

Minutes
Eastern Iowa Regional Utility Service Systems Commission

DATE: Wednesday, July 28, 2010
TIME: 5:00 p.m.
PLACE: ECIA Offices, 7600 Commerce Park, Dubuque, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dennis Boedeker	Cedar County Representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jon Bell	Cedar County Alternate
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jill Davisson	Clinton County Representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Summers	Clinton County Alternate
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jerry Ries	Delaware County Representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shirley Helmrichs	Delaware County Alternate
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Frank Frieberg	Jackson County Representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Larry Koos	Jackson County Alternate
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joe Cruise	Jones County Representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Keith Dirks	Jones County Alternate

OTHERS PRESENT: Alice Ohrtmann, IIW Engineers & Surveyors
Joyce Whitney, Leisure Lake
Helen Kemp, Leisure Lake
Dick Kemp, Leisure Lake
Ella May Gandt, West Liberty Campgrounds
Kent Rice, French-Reneker Associates

STAFF PRESENT: Nagle, Nesteby, Schneider

Call to Order

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

Action on July 28, 2010 Agenda

Motion by Ries, second by Cruise to approve the agenda for July 28, 2010, Eastern Iowa Regional Utility Service Systems. The motion passed unanimously.

Review/Approve Minutes of the March 22, May 3 and May 19, 2010 Meetings

Motion by Boedeker, second by Frieberg to approve the minutes of the March 22, May 3 and May 19, 2010, EIRUSS meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

Center Junction project

A. Project status update

Schneider said the sewer system is running fine in Center Junction. A routine maintenance check will be scheduled by the electric pump company shortly. The contract for the operator, Jim Merchie, will be on the agenda at the August EIRUSS meeting. This contract will be for

\$500/month for multiple years and no end year listed. Nagle said he recently visited with the Center Junction city clerk and there were no issues with the system.

Leisure Lake project

A. Project status update

Schneider informed board members he has talked to the County Attorney about condemnation proceedings for the land acquisition for the Leisure Lake project. The land owners rejected the first offer for the property; and now have rejected the last and final offer approved by the board members at the May meeting. Discussion followed by board members, staff and guests concerning that condemnation can take years and that some of the homeowners are frustrated that nothing seems to be getting done. Frieberg shared the nine pages of condemnation steps with the Leisure Lake guests; while Nagle reviewed what processes have been completed on the project to date, which include the appraisal, review appraisal, the first offer, and the last and final offer for the land. Ohrtmann said the level of disruption to the community depends upon how fast the collection system is installed; and the roads will be fixed back to their original condition. Once the land is purchased, an environmental review will need to be completed and a public hearing. A Letter of Conditions will need to be received from the USDA Rural Development Office. Board member consensus was to allow the Leisure Lake land acquisition to go to the Condemnation Board. Frieberg and ECIA staff will keep the Leisure Lake residents informed of the progress of the project. Board members thanked the Leisure Lake guests for their patience.

At this time, Whitney, Dick and Helen Kemp left the meeting.

Andover project

A. Project status update

Davisson said she attended the June City Council meet at Andover. The water system seems to be running fine with the installation of the new system by Culligan. Schneider said Witt, the operator, will flush the system monthly. Nagle commented that two people have not hooked up to the system yet; Davisson said Andover city staff will need to address this issue.

Elvira

A. Project status update

Schneider said Pope from Garden & Associates will be updating the cost estimate based on a new system to help lower the cost. A soil survey of the property has been requested. Davisson requested that the next EIRUSS meeting be held at 5:00 p.m. in DeWitt, following a public meeting starting at 4:00 p.m. Those invited to the public hearing to discuss the problems in Elvira are the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff, the Clinton Board of Health staff, the Clinton County Board of Supervisors and the Elvira residents. Davisson noted that the role of EIRUSS is to secure funding and assist with the installation of the sewer system. The current problems in Elvira will need to be handled by the Supervisors and the Board of Health. There are 19 residences and three commercial properties in Elvira, though one commercial property is not active. Board member consensus was the next EIRUSS meeting will be held on August 25 at the DeWitt Library at 5:00 p.m. following the public meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Petersburg project

