Warm Springs Wastewater Sub group Report September 10, 2019

Participants: Annette Liebe, Regional Solutions Coordinator, Office of Governor Kate Brown; Matt Mathia and Carolyn Meece, Business Oregon; David Wallis, Rural Community Assistance Corp.; Anthony Barber, US Environmental Protection Agency; Bruce Irwin, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; Sam Goldstein, US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development; Chris Watson and Corrina Miller, Warm Springs Community Action Team

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:

Warm Springs Treatment Plant - $658,500
Kah-nee-ta Plant/Lagoon Systems - $2,940,960 (this cost reflects the resort being open)
Sunnyside Lagoon Systems - $1,063,181
Simnasho Lagoon Systems - $582,000 (tentative)
TOTAL: $4,191,460

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.

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:

- 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.

- 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.

- 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
   a. USDA RD – has small amount of grant funding for planning related activities ($30,000 max; requires match)
   b. Business Oregon has technical assistance/planning grants up to $20,000
   c. Administration for Native Americans, US Health and Human Services
B. Infrastructure financing
   a. Business Oregon - grant/loan combination packages for infrastructure. Requires rate structure and resolution of outstanding issues with existing loan.
   b. 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).
   c. US Economic Development Administration - (grant request for $1.4M for industrial park infrastructure pending)
   d. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality - State Revolving Loan Fund
   e. Rural Community Assistance Corp – loans up to $200,000

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