

March 21, 2008

Mr. Jeff Hecksel, City Manager
101 West Eighth Street
Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81601

Dear Mr. Hecksel,

In response to the meeting held with City staff on February 20, 2008 representatives of Cardiff Glen I and II, and the Park East associations met the evening of March 11, 2008 to collectively understand the issues each experiences as users (required users) of raw water.

The agenda was simply to have each entity explain their type of irrigation system and its controls, then to identify the significant issues each faces in using raw water. They then brainstormed ideas for solutions, and then discussed self-help possibilities when the system must deliver treated water. Discussion began focused around the "matrix" created by city staff, but later moved away from this, for reasons set forth below.

The common problems of these users are, in order of magnitude:

Silt and Debris

Pressure ----only when the system must use treated water.

Salinity

It cannot be stressed too strongly that silt and debris is the major users' issue.

To be brief, though these are the three issues identified on the matrix, none of the users truly feel any of the solutions posed that cost in excess of \$100,000 are realistic approaches likely to be taken by the City of Glenwood Springs and/or its partners. The consensus of "reads" on the February 20 meeting is that the most likely City course was adding additional storage capacity for treated water, sometime in the future. Not in the near enough future, however, to actually help the existing problems with turbidity and pressure for 2008, 2009, 2010. For the users, the salinity issue does not appear to be resolvable with the lift station location, nor is it a significant problem *except as it relates to pressure drop* when salinity forces changeover to treated water.

Interestingly, some of the critical aspects of the present system and actions the City may take as early as this year are nowhere to be found on the matrix. The group also came up with some other ideas and some further questions for discussion.

- **There is a bottleneck in the piping connecting the treated water system to the raw water system at the south cul-de sac in Park East, where the lines reduce to 4 inches from 8 inches, then return treated water to the 8 inch raw water distribution system. Increasing this stretch to 8 inches throughout seems a relatively inexpensive (given the other matrix options' costs) method of perhaps improving pressure and volume of water available when on treated water.**
- **There is evidently a plan to aerate the wet well in the river with compressed air periodically to keep the filter screen there from being stopped entirely by silt, as occurred last June.**

The users respectfully request to see the expected costs and benefits of the first point above, and strongly endorse and applaud the second action.

Ideas which surfaced in the users' meeting were:

- **A diffusion grid should be installed in the bottom of the wet well to distribute the compressed air, rather than a single outlet, which may only move silt in its immediate area.**
- **Can a section be added to the wet well cylinder to allow it to be accessible in periods of high water, for cleaning? Costs and timing?**
- **Has the possibility of a floating intake boom been considered, or of directing the intake downstream? This would free the water coming to the wet well of the heavier sediments.**

The following are questions to which the users would like responses from the City, hopefully whenever the next meeting is scheduled:

- **What is the result of the rate study that was to be done for the operational and maintenance costs of the raw water lift station? May the users' have this information?**
- **What notice was given users of the system last year of the increase of rate from \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons, to the \$1.21 rate per 1,000? How was it given/published?**
- **What are the raw water rates to be for this 2008 season?**
- **What is the expense and what are the drawbacks/benefits of eliminating the 4 inch lines/valves etc. connecting the treated water system to the raw water system at the south end of Sky Ranch Drive? The users understand this may hasten drawdown of the supply reservoir.**

Specific actions the users would like to see taken are:

- **Install the in-line filter between the pumps and the present master meter. This is the least expensive option on the matrix, has been on the table since July 2007, and does not seem (from the matrix language) to have been seriously studied. At the least please address this with the users more completely, as all thought this the best possible solution to the silt and debris issue.**
- **Eliminate the bottleneck connecting the two systems.**
- **Raise the wet vault cylinder to allow access in high water for screen cleaning.**
- **Complete a booster pump study to address the pressure issues, including location and costs for all users of the treated water when raw water is unavailable. Cardiff developers are, at present, undertaking a specific engineering study in regard to a booster pump to benefit those homes.**

- **Provide better advance notice of the intent to switch treated water to all users.**

The group then discussed staggered use of system water when on treated water, most likely on a per day per user basis. This is something the users would have to coordinate and undertake, and probably would not involve the City or City staff. Lastly, homeowners discussed going directly to Council meetings en masse, as a possible next step in seeking answers and solutions.

Jeff, you should also know it was important to the group to make clear that the six or seven "users" (representing some hundreds of home owners) of the system truly desire to use raw water and to help and assist the City in its efforts to supply treated water for other resident's domestic and irrigation uses, and to thereby relieve pressures on the water treatment and delivery infrastructure. The above ideas and suggested actions are not demands, but the feedback requested of these entities in the February 20, 2008 meeting.

All would appreciate responses to these thoughts, questions, ideas and concerns at the next meeting with City staff.

Respectfully,

Board of Directors, Park East Subdivision Homeowner's Association

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Cc: Jeff Hecksel, City Manager U. S. Mail
Donna Scarlet, Roaring Fork School District, U. S. Mail
Dave Merritt, Council Member, U. S. Mail

Cc: via electronic mail

Jeff Hecksel, City Manager
Robin Milyard, Public Works Director
Mike Harman, Finance Director
Park East Board and Management
Ryan Martin, Village Homes
Cheryl Heiberger, Cardiff Glen I
Cory Wesson, Cardiff Glen I, landscaper
Dave Piffer, Park East, landscaper
Terri Knob, Crystal River Property Management
Deb Sanderson, Cardiff Glen II
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Leigh Sheldrake, Cardiff Glen I
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