

Covered lagoon will save Wheatland money

By Kate Howes
Staff writer

Mayor Jerry Bopp said while it may not be common knowledge, Wheatland has a history of being somewhat of a leader in technology.

The town's current wastewater treatment plant was the first of its kind in the state, and council members now are working to replace it with another innovative and unprecedented system which will save residents money and has a history of success.

Representatives of MSA engineering came before the council Tuesday night and provided members with overall cost estimates for an aerated, covered lagoon treatment system.

According to engineers' reports, the covered lagoon would save Wheatland residents approximately \$17 a month on their water/sewer bills and is the cheapest wastewater treatment alternative the city has explored by about \$600,000.

Wheatland's would be the first covered lagoon in Iowa. Engineer Jason Miller told council members there are lagoons which "achieve quality discharge" in Wisconsin and Minnesota. He explained, bacteria which filters the discharge is sensitive to cold weather — hence, the need for the cover on the lagoon.

As Wisconsin and Minnesota both have climates just as cold — if not, colder — than Iowa, the lagoon should operate very well in Wheatland.

"The lagoon has a track record of success, especially in harsher climates," Miller reported.

DNR officials are excited, he continued, about the potential for this unprecedented type of treatment in Iowa. Not only is it the most cost-effective route, Miller stated, but also the covered lagoon is easy to operate.

"It can provide a quality effluent out of the facility at a low cost and with little operation," he said.

MSA engineers recommended the council move forward with the covered lagoon, and will return next month with a resolution for

Bopp to sign regarding SRF loan requirements and project scheduling.

Corn chaff, grease traps discussed

Wheatland residents Holly Dwyer and Deb Litts said there still is a problem with excessive corn chaff at their homes, and asked the council what they should be doing to alleviate the problem.

Todd Rohling's bins are located next to their homes, and Litts said two weeks ago there was so much corn chaff in the air it looked like it was "raining pink." She told the council she video taped the chaff flying through the air.

Rohling devised a new system of unloading his corn to eliminate most of the chaff — a plan which Bopp said the DNR is satisfied with. Rohling told the council he would be finished dumping corn this week and there wouldn't be any more problems.

Councilman Scott Knudtson noted there are three grain-producing facilities in town — none of which produce any more corn chaff than the others. Litts and Dwyer said they understand Rohling won't be able to completely eliminate all the chaff, but are hopeful things will be better next year.

The council approved an under-the-sink grease trap to be installed at the One Stop Mart, per the manager's proposal. The manager sent the city a letter, explaining the grease trap, and the council said it would agree to allow One Stop to try it.

In other business

In other business, the council:

- Received a report from the Clinton County Sheriff's Department which spent 60.57 hours in town in September, issued two warnings and four citations, handled four incidents and answered 22 calls.

- Heard from resident Candace DeWulf, who requested "Slow — Children at Play" signs be erected along Jackson Place. DeWulf told the council lots of semis, trucks and cars drive by at high rates of speed, and she is concerned a child will be run over. Knudtson recommended notifying the sheriff's department and asking officers to pay close attention to traffic on that street. DeWulf agreed to keep a log of the dates, times and license plate numbers of vehicles which speed past her house and report them to the sheriff's department.

- Approved a special building permit for Gary Clark.

- Approved the resolution splitting the clerk's salary among the general, water, sewer, garbage and recycling funds.

- Approved collecting for mowing and past due water bill at 102 S. Williams St.

- Approved pledging a \$4,000 match for the IDED Housing Fund.

- Approved purchase of a new fire truck and the loan agreement for payment.

- Approved setting the public hearing for the IDED Housing Fund Tuesday, Nov. 11.

- Approved the ordinance prohibiting the use of jake brakes within city limits.

- Approved the bid of \$135 submitted by Reiling Construction and Building Materials to make the required changes to the city hall entrance for elections.

- Approved disposing of the storm sirens donated by the city of Davenport. Councilwoman Julie Prachar received a letter from Clinton County Emergency Management coordinator Wally Henry, which stated the sirens are "antiquated," and parts rarely are available for such "aged systems." Henry wrote he strongly recommends the use of weather radios. Prachar said she will notify Davenport's emergency management coordinator and advise him or her of the situation.