

**CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL  
and  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR MESA COUNTY**

**ANNUAL JOINT PERSIGO MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 27, 2008**

**Call to Order**

The Grand Junction City Council and the Mesa County Commissioners Annual Joint Persigo meeting was called to order by President of the Council Gregg Palmer at 6:04 p.m. on August 27, 2008 in the City Auditorium.

City Councilmembers present were Bonnie Beckstein, Teresa Coons, Jim Doody, Bruce Hill, Doug Thomason, and City Council President Gregg Palmer. Absent was Councilmember Linda Romer Todd.

From Mesa County, County Commissioner Chair Janet Rowland and Commissioners Craig Meis and Steve Acquafresca were present.

Also present were City Staffers City Manager Laurie Kadrich, City Attorney John Shaver, Deputy City Manager Rich Englehart, Public Works and Planning Director Tim Moore, Utilities and Street Systems Director Greg Trainor, Deputy Director of Utilities and Streets Systems Terry Franklin, Utilities Engineer Bret Guillory, Persigo WTP Manager Dan Tonello, and City Clerk Stephanie Tuin.

County Staffers present were County Administrator Jon Peacock, Public Works Director Pete Baier, and Clerk to the Board Bert Raley.

**Introduction**

Utilities and Street Systems Director Greg Trainor introduced those present and reviewed some of the accomplishments at the Persigo Waste Water Treatment Plant in the past year.

**Persigo Wastewater Treatment Plant Budget – 2008 Revised and 2009 Proposed**

Utilities and Street Systems Director Greg Trainor then reviewed the purpose of the meeting, noting the budgetary information is general and the specifics will be presented to each governing body at subsequent meetings. No action is being requested at this time.

Regarding changes in the service area, there will be an issue on the November 4, 2008 ballot to dissolve the Fruitvale Sanitation District. If that measure passes, the Persigo system will take over that system. Currently Persigo treats that sewer area but the dissolution will result in the Persigo system maintaining their collection system too.

Similar future elections will come forward for Central Grand Valley and Orchard Mesa Sanitation Districts.

Council President Palmer asked what happens if the measure fails. Mr. Trainor referred to the City Attorney John Shaver. City Attorney Shaver advised the agreement provides that the measure continues to go on the ballot until it is approved.

Commissioner Meis asked how long the dissolution has been planned. City Attorney Shaver responded that it has been planned since 2004. Commissioner Meis asked for assurances that the financial accommodations have been provided in the operating plan for the plant. City Attorney Shaver assured him as such. Commissioner Meis further wanted to know if the plant will be taking on additional liability by taking over. City Attorney Shaver assured him that there are assets that will be acquired. Mr. Trainor advised that the City has TV'd their system the last two years and has cleaned the system twice so they are aware of the condition of the system. Mr. Trainor continued that two informational meetings are required prior to dissolution to talk about customer service, billing, and improvements to the system. They are in the process of planning those meetings.

Mr. Trainor continued that there is a 2.5% increase in rates built into the budget, as has been scheduled in the long range financial plan. In addition, the plant investment fees will be increased to \$2,800 per single family equivalent unit. It is scheduled to increase \$300 per year. Another rate study will occur in the future.

Commissioner Meis asked if the rates will be changed as a result of the capturing of the biogas. Mr. Trainor said that is being discussed but they want to make sure that is assured, there is definitely an asset, but how to utilize it best has yet to be decided.

Councilmember Coons asked if money is saved, will those savings be realized by the customers. Mr. Trainor said, if that proves possible, yes it will.

Mr. Trainor said that the change from 2008 to 2009 in the budget is 1.3% increase in the non-personnel operating expense.

He then asked Utilities Engineer Bret Guillory to review the capital expenses planned.

Bret Guillory, Utilities Engineer, stated that the total capital expenditures proposed for 2009 is \$5.6 million. He then reviewed the expenditures for the last two years.

Council President Palmer asked about trunk line expenditures being paid by the developers. Mr. Guillory stated that Persigo fronts the money and the money is repaid over time; the initial developer must contribute 15% of the cost which is then a credit to the developer.

Councilmember Hill asked where savings for lift station eliminations can be seen in the budget. Mr. Guillory replied that the savings should show up in the operation and maintenance expenditures years out.

Councilmember Hill asked about the calculation conflict since it is an enterprise fund. Mr. Trainor said that the exact savings from that elimination was not calculated. Mr. Guillory stated that another thing to take into consideration is the avoidance of possible spills and the Orchard Mesa lift station had been prone to sanitary sewer overflows.

Mr. Guillory said that a basin study is being conducted as part of the Comprehensive Plan. The basin study will provide a working model to be used to manage the system many years out.

Councilmember Hill asked if capacity issues will be addressed to account for 201 expansion. Mr. Guillory said yes.

Mr. Guillory went on to say that the septic system elimination project has slowed as a number of the troublesome neighborhoods have been taken care of. The remaining areas are typically larger lots which are more costly projects.

Councilmember Coons asked if anything has been pursued about the neighborhood by the river by Connected Lakes. Mr. Guillory said he has a meeting with a nearby neighborhood but that extension will help Persigo serve that area west of Albertsons.

Mesa County Public Works Director Pete Baier gave great credit to the City and the City's Staff for the management of the system noting it has been a good bargain for the citizens. The rates are kept low and the service level is high. He advised the Commissioners he will schedule a workshop so they can review the dissolution agreements that have been in place for some time so they have some familiarity with them. Mr. Baier praised having a rate and basin study in conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Meis inquired what a Mixing Zone study is. Mr. Trainor advised that the Persigo system is negotiating with Health Department for an upcoming discharge permit. If they have to discharge into the river rather than the Persigo Wash, there's a point in the river when two types of water flow comes together and a mixing zone study would describe when those two types of water would come together and what kind of impact that would have on the endangered fish species.

Commissioner Meis questioned who is responsible for reclaiming abandoned systems. Mr. Trainor said the City has taken care of the ones they own. Regarding the Bluffs West, that is the responsibility of the private property owner. Commissioner Meis asked if the Staff could pursue what the timeline is planned for reclamation on that property. Mr. Trainor said they will.

**Other Business**

Commissioner Meis said that he thinks that with the City/County's work on the completion the Comprehensive Plans, it might be a good time to look at the Persigo Agreement going forward between the City and the County.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, City Council President Palmer adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Stephanie Tuin, MMC  
City Clerk