors of your plans and it is not fair to our residents.

Eureka Township is not interested in connecting to the pipeline, this is an agricultural township. The Eureka town board feels that an interceptor would be a better solution to the solving the problem than dumping the water into the river.

There were concerns of the water temperature and pollutants, since the Vermillion River is a designated trout stream.

Francie Madden asked what happens to the treatment plant if the interceptor is put into place. The MET Council would buy it out for the debt. Elko/New Market will out grow their current plant this year. The upgrade to the plant is an interim solution, not a permanent solution.

Elko Mayor agreed that they need to get more involved with their neighbors.

Comments were made that the township should work together with Elko on finding a solution.

The town board would like Elko to keep the township informed and would like to work with them on an alternate method of waste disposal than into the Vermillion River.

A Motion by Supervisor Connie Anderson: To adjourn. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Dan Rogers.

Meeting adjourned at 9:58 pm.