Warm Springs Wastewater Sub-group Report September 16, 2019

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Background:
Currently the Tribes manage four wastewater systems on the reservation including two facultative lagoon systems located in Simnasho and Sunnyside. Additionally, the Tribes have the Warm Springs Wastewater Treatment Facility (NPDES Permit No. OR-003263-8) and the Kah-nee-ta Wastewater Treatment Facility (NPDES Permit No. OR 003410-0). The Kah-nee-ta system only discharges to the river in the winter months from October-March. There are three wastewater lift stations at Composite Products, Deschutes Crossing and the Museum at Warm Springs which are the only pressurized wastewater collection systems, the rest is by gravity flow.

Estimated costs related to this infrastructure are:

1) Warm Springs Treatment Plant - $658,500 (tentative; likely needs more expensive re-build)
    - Planning, engineering/design needed here
2) Kah-nee-ta Plant/Lagoon Systems - $2,940,960 (this cost reflects the resort being open)
    - Planning, engineering/design needed here
3) Sunnyside Lagoon Systems - $1,063,181
4) Simnasho Lagoon Systems - $582,000 (tentative)

There are also sewer and water projects in the downtown campus area (pending action by the BIA) and industrial park (EDA grant pending, $1.4M).

EPA is the issuing agency for the two NPDES permits for the Warm Springs and Kah-nee-tah wastewater treatment plants. These permits are currently scheduled for reissuance in 2021. Both permits are currently administratively extended. There are also Administrative Orders on Consent (AOC) for both of these facilities.

Sub-group discussion:

The workgroup discussed the relationship between the water system and the capacity needs of the wastewater facilities. Because there does not appear to be enough information to determine future capacity needs, the work group identified the need for the water system to be repaired first so that the WWTPs could be sized appropriately.

EPA committed to reviewing existing engineering and design studies to determine what else may be needed to support permit renewal.

The Community Action Team also mentioned that it might be good to talk with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium about how they were able to secure buy in for a fee structure.

Funding Secured:

1) The Oregon legislature approved $7.8 M of lottery bond proceeds for water and wastewater infrastructure. Of this, $1.3M is dedicated to Wastewater treatment.

2) IHS $2,246,000 with $335,000 tribal match.
   The proposed improvements are recommended to improve the Warm Springs plant's capacity for compliance with the EPA permit. This project was added to the Tribes SDS list with IHS for 2019.

3) IHS $1,063,181 - Project will provide a new 2-acre lagoon cell (Sunnyside), relining of the existing western cell, conversion of the eastern cell to an evaporation and controlled percolation cell, installation of sewer main and required appurtenances, and improvements to the existing access road to allow for year-round st access. START 2020.

Additional Funding opportunities:

A. Facilities Planning
   1) USDA RD – has small amount of grant funding for planning related activities ($30,000 max; requires match).
   2) Business Oregon has technical assistance/planning grants up to $20,000.
   3) Administration for Native Americans, US Health and Human Services.
   4) US HUD needs to be tied to affordable housing; (Indian CDBG, Indian Housing block grant).
   5) US EPA, Tribal set-aside program. Grants for planning and design. Potential projects are scored and ranked on SDS, and typically administered in conjunction with IHS.
B. Infrastructure financing
   1) Business Oregon - grant/loan combination packages for infrastructure. Requires rate structure and resolution of outstanding issues with existing loan.
   2) USDA RD - tribal set aside grants and loans. Outstanding issues need to be resolved with outstanding loans (e.g. administrative issues, service reviews, financials need to be provided).
   3) US Economic Development Administration - (grant request for $1.4M for industrial park infrastructure pending).
   4) Oregon Department of Environmental Quality – Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund, low interest wastewater loans with potential for some principal forgiveness.
   5) Rural Community Assistance Corp – loans up to $200,000.
   6) US EPA – Tribal set-aside program. Grants. Potential projects are scored and ranked on SDS, and typically administered in conjunction with IHS. Can fund project administration and construction.
   7) US EPA – WIFIA loan guarantee program. Loans for 35 years for up to 49% of a project cost.

Recommended next steps:

1) Address water system leaks
2) Explore and implement measures to reduce inflow and infiltration
3) Establish a rate structure
4) Planning, engineering and design for Warm Springs and Kah nee ta Wastewater Treatment Plants
5) Define improvements for Simnasho lagoon