

## RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING

MARCH 17, 2011

The Council convened for a workshop meeting at 5:40 p.m. in the meeting room at Ridgway Town Hall, 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado. Members in attendance were Councillors Durnan, Hunter, Johnson, Weaver, Mayor Pro Tem Clark and Mayor Willits. Councillor Patterson was absent.

Notice of Workshop Meeting dated 3-10-11.

#### 1. Presentation of Feasibility Study of the Ridgway Ditch and Otonowanda Reservoir

Craig Ullman representing Applegate Group Inc. presented slides outlining the findings of the feasibility study performed over the last year on the Ridgway Ditch and Otonowanda Reservoir. The purpose of the study was to determine the Town's water rights and estimate demands on the system in the year 2030 and the ability of existing water rights to meet the need, identify alternative water sources if necessary, review existing infrastructure and make recommendations regarding improvements.

The annual demand for treated water between the years of 2002 and 2009 was 169 acre feet, and non-potable approximately 111 feet. Based on growth projections the population is expected to double by the year 2030, which would be a total demand of 491 acre feet.

He reviewed the Town's major water rights which include Ridgway Ditch (32csf), Happy Hollow Ditch (up to 2 cfs), Lake Otonowanda (756 acre feet storage right, and currently has a capacity of 120 acre feet), Ridgway Town Reservoir (which holds 14.9 acre feet), and some minor water rights (totaling less than 1 csf) which were not considered as a source for the study. Current water rights are sufficient to meet the 2030 projection, however if the water right calls on Ridgway Ditch during 2002 and 2003 are included, it would not have met the needs.

Lake Otonowanda is a natural basin with current storage capacity of 120 acre feet, or 26 acres of surface water at a maximum depth of 6 feet, and currently has no outlet. The study identified the need to reconstruct the dam for more water storage. The geotechnical survey shows the area to be comprised of sandy clay material and bedrock, and a wetlands study identified 2.6 acres of wetlands in a thin band around the perimeter of the lake. There are two options to increase the reservoir storage capacity. One is to keep the existing lake and increase the storage to 347 acre feet, or an area of 29 acres, at a depth of 16 feet, which would be an embankment volume of 68,000 cy. The other option would be to construct the reservoir off Town property for a storage of 377 acre feet, over 62 acres, at a depth of 10.5 feet.

He noted the reservoir inlet and outlet should be reconstructed with gates. Two outlet options were investigated, a siphon and a new tunnel bore. The cost to construct the siphon was \$315,000 and would be complicated, require high operation and maintenance costs and require a separate spillway pipe. Construction of a tunnel would be \$413,000 would be simple to install, and have lower overhead and maintenance costs, and use a combined spillway. The siphon outlet would provide 4,233 acre feet and the new tunnel 4,524 acre feet.

Mr. Ullmann addressed current construction costs for reservoir improvements based on installing a siphon outlet, and also funding sources for a project of this type.

He reviewed piping and lining options, and rehabilitation of the head gate for Ridgway Ditch (the head gate is located at Beaver Creek). He noted funding options for the rehabilitation project could probably be included in the reservoir improvement grant. He addressed the Happy Hollow System and the diversion to the pipeline.

Mr. Ullmann concluded the Town has sufficient water rights to meet the needs of 2030 but the storage capacity of Lake Otonawanda must be increased between 347 and 377 acre feet of storage, and an outlet constructed. He noted Ridgway Ditch would benefit from the improvement. He recommended Option 1 for the reservoir improvements as it would provide less evaporation and seepage; less algae bloom; and it is currently owned by the Town. He noted the proposed construction costs are lower than other recent water reservoir projects throughout the state.

He explained the next steps are to install measuring devices and collect data; conduct a seepage test; and revisit model assumptions and reservoir sizes. The final design would require engineering design, property line surveying, additional geotech studies and a Threatened and Endangered Species investigation. The construction would require stopping water from entering the lake, and draining it through evaporation and seepage, which could take one to two years.

There were questions and discussion by the Council and members of the audience.

## 2. Update on efforts of Gunnison Valley Inter-Basin Compact Committee

Public Works Director Joanne Fagan presented background on legislative formation of nine statewide independent basin roundtables formed with the goal to bring together water users from the agricultural community with representatives from municipalities, counties, recreation and water conservation districts to find solutions to meet the states future water needs. She presented an update on assessments and planning being undertaken by the Gunnison Valley Basin, of which she represents the Town.

## 3. Discussion regarding Statewide Regional Tourism Act

Manager Jen Coates explained the Ouray County Board of County Commissioners have asked if the Town is interested in participating in development of a regional economic development group to prepare a grant for statewide regional transportation funds. The proposed region would consist of the counties within Region 10. All the counties have opted out of participating she noted, and the Ouray County Commissioners have stated they will also make this choice, but first requested input from the Town and City of Ouray. The City has chosen to not participate.

There was discussion regarding the tourism act, potential projects and submission deadline for the grant application. The Council agreed to not participate.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC  
Town Clerk