

Marcangeli Tells Details Of City Water Plant Problems



George Marcangeli

program.

George showed slides of the NRS study, which was authorized by the City Council on Aug. 28 of this year.

NRS, Inc. is Brawley Engineering. A former area man, Robert Vaughan, is project manager and a local office is at 521 South Second in McAlester. The office phone is 420-5500.

Although the plant can handle the capacity for a projected 12 percent population growth by 2030, it is currently under "Consent Orders" from the State Department of Environmental Quality (issued in September, 2007) in two areas, "Disinfection Byproducts" and "Total Organic Carbon removal." It was amended in January 2007 to include "turbidity violations."

The plant is required to remove 45 percent of Total Organic Carbon, and it is removing from 15 percent to 40 percent, according to the NRS report.

The city water plant currently is turning out 5.04 million gallons per day on an average day. On a "maximum day" in the summer, the plant produces 8.28 MGD.

In the year 2030, with a projected 12 percent population growth, it still can produce 5.65 million gallons per day, and on a projected "maximum day," can produce 9.27 MGD.

Although the study says the overall physical condition of facilities is "good for continued service," there are several problems that should be corrected.

Starting with raw water sources, Lake McAlester has a pumping capacity of 12 million gallons per day. Lake Eufaula has a pumping capacity of 12 million gallons per day. Lakes number one and number two water can "gravity flow" to Lake McAlester but cannot be pumped to the plant.

Lake McAlester has an inability to vary intake depth and has a common pump discharge header.

The Lake Eufaula Intake deficiencies include the inability to vary the intake depth. There also are "no controls for automatic operation. It cannot be "isolated from (the) Lake McAlester pump station." And the intake design "has siltation history."

Under "Clarification and Flocculation" the report says the plant "meets projected demand." However deficiencies include "multiple wall leaks and metal corrosion on weirs and mechanisms."

George said that for the first time in 25 years there is a "manganese problem" due to the "water levels in Lake McAlester."

Listed under "Filtration," the report says a deficiency is the "primary focus of Consent Order Case No 02-101(A). The deficiency is not revealed, but the study adds that "filter rehabilitation is being addressed by separate contract." This part of the study also says that proposed improvements

George Marcangeli told us last week all we ever wanted to know about the city water plant.

George, who has been with the city of McAlester for "almost 25 years," said that bonds for the water plant were approved in 1982, in the amount of \$7.7 million.

The bonds were later re-financed to pay for a city streets and bridges

include "new filter underdrains, air scour and elimination of cross connection."

Under "Water Storage," the report notes that one million gallons can be stored "on each side" of the storage area, the east side is out of service, due to excessive leaks. But even with one side out, the disinfection criteria can be met, the report says.

And although the plant is budgeted for eight employees the study recommends a "minimum of 10 employees" with two operators per shift, rather than the one, who is used presently.

A list of miscellaneous plant deficiencies includes:

1. Chlorine gas equipment and piping is failing and needs to be replaced.
2. The chlorine gas equipment and storage cylinders are in the same building as the operators, lab and main controls.
3. "There is no spill containment" for the chemical storage areas.
4. The main administration building and lab have foundation problems and a leaking roof.
5. The clarifier splitter box does not evenly distribute the flow to the three clarifiers and needs to be replaced.
6. The plant does not have a "S.C.A.D.A. system."

Listed under DBP control strategies, are chlorine optimization, TOC removal, and Water age management."

Alternatives for TOC reduction are listed as "1. Process operational changes-Enhanced coagulation, and 2. Plant improvements (new clarification.)"

Alternative No. 1 uses a "high dose of Alum or Ferric as coagulant in the existing flocculation/clarification process, Lowering pH to 5.5.

Preliminary jar tests results for McAlester Water TOC removal are 45 percent.

The report says the potential impacts of enhanced coagulation are, "Low pH can increase corrosion on exposed concrete and metals. Solution: Replacement of clarifier weirs; coating all metal and concrete surfaces. "

Noting that low pH interferes with oxidation of Manganese,

the report says the solution is "Relocation of oxidant feed to get maximum detention time prior to clarifier. The estimated capital cost for alternative #1 is \$600,000. The

estimated annual coagulant operational cost comparison, proposed alum coagulant is \$118,000. Added to the GAC, that cost is \$419,000.

Alternative #2 for TOC removal is to pilot, design and construct a new clarification process, proven to remove TOCs, at an estimated capital cost of \$4,820,000.

George said the report will recommend alternative no. 1, plant modifications for enhanced coagulation at a total project estimated cost of \$4.2 million.