A. Project status update

Schneider said a pre-application was submitted to the USDA Rural Development for Petersburg; a follow-up from that office has requested EIRUSS to submit a full application for the project. Discussion followed concerning an Orenco system versus a lagoon system for Petersburg. Ohrtmann said this new system will have one tank instead of individual septic tanks at each residence. This system will take less space, the cost will be similar, and it will have better effluent. Two sites were offered for the sewer system; a geotech survey is needed to determine which site will be better for the system.

Cedar County projects

A. Gandt project

- i. Presentation by Kent Rice, French-Reneker Associates**
- ii. Review/action on Gandt project**
 - a. Secure attorneys**
 - b. Application(s) for funding**
 - c. Other**

Rice from French-Reneker Associates introduced himself and Ella May Gandt, owner of the West Liberty Campgrounds in Cedar County. Gandt is interested in selling the campgrounds, but must make improvements first. The current lagoon is single cell which the DNR says is not acceptable and must be upgraded. Gandt has tried private funding; is not eligible for SRF funds; nor eligible for CDBG funds. It was suggested that funds may be available for Gandt if combined with one of EIRUSS' projects, such as Leisure Lake. Discussion followed concerning working with private owners versus communities and if the next owner would work with EIRUSS. Board member consensus that staff would conduct additional research and the Gandt project would be on the August EIRUSS agenda. Board members thanked Rice and Gandt for coming to the meeting.

At this time, Rice and Gandt left the meeting.

B. Other projects

- i. Review/action on potential projects**

Schneider said he and Nagle met with the Cedar County Supervisors; there are no projects currently being pursued, nor is there any interest in starting a project in the County. Nagle mentioned a private school by West Branch that may need some assistance, but staff has been unable to reach anyone. Davisson said this potential project could be on the August EIRUSS agenda.

Morley project

A. Review/action on authorization to proceed on request for assistance

- i. Secure attorneys**
- ii. Secure 28E agreement for SRF Planning/Design loan**
- iii. Apply for SRF Planning/Design loan**
- iv. Prepare Request for Qualifications for Engineer**
- v. Other**

Schneider said he and Nagle attended a community meeting at Morley concerning the septic issues. The DNR said that the violations need to be addressed; the USDA Rural Development office said Morley is eligible as a small community and should work with EIRUSS.

Motion by Ries, second by Frieberg to approve and authorize ECIA staff to proceed on request for assistance for Morley's sewer system to secure attorneys, secure 28E agreement for SRF Planning/Design loan, to apply for SRF Planning/Design loan, and to prepare Request for Qualifications for Engineer. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Fairview

Schneider said staff was waiting for responses from USDA Rural Development and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on the environmental surveys for Fairview. SHPO responded negatively, so the USDA Iowa Office contacted the USDA Washington DC Office about meeting due diligence and concurrence on the project. Staff is now waiting for a letter from the USDA Washington DC Office to the USDA Iowa Office that the due diligence has been met on the Fairview environmental situation; and that the project can move forward. Once the letter is received, the USDA office will advise staff. Schneider noted that the soil will still need to be monitored as the project proceeds.

Dubuque County

Frieberg said he met with the Dubuque County Board of Health staff about collaboration between the City and County. Staff was invited to the EIRUSS meeting, but no one attended.

Lake Delhi

Discussion followed by board members and staff concerning the flooding and the failure of the dam at Lake Delhi. A Presidential FEMA declaration may be possible for Delaware County, providing assistance at the federal level in addition to assistance from the County and the State.

Building Sustainability Grant

Schneider informed board members that the DNR has announced EIRUSS will receive another \$25,000 building sustainability grant for the year.

Adjournment

Motion by Frieberg, second by Boedeker to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Schneider
Director of Community Development and Public Works