

Focus Team: Infrastructure

Date and Location: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 – 443 Oak Nonprofit Center and Zoom

Estimated Attendance: 28

Guiding Questions:

- How does water supply and wastewater treatment affect housing and non-residential capacity on the site?
- What does the existing and future water supply and wastewater treatment suggest about phasing?
- What strategies should be considered for water conservation to optimize the supply?
- What role does water play in:
 - Health Equity?
 - Sustainability?
 - Project Economics?
 - Urban Design?

Key Technical Information Shared:

- See attached DRAFT memo from LRE Water, which summarizes the 2019 City of Steamboat Springs and Mount Werner Water & Sanitation District Water Supply Master Plan.
- City's water district can serve an additional 800 Equivalent Residential Units (EQR) with water before needing to add Elk River water supply.
- Once Elk River water supply is online, it will be appropriately sized to supply the full buildout of the West of Steamboat Springs Area Plan.
- The following must be completed to service the first house at Brown Ranch with water:
 - Construct West Area Water Tank (will be complete summer 2022).
 - Extend water line along US 40 – will be constructed in 2023 or 2024 in conjunction with the extension of the Core Trail.
 - Onsite infrastructure within subdivision.
- Construction of the wastewater treatment plant expansion is not necessary until an additional 3,680 EQRs are built. At this threshold, treatment trains will have to be added to the existing plant, rather than building a new facility. The sewer collection pipe has already been extended up to Brown Ranch.

Public Input:

Questions:

BROWN RANCH

- Where do tap fees go?
 - Used mostly to pay for expansion of water treatment plants and wastewater treatment plant. Tap fees DO NOT go to pipes in the ground associated with a particular development.
- What is Equivalent Residential Unit (EQR)?
 - A metric used to define water use. EQR assumes the unit is 2500 square-foot 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom house with average-sized yard.
- What is the limiting factor as it relates to water at Brown Ranch?
 - Distribution capacity (pipes, pumps, tanks), not yield of drainage basin, wastewater treatment, etc.
- Is the 1.8% growth rate per year realistic?
 - It's a conservatively large assumption.

Comments:

- Grey water: Plumb and prep individual homes for grey water use (for toilet flushing, cold water wash, etc.) not just landscaping common areas.

Decisions: N/A

Next Steps and Action Items: N/A

YVHA FOLLOW-UP FOR WEEKLY REPORT

Resources needed from technical consultants for next meeting

- Is it possible to develop a "BQR" rather than EQR that accounts for higher-density, water-efficient design?

Necessary Cross-Collaboration w/other Focus Teams:

- Econ/Stewardship: can we cover tap fees as a tool to reduce cost to end user (tenant). Use grants to cover cost of redundant water supply, etc. How do we make sure all impacts are paid for and how do we pay for them?
- Stakeholder/Policy:
 - As Brown Ranch seeks to develop and use water from the City's existing supply and water rights, policy will be established by City Council. There will have to be community discussion around how the cost of building new water infrastructure is allocated (part of annexation discussion).
 - Advocate Routt County to adopt Regulation 86: Grey water