The other alternative would involve new clarification improvements, at a total estimated project cost of \$8,420,000.

The Department of Environmental Quality can fine a city \$10,000 a day, for continued violations.

The "funding mechanism" is up to the council, Marcangeli said.

Fire Chief Tells New Fire Station Plans, Thanks To Choctaws



Fire Chief Harold Stewart

Fire Chief Harold Stewart told us two weeks ago about plans for a new \$1.6 million fire station.

He described half a dozen possible sites along Peaceable Road, the George Nigh Expressway, and the Elks Lodge areas.

The Choctaw Tribe would obtain an \$800,000 grant and

The old fire station in Chadick Park was torn down in 1975, after a new station was built near Puterbaugh School.

Now the “new” station is 30 years old, he noted.

Two acres are needed for the location for the new

Station. Some of the potential sites have more than that. Some need a road built to the area.

“We are gathering up figures and putting some figures together,” the chief said.

“We have sufficient service units” (fire trucks) for a new station.. Asked if there are enough personnel, he said there are 43 firefighters, but he had been asking for additional personnel for several years, without success.

Asked if a vote by the citizens is necessary, he said he did not know.

“We’re going to get the job done,” he said....We’re providing a service.... We need your support,” he stated.

Stewart also told about a grant the city has received for a system of “wireless cameras” on city streets. The system is about 95 percent operational, he added.

match it, according to the plans.

The design is being drawn up because of a population shift in the city, the Fire Chief explained. “We try to plan for 50 years into the future of McAlester.”

The chief said that “response time is critical,” and when there is a change in population, that affects the response time.

At the present time, the farthest areas from a fire station are “a little over 10 minutes away,” Stewart said. “The faster we get there,” the better the firefighters can do for people and property, he reminded.

Fiddle and Guitar Players Give Club ‘Variety’ of Music



Michael Ginsburg on the “fiddle,” left, and Kevin Priddle on the guitar, right

Michael Ginsburg and Kevin Priddle Nov. 13, gave us a sample of the “real wide variety” that that was presented to the public that Friday night, Nov. 16, at the “United We Stand” performance.

Ginsburg, the 2007 Oklahoma State Fiddle Champion, and Priddle on the guitar, started with Ashokan Farewell and the Jesse Polka, and included Irish, Christian, Blue Grass and Christmas music at our Nov. 13 meeting.

Next was “The Devil’s Dream,” a Bluegrass number. The two played the song from the movie “Titanic,” which was a religious medley. Next was a Christmas medley. Then the pair played a “Train Song.”



High School Choir Performs, Plans Told For Trip, Christmas Concert

McAlester High School Music Teacher Marie Lutz told us Nov. 6 about her choir’s holiday plans and a trip to New York City’s Carnegie Hall in the future. Her choir also sang, “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” and selections from the stage show “Oklahoma!”

The first song, an African-American spiritual, was written in 1865, she said. Gerri Burris accompanied the singers, on the piano.

Several high school singers were members of the All District Choir, and

several were trying out for the All State Choir.

The choir is available to perform at Christmas parties or to sing Christmas carols to people, in a fund raiser, she announced.

The annual Christmas Concert was Sunday, Dec. 2, at 2:30 p.m. at S. Arch Thompson Auditorium. A “Silent Auction” was scheduled beforehand. A reception was slated afterwards.

Visitors, Handshakers and ‘Rotary Poker’

Last week there were 48 at the meeting. Lorie Russ was a guest of Dorothy Kennedy. Good Citizens from McAlester High School the past month have been Kim Waldrop and Caitlin Clifton.

The previous Tuesday, there were just 32. Trey Renegar was a guest of Brian, and David Winnett was a guest of Jack Chatenay.

On Nov. 13, there were 50 attending. Karl Scifres had two guests, Carol Maxwell and Fred Probis, from the vo-tech school. Yvette Martin had as her guest, Susan Clark.

On Nov. 6, there were 49 present. John Chatenay was a guest of Jack, and

David Brown was a guest of John Freeman.

HANDSHAKERS-The women controlled the money last month, with Ann Owens giving the dollar to Gary Boyd, last Tuesday. Loise Washington got the money from Jim Bland the previous week. Jim Thompson gave the dollar to Helen Wheeler on Nov. 13; and Larry Bishop had the dollar on Nov. 6, because he has developed such a sincere handshake in his business. And he gave the buck to Brett Smith.

Then Brett, who hopefully has all that cash from “Rotary Poker,” kept the money, despite attempts to pick the joker by Larry, Nobel Miller, Roi Nelson, and many others.