3-30-2016

Planning minutes 03/30/2016

Planning Committee

To:	**Planning Committee:**	Oscar Baldelomar, Brook Miller, Seung-Ho Joo, Sandy Kill, Jana Koehler, Mike Cihak, Helen Juarez, Austin Tipper, Rachel Evangelisto, Bryan Herrmann (ex-officio), Gwen Rudney (ex-officio), Matt Senger, Melissa Bert, Alison Campbell (West -(secretary)
	Present:	Sandy Kill, Austin Tipper, Matt Senger (ex-officio), Melissa Bert, Bryan Herrmann, Alison Campbell (West)-secretary, Guest: Blaine Hill
From:	Engin Sungur, Chair	
Subject:	Meeting Agenda	
	Date:	March 30, 2016 (Wednesday)
	Start:	2:30pm
	End:	3:20pm
	Place:	Imholte Hall 115

THE AGENDA

1. Approval of March 9, 2016 Minutes *(Attached to the email, 5 min.)*.
   Action: Approval of the minutes
2. *City Water Treatment Plan-Implications for Campus (Blaine Hill, Morris City Manager) (40 min)*
   - Kris Swanson is the primary engineer that Blaine has been working with
     - Working with John Dostal from the University on the legal agreement for the lease on the property where the water for the city is located
   - The City has been working closely with University personnel such as Bryan Herrmann, Jacquie Johnson, Mick Rose and more
   - Had a flow problem with one of the wells because a pipe was almost plugged with minerals
     - We have some of the hardest water in Minnesota
   - Three years ago the city got a notice from the MN Pollution Control Agency saying that our discharge permit for our waste water was going to include Chloride restriction going into the Pomme de Terre River – Blaine had a student help him do tests to figure out the problem
     - Solution: Build a new Water Treatment Plant - Most cost efficient/economical way to rid Chloride from getting into the river is to not put it into the water stream that is used by the City of Morris/University
   - New Water Treatment Plant –
     - Complete in Fall 2018 – once running fine the old plant will be torn down
     - Be able to soften water with lime softening system that will eliminate the typical softener that requires salt to flush out minerals
     - Biggest water customer in Morris is UMM
     - Asked if could build the water treatment plant somewhere else but the wells are all located on campus so it is more economical to keep them there
     - Well houses will be taken out so there will just be a pipe available for access
     - Austin was wondering how the proposed well no.8 will affect the Student Organic Club in lease with WCROC because they have 2 large bee hives about 15ft away from that marked area
       - Blaine has talked with Lee Johnston from WCROC about the location which is confirmed – might need to move the bees but thinks they will not be effected
       - What is the timeline on building the new well? – within a year and a half
     - Current center has a fence around it and they don't want to have one around the new one because it looks too institutional
   - Will the location of the plant effect the reputation of the campus image? Its the first thing people will see when entering the campus
     - Have been working with the Universality for 3 years on this, starting with Lowell Rasmussen – As a City Manager we are toward the end of the process and am not sure there would have been any gain by involving other people from the beginning

- The WCROC still has to work with the cattle and it is the first thing you see when entering UMM – not sure if that is a good or bad thing because there is agriculture involved with the university
- Architectural side – engineers building a flat roof but why? – this plant will have water pools on the inside so any wood structure will not be good because of the condensation build up
    - Blaine didn't want a flat roof because they build the new elementary with one and they have had problems
    - Design has University of Minnesota logo on the font – hope the university will want to keep that on there
- Could have an information kiosk to explain the uses of the plant/cattle and give locations of the other buildings
- Concerned about how close it was to the road – about 50 ft. off – functionality it makes it easier – road will be paved and set off from bike path
- Would like to work with a landscape architect to help make the surrounding area appealing – its going to be a lot better than it is now
- Most of the work will take place at the back of the building so you wont see it from the road
    - Trucks will be coming in and out maybe one or two times a week

- Engin thinks there should be some sort of academic element involved with it – working with Environmental Sciences or Environmental Studies student programs (utilizing the facility at UMM to educate students). Was there any discussion on integrating the University on checking the water quality (using Biology students)? Thinks there is a huge missed opportunity by not including more outside help.
    - Ed Brands brings his students to the water treatment plant now – checking the water quality
    - Engin said there has been no discussion on integrating working with the educational side to influence the construction of the plant
        - Partly the challenge is separating City and University – it is not the University's Water Treatment plant. They have been really generous by letting our students be involved
    - Blaine is a political science major from UMM – were actively looking at the politics side. We are not going to fight MPCA on their standards like other towns – because of this they have been friendly and encouraging us to involve students
    - People with wells don't drink the water because it is contaminated – whole communities don't use their water or are spending a lot of money to purify it
    - Anyone going into working on the environmental issues , water concerns will create more jobs
    - Looked at reverse osmosis process and lime softening -
        - Reverse osmosis has really bad discharge water
        - After dealing with the lime – it can be dealt out to farmers and places that can utilize it
    - Blaine learned today that the governor is willing to expand its grant source from 3 mil to 7mil – whole project cost $14 mil and we qualify for that grant and can potentially get half of it paid for
    - Question from Sandy: What is happening with the waste water? – Not going to be as much waste water with the system
        - Salt from softeners goes into the waste water treatment lagoons. By building a new plant how are you going to keep the salt out of the system? By regulating it.
            - Action of the City is to mandate that the only way you can have a softener is if you have a new technology water softener that can take the hardness we give you from the plant and only process that – if you have an older softener it can't do that
                - 40 grains of hardness will go down to 5 from the city.
                - This will save water and energy
    - What are residence looking at for water cost because of the new plant – average water customer now is paying $26 per month – so the water cost could go up by $50 every two months
    - Do we have low flow shower heads on campus? Yes.

    - Asked the water softener companies if they agree with this and they didn't care because no system will soften at 100%
        - 1/3 of the water is saved with new water softeners
        - Less salt has to be used so salt cost will be saved
        - If you are leasing one you won't need one in the next two years
        - It's a preference to have your water softened
        - Residence Halls need to be at almost zero
        - Democratic person said he liked what we are doing out in Morris and its great how you care about the environment
- We have to get a permit now to discharge our storm water into the Pomme de Terre River
    - Can guarantee salt is going to be an issue there because during the winter salt is put on the roads
- Still need to pay on the old water treatment plant until 2019 even when the new plant is ready in 2018
- There is an Ethanol plant within the City limits also having problems with water – their discharge goes into a pond which goes into the Green River and then dumps into the Pomme de Terre River. It doesn't go through a sewer pond system. They have a mandate from MPCA to buy water from the City but we told MPCA we don't have the capability to sell them water because our plant is not big enough.
    - The new plant will give us more business and we will get a capital contribution from them to help cover the costs
        - Two parts: Capital cost to building it and the maintenance to run it is greater because it's a bigger facility that requires more chemicals and personnel
- Blaine said it would have been interesting to see what the chancellor candidate C had to say about the design of the new plant since he is an architect.

3. *Bonding requests and other plans (Bryan Herrmann, 5 min.) – didn't get to*