The La Conner Wastewater Advisory Board was called to order at 3:30 p.m. Present were Administrator John Doyle, Town Councilmember Jacques Brunisholz, Chairperson and Manager for the Swinomish Utility Authority John Petrich, Plant Operator Kelly Wynn, and Finance Director Maria DeGoede.

Approval of Minutes:
John Doyle had a correction to the second paragraph of the Public Forum section of the March 19, 2014 Minutes. The words catering station should be metering station. Jacques Brunisholz moved to approve the Minutes of March 19, 2014 with the aforementioned correction. Seconded by John Doyle, the Minutes of March 19, 2014, were approved unanimously.

Finance Report:
Through the month of August 2014 (66% of the budget year), revenue is at 60% and the expenses are at 44%. John Doyle asked where the treatment plant was at for the metering station. Kelly mentioned it was part of the Boardwalk project. There is a metering station at the street end, so the rebuilding of the station fell in with the Boardwalk schedule. John Petrich asked if they were behind on the capital expenditures. John Doyle mentioned it will be done by the end of the year. When they get to doing the shoreward areas, it will be included in the mitigation areas to avoid competing with other projects within the same area. Kelly mentioned the area was being cleared now and the project is underway. He also stated there are minor capital improvements around the treatment plant that need to be done.

Kelly mentioned the treatment plant received 10 yards of filtrate material (residuals from water treatment) from Anacortes; they are in the process of incorporating the materials into some of the compost for use in “rain gardens”. John Doyle explained the water treatment material is being used with the compost because biosolids compost is high in phosphorous and the residual material from water treatment aids in binding the phosphorous and helps it leach out more slowly. The biosolids compost is comparable to yard waste compost and other types of compost. This compost is better for rain gardens and for fixing and retaining pollutants. Kelly stated the space near the free composting area at the treatment plant will be filled in to create a rain garden. The compost will go in there and plants will go on top of the compost to help absorb the phosphorus. There will also be a demonstration garden to give people an example of what they can do with their own gardens. The goal is to have a rain garden compost mixture for people to use.

The electrical evaluation to add capacity to the treatment plant is in process and there should be a report by the end of the year. The Town is still trying to relocate the fuel tank at the treatment plant, but there are problems with finishing up this project. John Doyle mentioned that there should be a clear understanding of the 2015 Budget by the next WAB meeting.

Public Forum:
No comments

Old Business:
John Petrich brought up the topic of longer term planning and budgeting for capital. John Doyle mentioned that he and John Petrich need to discuss the capital and come up with something by
the next WAB meeting that will pass as an accepted policy framework for the Senate and the Council in regards to the gray area of the agreement. They need to address what has been identified as a fundamental concern and agree upon policy objectives that the auditor can clearly understand. These objectives need to allow the Town and the Tribe to conduct fiscally responsible business.

John Doyle mentioned the mutual acceptance of the need to come to an agreement and amend the existing contract for the specific purpose of capital charges. John Doyle said there is a conflict in the current agreement. On one hand the contract allows the Town to have a reserve set aside and on the other hand it states that any unspent funds need to be reimbursed. Jacques asked if they are looking at mutual participation in capital improvements. John Doyle stated that is correct and he wants to build rate structures that gradually build the reserves in order to avoid rate shock and at the same time complete projects and maintain the facility.

**New Business:**
**Discussed with Old Business**

**Operator’s Report:**
Kelly stated the treatment plant was featured in Treatment Plant Operator magazine for September. He will provide copies for the Town. The treatment plant had an impromptu inspection by a composting consultant. The consultant said they are doing the best they can do with the composting program. The treatment plant also had an inspection from Department of Ecology and they also said the plant is running smoothly.

Kelly met with CHS Engineers and they alluded to the possibility of increasing the plant’s flow, as well as the BOD and TSS capacities. He believes it would be to the plant’s benefit to have CHS do the analysis to see if the capacities can be increased. He would like to see this happen this year if the budget allows. Kelly mentioned the analysis involves reevaluating the structures and then determining if the plant’s capacity can be increased or not.

Kelly thinks this year the plant will be fine with compost, but in years to come there is a good possibility that it will run out. A lot of compost material is being purchased. People love the compost product the plant provides. John Petrich asked if people are charged for the compost. Kelly said there is a charge but the plant also has a free bin if people want to load the material themselves.

There have been three odor complaints in the last two months. One complaint was plant related and it was dealt with. The other two complaints came from the Wild Iris during hours when the plant wasn’t operating. Kelly believes most often the smells are coming from waste from the Hedlin Farms composting area, which is located next to the treatment plant. Manure, garden waste, etc. can be dumped at the Hedlin Farms composting area and this creates smells. Hedlin Farms cannot use the compost from the treatment plant because they can only have 100% organic compost. Wild Iris has been notified that the smells could very well be coming from the Hedlin Farms area. Kelly stated all in all everything is going really well with the wastewater treatment plant and with the composting business.

John Doyle mentioned he went and toured the fish plant. He believes everything there is going really well. Operations are running smoothly and that will help with the upcoming humpy season. Kelly stated getting the treatment plant’s capacity adjusted will help even more with the upcoming season.
Miscellaneous:
None

There being no further business, John Petrich moved to adjourn, seconded by John Doyle. Meeting adjourned at 4:06 pm.