City Administrators Report

July 1, 2013

Sludge/Compost

Last month I spoke with Sean Everett of HDR out of Missoula. Sean is an Environmental engineer working with the EPA on the impoundment dam at the old Grace Mine site. Sean had mentioned to me before about a project his firm was working on in Hamilton’s waste water treatment plant, regarding their sludge issue. Hamilton has the same dewatering press as our facility.

In order for sludge to be used for composting, it has to be heated to a certain temperature for a certain length of time in order to kill all the bacteria in the material. At the plant in Hamilton, they use large blowers that circulate air through the material to cause it to heat up faster. They add wood chips and run the material through a trammel that blends the smaller wood chips together with the sludge and kicks out the larger pieces of wood.

The material is then used at the city parks and cemetery. They also give it away to people who ask for it. As you know we have a hard time getting grass to grow on the graves at the cemetery. The city has been getting dirt from out of town, this can be very expensive. Another issue is that the landfill can only take so much material at one time. This becomes a problem during the winter months when we cannot haul and have to stock pile the material.

In the future when the city updates the wastewater treatment plants PER, we should look at this process to be included in those plans.

Water Treatment Plant

Last weekend the crew at the water treatment plant was able to get the filter media changed.

The filters have been in need of adding more anthracite coal for a long time. It has been difficult for the operators to find the time with the issues they have been dealing with. This was one of the recommendations that Bob Thompson from Purifications Technology Inc. recommended we do as quickly as possible.

After the anthracite coal was added the operators were a little surprised and disappointed that there was no apparent change right away. They do need to add more anthracite to the filters but will have to order the material. It will be later in the year before they can finish the job.

They have been implementing other chemical changes to the operation to get the filter and clarifiers to react to the turbidity in the water. Things have cleared up pretty well so far but once in awhile the turbidity will spike after a hard rain.

Riverfront Park

All the new lights are up at the park and Ron Miller from Strom Electric will be hooking them up. Ron will have to run wire through the entire conduit that was laid and then install circuit breakers in the panels. There will be two photo cells, one for each circuit to be placed at the panels.

The new bathroom has been schedule to be here the 3rd week of July. The crews have been going over the plans to have water, sewer and power in place for when the bathroom arrives. We have scheduled a meeting with EPA to work out the details for the trenching as we will be going below the barriers on the water line.

Departments

Water distributions is still chasing leaks but nothing major so for. There are a couple of leaks in mains that are to be replaced with water project upgrades so the crew is monitoring them. If they develop into a bad leak they will fix them. If not, they will be repaired when the new mains are installed.

Street crews have been working tearing out sidewalks downtown on 4th street. This is one of the sections that will be replaced with new water main and pavement. So far they have torn out over 500 feet of old sidewalks and curb. In all, there will be roughly 800 feet of new sidewalk and curb installed in the downtown district.

The CTEP project is going to bid. It has to be advertised for 21 days. City crews will start removing old sidewalks on this project once a contractor has been awarded the bid. If everything goes as scheduled, this project will start in early August.

Jim Hammons