

Meeting Summary

SE Bend Septic to Sewer Advisory Committee
Thursday, September 7, 2017



CITY OF BEND

Attendees:

Advisory Committee

John Barnard
Bethann Bicknase
Frank Fiedler
David Johnson
Scott Johnson
Connie Murray
Cheryl O'Donnell
Geoff Perry
Charlie Rowles
Jen VanCamp

Staff & Consultant Team

Tom Hickmann, P.E.
Susanna Julber
Anne Aurand
Skip Martin, P.E.
Sharon Wojda
Melissa Bradley
Ryan Oster
Liz Baskin
May Winters
Justin Mason, P.E.
Andy McCaskill, P.E.
Clark Worth
Libby Barg
Ron Hand
Shawn Koorn

City Council Liaison

Councilor Livingston

Solutions in Peer Communities

- Clark Worth of Barney & Worth, Inc. introduced the panel of finance experts to present case studies from unsewered areas in peer communities.
- Shawn Koorn, HDR finance lead, emceed the expert panel and offered lessons learned covering all of the case studies. Koorn also presented a case study for Spokane County, WA where 38,000 homes have been sewerred over the past 30 years.
- Dan Vizzini offered highlights from the mid-Multnomah County (Portland) program to serve the nation's most populous (130,000) unsewered area. A major reset in the program transitioned from an LID-based strategy to City-financed CIP approach. The program finished six years early and 16% under budget.
- Gordon Wilson, FCS financial consultant, reviewed the experience in the Sunnyslope area adjacent to Wenatchee, WA where the City is working to install sewers for 1,200 residences on septic systems.

Committee Q&A

- Questions and Comments:
 - What was the initial situation in each community?
 - How was community outreach handled?
 - Why were LIDs abandoned?
 - How did the deferrals work for property owners?
 - Were there regulatory drivers similar to the 300-foot rule?
 - How does the Sunnyslope (Wenatchee) Area Fee work?

Report on Initial Public Outreach

- Ron Hand, DOWL, reviewed the results of the door-to door canvass of 508 residences and online survey that generated responses from 168 project area homeowners.

Issues aired by participants included:

- Cost to property owner
- Septic system new/working – no need
- Equity
- Construction/impacts/timing/phasing
- Access during construction

Survey respondents requested more information on all of these topics:

- 89% Cost to homeowners
- 77% Rules for hooking up
- 68% Construction timing
- 63% Financing options
- 62% Decommissioning septic systems
- 55% Effect on property values

- Clark Worth, Barney & Worth, presented highlights of two focus groups conducted on August 12. The two groups included:
 - #1 – Kings Forest property owners (9 participants)
 - #2 – Kings Forest (4 participants) plus citywide sewer customers (4 participants)Attendees participated in written exercises followed by discussion.

Homeowners want more information, and some suspect the City is withholding details.

All agree the City and homeowners should share the costs of installing sewers.

Two summary reports are available providing highlights of focus group results.

- Clark Worth observed the neighborhood feedback from the door-to-door contacts and focus groups generally confirms the preliminary values generated by the Advisory Committee in June.
- Questions and Comments:
 - The Committee requested a link to view the focus groups

Look Ahead: Preliminary Engineering I

- Justin Mason, P.E., DOWL project manager, offered a preview of the committee's October 5 meeting: *Preliminary Engineering I*.

Comment Request

- David Johnson requested an update for the Old Farm Neighborhood Association General Meeting on Thursday, Oct. 19, 6-8 p.m.

Announcements

- Upcoming meetings:
 - Thursday, October 5 (4-6 p.m.) *Preliminary Engineering I*
 - Thursday, November 2 (4-6 p.m.) *Four Ingredients of Affordability*