

**TWO LAKE COLLABORATIVE SEWER AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2022  
6:00 PM, FARR CENTER, ONEKAMA**

**Meeting Called To Order** By Chair Person David Meister At 7:30 PM

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Attendance:** Shelly Lynnes (BLV – arriving at 7:35), Judy Girven (PTWP), Jeff Harthun (BLTWP), David Meister (OTWP), Shelli Johnson (Contractor, Recorder), Ken Schwerdt (Engineer, Wade Trim).

**Amend Agenda:** None

**Public Comment:**

Q: Is this the meeting to send in all the papers to the government?

A: It's on the Agenda.

Libby Schleiffarth lead a discussion transparency and a plan moving forward to keep the public informed. A timeline of events to expect and an explanation of events to happen on the website.

Linda Schweyer encouraged the authorization to move forward with the application and not to wait for more questions; as we get answers we will get information.

Armin Schleiffarth had a cost comment...using the cost presented at the December 2021 informational meeting, question #110 (from the 300 questions) and section 8.2 of the 2021 Preliminary Engineering Report, the rough math works like this: \$80 a month for construction costs. \$80 a month for operation and maintenance (user fee). Grant money can only be used to cover construction costs. Best case scenario, TLSA receives 75% grant and 25% loan. 25% of \$80 = \$20.  $\$80 + \$20 = \$100$  per month per property for 40 years, or \$48,000. That is the minimum cost based on the numbers presented to the public.

Q: Is this for the health of the lake or economic development? Hasn't been presented accurately.

Judy Spohn asked if the cost of the proposed waste water facility was included in the grant, and what is the necessary acreage for the project?

Answer: Yes, it is worked into the cost of the grant, and approximately 20 acres would be the minimum.

Schwerdt stated that in order to submit an application, we had to choose a parcel. The parcel had to be suitable and every parcel is different. Less property is less expensive, obviously.

Sam Ceffaratti stated that he was excited at first. Now, he's questioning it. It's really a glorified wastewater system. What's up stream? All of those streams are feeders and could be contaminating the lake. No matter where you put it somebody is going to be affected by it.

**MINUTES:** **Motion** by Harthun, Second by Girven to approve the June 2022 Minutes. M/C  
Table the Minutes of the Public Hearing until next meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Report by Girven. There is a bill to pay for Eric Williams for \$337.50.  
**Motion** by Harthun, Second by Lynnes to pay Eric Williams bill. M/C **Motion** by Harthun,  
Second by Girven to pay Wade Trim \$446.99 out of the Grant Money. M/C

#### **USDA RD GRANT APPLICATION CONSIDERATION:**

Schwerdt explained the steps for the application process:

#### Two Lakes Collaborative Sewer Authority

##### Process for Submission of a Funding Application to the USDA Rural Development

This is a brief description of the process expected if the TLSA decides to proceed with the submittal of an application for funding from the USDA Rural Development (RD).

The Notice of Intent was published on August 19, 2022. The TLSA has 60 days (October 18) from that date to submit a full application before they are required to have another public hearing.

If the TLCSA votes to proceed with the application submittal, the next steps would be as follows:

- Wade Trim would complete a final review of the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) to update construction costs, verify the map and parcel lists match, and update timelines within the PER.

Wade trim works directly with RD Staff (Blake Smith- RD area specialist, and Andy Granskog- RD State Engineer) to make sure the application is complete and correct prior to submission.

- The fully prepared application is submitted electronically to RD by the TLSA signing authority, David Meister as Chairman of the TLSA.

- Rural Development begins their review and has 45 days to respond with an Eligibility Letter. This letter states what the project is eligible for in terms of % of grants, % of loans, and what interest rate category the project qualifies for.

- Since this project is beyond the funding levels of the Michigan Rural Development office, it will automatically get sent on to the USDA Rural Development National Office for determination of actual funding amounts. When the National Office completes their review of the project, they will send the TLCSA a Letter of Conditions. This letter states the actual dollar amounts of grants and loans that RD can offer to the project along with the conditions required for utilizing the funding. It may take several months for the National Office to respond with their Letter of Conditions.

- Once the Letter of Conditions is received, the TLSA will need to assess the project costs after the grant/loan funding amounts are offered and decide whether or not to proceed with the project.

TLSA is under no obligation to use the funding and can withdraw at any time. If TLSA decides to proceed, TLSA will sign the Engineering agreement to begin the design. Proceeding with design would also require setting up transitional funding sources for legal and design fees that happen prior to bid award when the RD funding becomes available to the TLSA. These costs are included in the total project cost estimated in the PER.

Once the TLSA receives the Letter of Conditions it is up to them how to proceed, the funding agency

does not have any more required steps or public hearings to start the project.

There is no application fee to submit the application to Rural Development.

The application will be available on the website when submitted.

Dan Behring recommends designing some sort of referendum, since a vote is not legal. Error on asking too much not too little, and formalize a way to get information out to the people.

**Motion** by Girven, Second by Lynnes to have Wade Trim submit the Application to USDA RD. Roll Call Vote: Lynnes – Yes, Girven – Yes, Harthun – Yes, Meister – Yes. M/C

Suggestion to have a complete list of the Contractor Group on the website.

Dave Adams stated that tonight history was made. This is the first time we're going to find out what the cost is. We've never gotten this far. Thank you for all of your hard work!

The Website is now up-to-date with the Village of Bear Lake Parcel List split out.

**MEETINGS ARE MOVING TO THE 1<sup>ST</sup> TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7 PM.**

The next meeting is Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:34 PM