



**City of Three Forks
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MEETING MINUTES

DATE: 5/6/2026 TIME: 6PM

REASON for MEETING / COMMITTEE NAME: Water/Sewer Committee

ATTENDANCE: Garret Buchanan, Gene Townsend, Alex Blackburn, Steve Johnston, and Mayor Randy Johnston

DISCUSSION: #1) Discussion on the Wastewater Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and Amending Anything in the Draft. (Garret took minutes) First discussed was the wastewater discharge permit. Steve informed the Committee that Great West did not include data or ideas on what to expect, so worry about starting this renewal prior to 2027. They only used 2021, 2022, and 2025. Steve looked up 2023 and 2024 and presented the Committee with a chart. He also distributed copies of results from Energy Lab's tests the City submitted. to be included in the data. After comparing numbers, Steve said it looks to be a lot lower than the 20 points in the violation range.

Steve gave opinions that the sewer expansion is less pressing than other sewer issues. More pressing would be to replace the manholes near the School, which plug in the bypass where cracked and letting in infiltration, and the school is pumping groundwater directly into the sewer from their basement (sump pump is a violation). There was discussion on how to handle these sump pump violations – could the city encourage installation of dry wells, or create a charge (but why charge when it's against our ordinances?). Inflow and infiltration (I&I) in the sewer system is major problem. Steve would like to refocus city resources to concentrate on I&I and sewer repairs, and manhole cover replacements where still needed.

Steve did not recommend camera-ing the sewer mains (which were last done in 2015) because there are probably an additional 40 homes built since that time. The City has its own camera and Manhattan said we could borrow theirs as well and really focus on camera-ing the res. Utilizing the old camera data plus the new flow data from Great West, we could narrow down the I&I problem sump pump areas. Committee to read over the ordinance to see what the city's options are. Steve believed over the past four years that the BOD increase is only 1.5, and after a reduction of I&I we could reassess and see what the true number is.

The wastewater PER made it seem like the system was in crisis, and it is actually in much shape than presented to the Council. Steve believed he and his staff could do some repairs and not contract this work out (which would save the City some money) and focus on pressing maintenance, after the current Water Project and the Fire Hall addition are complete.

#2) Public comment on items not on the agenda. There was no public present.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 7PM

INITIALS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS (Approving minutes): _____

DRAFT