

**STEUBEN LAKES REGIONAL WASTE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
OCTOBER 25, 2012
12-10 SP-1**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Coder
Bill Heckley
Jim Kidd
Harry Krebs
George Pifer
Lyndon Tucker
Jim Van Vlerah

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Also Present

--- **Bruce** Boxberger – District Attorney

Bill Heckley called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., and welcomed the members of the audience.

Bill Heckley read the following statement: At the end of the meeting, the public will be given an opportunity to speak. In the interest of time, each person shall be limited to 3 minutes. Your comments will be part of the public record of the meeting so we ask that you present them in a professional manner and speak to issues relevant to the business of the District.

NORTHEAST CORNER DRAFT PER & ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Ken Jones spoke on behalf of Wightman Petrie, Inc., and presented to the Board a draft copy of the engineering report. Mr. Jones elaborated on six different options and costs of residences that are connected and ones that have the potential to be. He stated that option #3 is the more desirable option. Mr. Jones recommended reviewing the document in detail understanding all of the details before making a decision. Mr. Boxberger explained that two more public meetings will be held regarding the report.

DISTRICT BUSINESS & OTHER GENERAL MATTERS

Public Comments - Bill Heckley asked the audience if there were any questions anyone wanted to ask.

Hap Saalfrank: One quick question.

Bill Heckley: If you'll come up here and give us your name and address.

Hap Saalfrank: I'm going to pass on that.

Bill Heckley: Ok, I'll go with that.

Hap Saalfrank: My name is Hap Saalfrank and I live on 120 and my only question is - what is your time frame on making a decision on this project?

Bill Heckley: We, I mean, we just presented this tonight. So I mean we really don't...

Hap Saalfrank: Are we talking about two more public meetings. Are you talking two months, six months?

Bill Heckley: At least a couple months, yeah. I mean, we are going to be looking at it, so do you have some comments, go ahead and make those, you know.

Don Dumoulin: Great, Hi, I'm Don Dumoulin. I live on Lone Tree Point. Um, I guess, my first comment is um, of the, I am going to guess here, but of the 763 people that are affected by this, my guess is, uh, under 20% actually live in Angola. Um, I went through the directory and found that we live in eight states and to announce this meeting one week ago in the Steuben paper that none of us take and to have a meeting that affects us that live all over the country, quite honestly in the middle of Fall when none of us are at the lake, I think is preposterous. Um, I truly think that we have to have a clear and fair communication plan here and that would be to set the meetings up today, announce them via the bills that go out on a monthly basis to every customer so that we have a chance to have a fair hearing. If you recall a couple of hundred of years ago, um, representation without taxation was a bit of a problem in this country. I think we have that same very similar issue going on here. So that is point number one. Um, point number two, I don't think there has been any scientific evidence yet that the system in Lone Tree Point is actually faulty. Um, what I understand, and I could be wrong, so please correct me. The engineer liked to use the term the end of useful life. I'm CEO of a couple of different companies over the past ten years and have had lots and lots of machinery that lasts way, way, beyond its useful life, and I think we really need to do a piece of analysis that says how much longer past its useful life can we go before we would in fact need to replace the system that works perfectly. Lone Tree Point is actually landlocked as everybody knows if you have ever been up there. So it's not like there is going to be another hundred homes that are going to be built or a mall that is going to come in. So, we're landlocked, so why replace the system ahead of what it truly needs to be replaced. The, and then the final point that I make is, uh, actually two other points. Um, are we sure that in the analysis, the park, which seemed to me, the math was a little interesting. I think you got a 100 room hotel at the park plus 500 or 600 campgrounds. How that could be a number that should be significantly more on a REU basis, and I am not a technical person here, that all the homeowners combined, given the number of people that go through the park on an ongoing basis. So I think we really ought to push that because quite honestly, the hotels and the parks aren't paying a similar amount to what their own systems cost now, we should cost shift to those two big entities and make them pay a number that is very similar. The last thing I, I guess I would raise is if I do the math right 763

homeowners times \$75.00 a month times 12 months a year times 40 years, says that the, the uh sewer commission is going to collect somewhere in the neighborhood of 27 1/2 million dollars from us landholders in that period of time over 40 years. Well, why don't we say to the people that are affected by this, "hey you know what, the bills 7 1/2 million divide it by 73 or 763, divide it by 3, three years divided by 12 and everyone comes up with \$800.00 or \$900.00 at one time and we're paid up for 3 years. It seems to be a much more fiscally sound approach to a project that maybe not even need to be done. So.

Applause was heard throughout the room.

Bill Heckley: Anything else. Anybody else have anything?

Dan Thiele: Hi, my name is Dan Thiele. I live on Little Otter Lake, 200 LN 150. I'm opposed to the project so far based on what I've heard but I, I do want to uh, just ask if the public would be given more details. You mention the board members but the public has got very little to go on at this point, so far as background figures and what is involved in this, so hopefully that will be part of the plan. I also hope that the Board will remember what, uh, they said back at the Ramada Inn in January 2010 when officials said they had no interest in pursuing an unwanted project. In fact, officials were quoted to saying "If you don't want this, we sure don't want this." OK, I think that we, I know that our group that is opposed to this expansion has collected hundreds of signatures from property owners and residents who would be rate payers impacted in the area we were told that people had to assess their opinion in writing. Now by contrast, those in favor, were, uh told the District has received some phone calls from people who were in favor of the sewers. I believe it will cost a financial hardship. Some of our neighbors are going to be displaced and it would cause increased dependency on forced connection to a utility. I also don't believe that there has been a demonstrated environmental need for this project. I would like to see some kind of thorough testing plan other than useful lives of systems or national EPA averages that are imputed down to Steuben County, and that's so far all I have seen. There may be more in the report, but then again, we don't have the report in front of us. So, I would ask the District to keep those things in mind.

Bill Heckley: Can we use your soil borings? Dan, can we use your soil borings? Would that be acceptable to you? The test that you just had on your system, can we use those?

Dan Thiele: I would welcome the chance to come to come to the District(undiscernable).

Bill Heckley: Anyone else?

Jim Salway: My name is Jim Salway, and I live on Big Otter Lake and I, commend Don on his comments. I have one particular question for uh, the uh, engineering firm. I wonder how many of these have done for the 100's of lakes he has talked about and how many have come back with a recommendation of do not move forward. I would have to think it's none. Because it's not as near as interest to reach this

point, done the engineering they've done and then back off and not get the additional money from actually getting the work done and moved on. So what I see tonight is a presentation in self interest. It's in their interest that this move forward in addition to the District. I again do not think that they have proven the need for it and didn't hear anything tonight on the environmental study at all. This is strictly the engineering, the engineering part of it but we have to also look at how long this facility will last before its life is up, as you sir said, this life will be up on this facility too at some point, and then there are billions and billions of dollars required to expand this place. If it's only thousands, then hundreds of thousands here. You certainly have to look at billions to do all of this all over and upgrade everything else. At a recent meeting they talked about some of the, some of the grinder stations where the pumps are going bad. They talk about how much it would cost to replace all of those. I got to tell you it cost me \$150.00 to pump my septic system last time which had three inches of film on top and three and a half on the bottom of a 1200 gallon tank. I have to think I have an awful lot of capacity and that's over three years. And that's after three years. So, if I only used three at the top and three at the bottom and a lot of water, and not contaminating, and my well tests good, I have to think someplace along the line the engineering report... needs to go where they don't need to go.

Bill Heckley: Alright, your 3 minutes are up. Thank you.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Mr. Heckley asked for a motion to adjourn. Such motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.