

## Billings City Administrator Weekly Report

September 3, 2021

- 1. Main Break at Water Reclamation Facility (WRF)** - On Monday night, the sewer line from the Heights into the WRF broke. The line carries approximately 3 million gallons per day (MGD) of sewage into the plant although the flow at night is low, probably close to 700 gallons per minute (equivalent to about 1 MGD). The operator of the plant noticed a problem during his rounds around 12:30 am. The operator investigated and found that sewage was backing up in the main and overflowing a manhole. He called out a crew and they immediately constructed a berm to contain the sewage and route it back into the undamaged pipe. We do not believe there was a significant amount of flow to the river as the flow at that time was low, the site contained most of it, and the berm was constructed quickly. A bypass pumping station was set up which allowed us to inspect the pipe that failed. The pipe was installed in 1985 and was ductile iron. The condition of the pipe was extremely poor and indicated that we need to replace the entire line from the top of the rims to the new section of PVC pipe on the plant site – approximately 400 lf. Staff is working to get the construction planned but will forward an emergency resolution to the council for their approval on September 13. At this time, we do not have an indication of whether DEQ will fine the city for the permit violation.
  
- 2. Competitive ARPA Grant Applications** – City staff submitted eight ARPA grant applications for water and sanitary sewer. There were 241 projects that were submitted and ranked. The ranking for the projects was released and the results for the city projects is below:
  - 2021 Water Main Replacements: 318 points and ranked #59
  - WW Influent Lift Station: 315 points and ranked #62 (tied)
  - West End Plant and Raw Water Delivery: 315 points and ranked #62 (tied)
  - West End Distribution: 291 points and ranked #95
  - Zone 6 Reservoir and Redundant Line: 265 Points and ranked #131 (tied)
  - 2022 Water Main Replacements: 257 points and ranked #145
  - Zone 1 Storage: 176 points and ranked #217
  - Staples Reservoir Repair: 136 points and ranked #232

The ARPA Committee met last week and recommended that the Governor approve \$125M in grants for this cycle and cap each grant at \$2M. If the Governor accepts the recommendation of the APRA committee, the top three projects on our list would get \$2M each for a total of \$6M in grants.

### **3. Public Safety Mill Levy Presentation**

- Chamber Ag Committee, Friday, September 3 at 7 am.

**Have a wonderful Labor Day weekend!**