



CITY OF GILLETTE

www.gillettewy.gov

City of Gillette Regional Water Panel Minutes April 11, 2024

PRESENT

PANEL MEMBERS	YES	NO
Bill Brewer (WWDC)	X	
E. Loren Crain, Board Chairman	X	
Robert Hollander	X	
Levi Jensen	X	
Ralph Kingan	X	
Don McKillop		X
Charles "Pete" LeRoy	X	
MEETING QUORUM	Yes	

STAFF MEMBERS	YES	NO
Joff Pilon, Acting Utilities Director	X	
Howard Jones, Water Manager	X	
Joe Schoen, City Engineer	X	
Matt Olsen (County)	X (virtual)	
Katie Crisp, Admin Assistant	X	

- I. **Call Meeting to Order**
The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm.
- II. **Approval of Minutes (February 15, 2024)**
Loren Crain requested a motion to approve the February 15, 2024, minutes. Ralph Kingan made a motion, seconded by Levi Jensen. All members voted Aye. Motion passed.
- III. **Introduction of New City Appointed Member**
Howard Jones introduced to the panel, Charles "Pete" LeRoy as the new City appointed panel member.
- IV. **Engineering Projects Updates (Joe Schoen)**

Well Installation Project 2C:

Currently on schedule for the projected completion date of July 2025.

Levi Jensen opened discussion on the timing each phase of the well project. Joe Schoen noted that the lead time for electrical is 72 weeks.

Regional Water Ph 3: American Road et al

At 90% of plans. Advertising has been completed and a pre-bid meeting has been scheduled with the anticipation of construction beginning in the summer 2024.

Regional Water Ph 4: Fox Ridge

At 90% of plans. We are expecting to advertise this project in April 2024 and open bids in May 2024. It is anticipated that construction will begin in the summer of 2024 with a projection completion and funding by July 1, 2025.

Regional Water Ph 5: Airport Extension

At 12% plans. The City has had to change the scope and alignment of the plans for this project, due to not receiving easement access. We are expecting to advertise and open bids in 2024.

Regional Water Ph 6: Stroup MHP, Eagle Ridge Subd, and People's ISD

At 10% of plans. This project is currently under design and advertising is projected for the summer of 2024, with anticipation of construction beginning in the spring of 2025.

Regional Water Ph 7: Hoy Subd, and Countryside Subd

No update was given at this time.

V. Water Operations (Howard Jones)

FY25 Water Fund operating budget was proposed at \$9.1M, with revenue estimated at \$10.3M. The proposed budget is 3.3% above last year's approved budget.

The new utility rates going into effect May 1, 2024 were discussed, a packet including the City's press release and supporting documentation. It was noted that this panel should not need to revisit rates for at least three(3) years.

Howard provided to the panel a copy of the 2023 Consumer Confidence Report for review and discussion. It was noted that this report was provided to customers via utility billing inserts, published in the Gillette News Record, posts on the City's website and social media platforms.

noted there was one(1) water sample taken in city limits and the results were non-detectable for these chemicals.

The 30" transmission line leak repair under Hwy 51 (14-16) at D Road is ongoing. Insertion and connection of the new pipe is waiting on 1 valve, delivery is expected April 19, 2024. Cathodic Protection bonding across this repair is being used now that that has been loss to the metal pipeline continuity. The leak at Madison Station has been repaired. It was caused by electrically induced corrosion on copper pipes not bonded or shunted during the water loadout project in 2015/2016.

Pump Station #1 aerator towers: Crews are replacing the 16,000 PVC tubes in two of the three units, performing cleaning, recoating, and disinfecting these units.

Backup standby generators: All load tests and PMs have been performed. These standby generators are being utilized for several water and other city division outages and projects. One unit is staged at Wastewater as well.

Annual hydrant flushing of distribution mains: The Distribution crew is currently working through this, chlorine residuals are good, the only trouble spot is south Gillette AV Industrial Park, which has large diameter for fire flow, and very little comparable routine usage. Hydrant ID signs to identify pressure zones will be installed in the upcoming months, this will reduce labor and costs versus painting the hydrants different colors.

Pine Ridge Disinfection Facility (PRDF): Changed and upgraded the chemical dosage and programming to the same equipment and control protocol that was installed at Pump Station #1, which means less maintenance, less errors, more reliability, and better vendor support.

Crews will be cleaning tanks at 1/3 of the storage reservoirs in the next 8 weeks. The Water Department management team is pursuing locate equipment for PVC pipes, it was noted there is a lot of missing or damaged tracer wires on Water and Wastewater lines. The Cahoy Pump is scheduled to replace failed pump/motors in Soft 22 and Soft 18 wells in the next few weeks, depending on the mud/turf in Sutherland Park.

The City is still pursuing easement and location on additional CP rectifier with Black Hills Energy for the Wyodak-Union Chapel Road 42"

The 2024 Community Water System Emergency Response Plan update has been completed.

EPA regulatory updates:

- LCRR/LSLI: Staff are continuing to perform physical field verification of service line materials on every meter appointment and on every construction site with a completion rate of approximately 140 per month. After meeting with Region 8 EPA staff, it was approved that the following service lines can be classified as non-lead without a physical inspection:
 - Any service line >2" diameter, both public and "private" side.
 - Any service line both public and "private" side, including entire subdivisions, if constructed 1988 or newer.
 - Any service line connected to a water main replacement project 1988 or newer with project documentation or specs calling for replacement of line up to meter pit or curb stop (only public side).
- LCRI: Is proposed but not final currently. This regulation may include additional requirements to verify in 3 locations rather than 2, and may include a rule that these inspections must be 36" or greater away from the curb stop, meter yolk, etc. It was noted that there is significant state attorney general pressure and litigation on both the pro and con side of this rule depending on state and political leadership.
- PFSA/PFOA/GenX chemical rule (formerly UCMR5): This rule has been formalized as an official regulation as of April 10, 2024.
- Notice has been given that a new rule UCMR6 is forthcoming.
- CCR Rule: Modifications are proposed and facing Congressional pressure and court action from states and industry groups. The three most rigorous statutory enhancements are increased bi-annual frequency of CCR notices, which would increase the water quality sampling, mandatory cybersecurity reviews and risk analysis, and mandatory water loss audits.
- AWIA (America's Water Infrastructure Act) of 2013: The compliance cycle round 2 deadline was announced as June 30, 2026. Round 1 (2018-2022) cost the City approximately \$1.7M in compliance costs, analyses, and risk remediation projects.
- D/DBP2 sampling and LRAA, water age and HHA5, TTHM compounds.
- RMP (Risk Management Program): Revisions were made effective this past month, with the in-house elimination of chlorine gas at Pump Station #1, the City is no longer affected by the previous or the new updated rule.

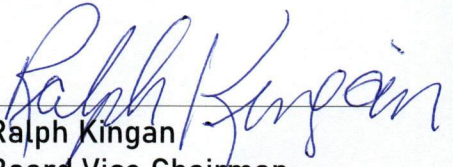
Levi Jensen opened discussions regarding if the new regulations would affect rates. Howard Jones replied that Wastewater and the Landfill would be impacted the most because of the "forever" chemicals. Howard

VI. Next Proposed Meeting (July 18, 2024)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:41 pm

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

E. Loren Crain
Board Chairman


Ralph Kingan
Board Vice Chairman

DATE APPROVED: July 16, 2024

E.LC/kc