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Antero Explains Treatment Site, Reveals Future Plans

Midstream company plans possible local landfill near water treatment plant

The much awaited County Commission meeting was held to a packed house in the main courtroom of the county courthouse on Tuesday night. Commissioners had anticipated a very large crowd and they got just that.

Several attendees for this special session were from Ritchie County with the majority from Doddridge County. The reason for the influx is that the proposed Antero water treatment facility is right on the border of the two counties. Ritchie county had a localized meeting regarding this facility earlier in the month and the folks attending felt they were not getting heard.

The first item on the agenda was bumped to allow the representatives from Antero to present their plans to the public. That would allow a public comment period after the presentation for attendees to express their concerns.

Introducing the members of the Antero team, Mr. Kevin Ellis spoke and thanked the commission for the opportunity to speak to the public about the project.

He first introduced Mr. Conrad Baston, the general manager of civil engineering for Antero and the main engineer on the project. Baston holds a Masters degree in engineering from WVU. He and his family live in the Fairmont area and have for over eighteen years.

At that time commissioner Robinson made the announcement that the sheriff's department will remain in case any secret services are needed.

An audience member asked to dim the lights so the screen could be seen better.

Baston wanted to explain how the company views water in general. He explained that they have a two phase approach to water, one being the fresh water supply chain. He explained that early on, water was being drawn from small streams as levels permitted, but the industry outgrew that process rather quickly. Looking forward, the company knew that would have to build a more reliable system to supply water.

In an attempt to meet or exceed all of the regulatory issues, they are developing a new freshwater dispensing system, designed to drastically reduce the amount of "water bottle" truck traffic on our roads.

They had developed a pipeline system to transport the water to a well site. Large trunk lines radiate from the sub-surface impoundment ponds placed high on the hills allow the water to be pumped

close to the well pads needing water. Smaller tributary lines pull off of the trunk lines and go directly to the well pads, thus reducing the need for water trucks.

The pipelines are temporary and can be moved and removed as the drilling sites go on and off line. Some sources of fresh water include lakes, large streams as well as the Ohio River, sending it as far as Clarksburg. To date there are about 80 miles of surface lines in West Virginia with 103 miles of buried line. These all pull from twenty four impoundment ponds.

By 2016 they expect to have 98 miles of surface line, 115 miles of buried line and 26 impoundments.

Antero has invested \$320 million dollars into this fresh water system to date. They have paid over \$24 million in right-of-way payments to buried line surface owners. That figure does not include the payments of temporary surface lines to the surface owners.

"Think of it as a very, very big...very, very expensive high tech tea kettle."

Mr. Baston went on to explain the design of the new facility "Think of it as a very, very big...very, very expensive high tech tea kettle." The plant is nothing more than a large scale evaporator the distills the used fracking fluid (sludge brine water) into distilled water, solid salts and a residue cake material. The water taken from the trucks goes through a pre-cleaning process that removes the ions and leave a clean saltwater. "It's not like ocean salt water, it's really, really salty salt water" Baston said.

The early stages brings the salty, salt water into evaporation tanks where it is heated and salt crystals begin to form. Those crystals are filtered out and held as a salt by-product.

The fresh water from the process will be placed back into the pipeline to be reused at other site locations through the pipeline distribution system.

Baston continued "It also produces salt, one of which is a food grade quality salt...If anybody wants some I can get you a big bag. I'd like to call it a 'taste of Marcellus' and I have offered, but so far nobody will bite." He went on to explain that there are marketable uses for the salt in industry, anyplace that uses a very high quality salt.

He explained that there is also "a filter cake that comes out...this contains the anions and the things in the water that are dissolved from the

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Above: Mr. Conrad Baston, the general manager of civil engineering for Antero and the main engineer on the project headed up the presentation to the public.

Right: A large crowd filled the main courtroom during the Tuesday night meeting.



West Union City Council Meeting

Parking, Land Purchase and Water Project Discussed

Mayor Joe Thorpe called the meeting to order at 6pm with no changes of corrections to the last minutes, moved and approved.

Invoices were approved and the motion carried.

The floor was opened to Public Comment with no comments regarding the purchase of the Blandori property next to the water treatment plant. With no opposition, the second reading was conducted, the ordinance was made and passed to purchase the property.

Burgess & Niple representatives presented the schedule of the project at hand for Wabash Water Project. Application was made for Small Cities Block Grants and they should hear back soon on that issue. This is the sixth or seventh year of application of the grant for West Union.

They hope to hear back by February. They have a map available in the City Hall office for review.

During the work on the alley way behind Bollands (between New York Ave. and Route 18 North) the waterline will be replaced as the sewer and water run closely together and disturbing the one, will facilitate replacing both.

Invoices for Burgess & Niple were passed and signed.

Region IV - Sheena Hunt was not able to attend.

There was nothing available from the city attorney, so the council moved on to Police Chief Patrick Robinson's report. He did not have time to type up a formal report, but noted that he was working on a Home Land Security Grant to obtain IRP radios. This will allow the him to communicate with all departments throughout the state. The grant is for \$44, 619 and is a 100% paid grant, no matching funding is required. They should know if the grant is approved soon. Previously the council voted to not purchase the equipment for IRP radios, but with the grant, they were now on board.

His wrote several tickets last month, 1-expired, 1-driving on suspended, 6-speeding, 2-no proof

of insurance, 2-cellphone violations, 1-unsecured load, 2-failure to stop, 1-registration violation and 1-no insurance.

When questioned about the possibility of obtaining the grant, Robinson stated that the phone conversations were good at this point. The grant was small enough to write out in one day.

There was nothing new from JR Boyce as Maintenance Supervisory issues.

Duane Reynolds, Plant supervisor for water addressed the council noting that Frank Hill will be ending his employment and moving to the Clarksburg Water Board. His last day will be Sunday and will be in payroll for another week or so. Mr. Frank Socrates who is a licensed operator who is willing to help out every other week. The plant will be short handed and they are looking to add more help. There is one other prospect, Dave Carol is completing his requirements to become a Class2 operator, which should happen by November 1st.

Part time operators should be paid no less than \$15 per hour. They will be looking for additional operators to cover vacations and emergencies. Motion made and passed at \$15 per hour.

The next item was the Sewer Plant Project and contracting to outside sources. Mayor Thorpe asked if the option was on the table to review this option. The council asked Thorpe to review the option further, gather information to look into the matter. Motion made and passed.

The Audit Committee needed to be staffed, Lowell McAfee and Tammy Porter volunteered.

Auditing: Letters were sent out by Mr. Joe Cross and several were interested last year. They will send letters out next week for this year.

WV State Audit Meeting: This is a new training and Joe Cross will be attending the first meeting. They

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Ribbon Cutting for Park Bridge

Roadway to Adventure Park named Messenger Way



Pictured L to R: New Park Manager Greg Cotrill; Board Member Sherri Bonnell; Park Board President Greg Hinterer; Retiring Park Manager Jim Messesnger; Commissioner Greg Robinson; Board Member Dee Dee Nicholson; Mrs. Messenger. More photos Page A5

Trails Foundation to Meet in Salem

The North Bend Rails to Trails Foundation, Inc., will meet Wednesday, Sept. 23rd, 6:00 p.m., at the Cottage Corner Restaurant in Salem, Harrison County. Trail enthusiasts are encouraged to attend. Please arrive early if you wish to dine. For more infomation, email info@northbendrailtrail.org or leave a message at 304-628-3777.