

Minutes
Eastern Iowa Regional Utility Services System Commission

DATE: Wednesday, August 12, 2009

TIME: 5:00 p.m.

PLACE: ECIA Offices, Dubuque, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Boedeker Cedar County Representative
 Jon Bell Cedar County Alternate
 Jill Davisson Clinton County Representative
 Robert Summers Clinton County Alternate
 Jerry Ries Delaware County Representative
 Shirley Helmrichs Delaware County Alternate
 Frank Frieberg Jackson County Representative
 Larry Koos Jackson County Alternate
 Joe Cruise Jones County Representative
 Keith Dirks Jones County Alternate

OTHERS PRESENT: Kevin Davisson

STAFF PRESENT: Nagle, Nesteby, Schneider

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Davisson at 5:05 p.m.

Action on August 12, 2009 Agenda

Motion by Frieberg, second by Boedeker to approve the August 12, 2009, Eastern Iowa Regional Utility Service Systems agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Review/Approve Minutes of the June 3, 2009 Meeting

Motion by Cruise, second by Ries to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2009 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Fairview project

A. Discussion/Action on Fairview Terrace Mobile Home Park User Agreement

Schneider presented the most recent negotiated agreement between the mobile home park owner and EIRUSS to the board members. The park has 32 lots, however only 27 are now occupied. The agreement states \$44 per month will be paid for each of the 27 occupied lots and \$21 per month will be paid for the remaining unoccupied lots. This is a \$2 monthly increase for the occupied lots and all users. A minimum of 27 occupied lots will be paid for each month. Schneider said the agreement would be reviewed annually. Discussion followed by board members concerning that the owner has been supportive of the project, and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will step in if the owner does not agree to the system.

Motion by Cruise, second by Frieberg to approve and authorize the ECIA staff to execute the Fairview Terrace Mobile Home Park User Agreement for the Fairview project. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Discussion/Action on land acquisition

Nagle said the owner of the land for the lagoon site is willing to sell the land at the appraised value of \$37,997—a purchase agreement is being prepared. The owner is also asking for his attorney fees to be paid by EIRUSS. Discussion followed by board members concerning a cap of \$50,000 for the purchase. A letter will be sent by ECIA staff to update the future users on the progress of the system.

Motion by Boedeker, second by Ries to approve and authorize ECIA staff to purchase the lagoon site for \$37,997 and other costs as negotiated for the Fairview project. The motion passed unanimously.

Leisure Lake project

- A. Discussion/action on WIRB Application**
- B. Discussion/action on WIRB Amendment**
- C. Update on project status**

Schneider said the WIRB grant for the Leisure Lake project is set to expire at the end of December 2009. Recent legislation passed effective July 1, 2009 allows for the extension of WIRB grants awarded after that date for up to ten years; it does not allow for the extension of currently awarded WIRB grants per the Attorney General’s opinion. Staff met with the WIRB board members and two options were suggested: Submit a new application for a \$500,000 WIRB grant that allow for the closeout of the current grant and create a new grant contract beginning on January 1, 2010. The new contract would subtract all expenditures under the existing contract on December 31, 2009 from the \$500,000 application amount and award the remaining balance with a new timeline; or amend the existing WIRB grant to include only the lagoon project with funding expended to the extent possible and all funds obligated the end of December 2009. The WIRB board will consider both applications for the Leisure Lake project. Discussion followed by board members that approval of an amended WIRB grant would mean that the process of lagoon construction must proceed smoothly in order to expend funds by the end of the year. Schneider said both the new application and the amended application would need to be submitted by Limestone Bluffs RC&D. The new application is due August 14; the amended application is due early September.

Nagle said the engineer is currently working on the design, more soil borings are necessary due to rock, and access to the lagoon would involve a second landowner.

Motion by Frieberg, second by Cruise to approve and authorize ECIA staff to prepare both a WIRB application and a WIRB amendment for submission by Limestone Bluffs RC&D for the Leisure Lake project. The motion passed unanimously.

Andover project

- A. Discussion/action on USDA RD Application for additional funds**
- B. Update on project status**

Nagle stated that during the closing process, it was discovered that funds were \$2,000 short for the Andover project. The USDA has approved an additional \$2,000 to close this project. Nagle said additional costs have now come up due to the addition of chlorine, a polyphosphate pump and scale to alleviate rust from the water; and for the two alternating manual pumps to run automatically. Staff have again asked USDA for funds to cover these two costs. Davisson said that if the USDA offers the money as a loan and not a grant; she suggests that the County cover these costs for Andover. There is a County fund set up for small communities with population up to 5,000 to draw on for such projects. Discussion followed by board members on filling up the old wells in Andover. Nagle said the water system is up and operating. There are a couple homeowners not hooked up yet; and one homeowner that has disconnected and needs to be hooked up again.

Motion by Ries, second by Frieberg to approve and authorize EIRUSS Chair to sign a USDA RD application for submission for additional funds for the Andover project. The motion passed unanimously.

Center Junction project

A. Update on project status

Schneider said there have been no problems or complaints from the users of the sewer system. Davisson suggested that staff obtain letters of support from Center Junction's mayor, city clerk, council members and users of the system to create a portfolio to show prospective users on future projects.

Petersburg project

A. Discussion/action on WIRB Application

Schneider said WIRB applications are due August 14 if the board members approve submission by the Delaware County Supervisors for the Petersburg project. Previous applications have documented the sewage problems found in Petersburg by the DNR and County Sanitarian.

Motion by Ries, second by Boedeker to approve and authorize ECIA staff to prepare a WIRB application for submission by Delaware County for the Petersburg project. The motion passed unanimously.

Elvira project

A. Update on project status

Nagle said various options such as a lagoon, cluster system, and hooking up to Low Moor have been proposed for the Elvira project; but have been ruled out due to high costs, small lots and distance to another sewer system. Pope of Garden & Associates is currently investigating alternatives. Davisson suggested that a letter signed by the EIRUSS Chair be sent to the DNR asking for recommendations to solve Elvira's sewer problems. Correspondence should also be sent to State legislators asking how to proceed concerning the funding issues.

Other Business

None.

Adjournment

Motion by Cruise, second by Frieberg to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Schneider
Director of Community Development and Public Works