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Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 2:28 PM
To: John Schaaf; Beth Cliffe; Tim Dunleavy; Marty Long; Gregg Nelson
Cc: Melinda Coleman; Illi, Sarah
Subject: Highway 96 Site

Mayor and Council Members-

Below is an update on key activities during the past month. The primary new development is the first item below.

Replacement Extraction Well Near the Dump Site

On February 5, 2010, Conestoga-Rovers & Associates (CRA) sent a letter to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) with a proposal to install a new extraction well to replace extraction well EW-1A near the dump site. CRA is still waiting on a response from the MPCA. In short, I support the proposed replacement extraction well. I don't believe that any action is required on the part of the City Council.

Extraction wells EW-1A and EW-2 have been pumping just west of the dump to contain contaminated groundwater. EW-1A is screened in the Lower Sand Aquifer, while EW-2 is completed in the underlying St. Peter Sandstone. Together they work to cut-off or prevent contaminated groundwater from flowing further west. The extracted groundwater is discharged to the sanitary sewer system for treatment.

It is normal that extraction wells "wear out" or over time. The screens tend to foul with iron deposits and/or biological growth, which decreases the amount of water they are capable of producing. Before EW-1A, the original extraction well was EW-1. This well gradually lost production and was supplemented by EW-1A, and then EW-2. The pumping rate at EW-1A has gradually been declining. Hence, the need for a replacement well has happened before at the site, and is not unusual.

To compensate for the gradual decreased flow at EW-1A, CRA increased the flow rate at EW-2. In my opinion, the result should be no overall decrease in the effectiveness of the groundwater extraction system. CRA appears to have taken reasonable measures to try and rehabilitate EW-1A, and is now moving to the next logical step.

CRA's proposed schedule of installing the replacement well in the next two months is also reasonable, given the type of approvals and work involved. I will track their progress and report back to the City Council.

Replacement Well at 12 West Shore Road

Similar to the previous month, not much progress was made. MPCA and MDH are still working on proper abandonment of the original (basement) well. Installation of the replacement well is on hold until the original (basement) well abandonment is resolved.

Groundwater Monitoring

The results of the October sampling event were posted on the City webpage. The next scheduled round of testing will be in April. The 2009 Annual Monitoring Report (being prepared by CRA) should be available for review in mid-March.

Let me know if you have any questions, or if there is something else you would like me to do. Otherwise, I will report back before the March council meeting.

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