



# City of Blaine Anoka County, Minnesota Minutes - Final

10801 Town Square Dr.  
Blaine MN 55449

## City Council Workshop

*\*While this is a public meeting where interested persons are welcome to attend, it is a work session for Council and staff to discuss issues before them. It is not for the purpose of receiving public input.*

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Thursday, March 21, 2013

6:30 PM

Cloverleaf Farm Room A

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### Meeting Number 13-15

### NOTICE OF WORKSHOP MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ryan at 6:30 p.m.  
Quorum Present.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Clark Arneson, City Manager; Patrick Sweeney, City Attorney; Bryan Schafer, Planning Director; Chris Olson, Public Safety Manager/Police Chief; Joe Huss, Finance Director; Roark Haver, Communications Technician; Catherine Ekstrand, Deputy City Clerk; and Recording Secretary Linda Dahlquist.

**Present:** 7 - Councilmember Clark, Councilmember Kolb, Councilmember Bourke, Councilmember Herbst, Mayor Ryan, Councilmember Hovland, and Councilmember Swanson

### 2. [WS 13-24](#)

### **WELL SITING STUDY FOR WELLS 18 AND 19, IMPROVEMENT PROJECT NO. 11-08**

**Sponsors:** Therres

**Attachments:** [FINAL Wells 18 and 19 Siting Study.pdf](#)

Public Services Manager Therres stated Barr Engineering Co. has completed a study for Wells 18 and 19 Siting Evaluation. He stated the report shows the DNR has concerns about the impacts on local surface waters and sensitive wetlands and that additional modeling and testing should be done before the well field is put into service. He noted that if the modeling and testing are not done prior to the installation of the wells, the DNR may limit the use of the new wells if impacts to local surface waters and wetlands are found.

Brian LeMon, Barr Engineering Co., stated the Well Siting Study had seven objectives:

1. Sitewells 18 & 19 so design can begin.

2. ID aquifer for wells 18 & 19 and future wells.
3. Assess capacity of the Northeast Well Field.
4. ID contamination near Northeast Well Field.
5. Well interference analysis.
6. Wetlands/surface water impact analysis.
7. Path forward to reduce risk and uncertainty.

Mr. LeMon stated objectives 1, 2 and 3 are to site the wells, identify the aquifer, and assess capacity. He stated there are three main groundwater aquifer options the Anoka Sand Plain, Tunnel City-Wonewoc (TCW), and Mt. Simon-Hinckley (which is the most protected). He gave an overview of the geologic cross section locations of wells that are located throughout Blaine and proposed well sites. He noted there is some uncertainty where there is clay and sand.

Mr. LeMon stated modeling was done to evaluate whether or not the wells will be productive and if present sand will produce desired amount or if sand is not present TCW will produce. He noted that the TCW will be a more expensive well. He stated the risks would be a sand unit may be absent or sand is present but not connected to surface. He stated the uncertainty is site-specific on presence of continuous sand unit connected to surface or TCW aquifer is missing. He stated for a shallow, less expensive sand well, the risk and uncertainty are moderate to high, and for the deeper, more expensive TCW well, the risk and uncertainty are low and 30% more expensive.

Mr. LeMon stated objectives 4 and 5 are nearby contamination and nearby wells. He stated contamination is a concern if contaminants are mobile and the clay layer is not continuous. He stated if the contaminants are not mobile they stay near the surface. He noted contaminants that sink are mobile. He stated the City identified the 2 wells to be west of Lexington and south of Main. He stated under peak pumping nearby wells could be significantly impacted and more wells could be impacted to a lesser degree.

Mr. LeMon stated objective 6 is wetlands and water bodies. He stated the DNR's concerns are for:

- Scientific and natural areas.
- Sensitive wetlands.
- Wetland bank area.

Mr. LeMon stated he met with the DNR and noted that the DNR remembered the past promises made by the City on well 17 and Pioneer Park's wetland water levels. He stated the DNR asked if a monitoring well was installed at Pioneer Park; he had told them that a monitoring well is installed and the Watershed District is monitoring the well and has the data. He stated as a

result of the meeting the DNR is requiring an aquifer test to verify if the new wells will have an impact on wetlands. Mr. LeMon shared maps showing the Council the wetland areas that the DNR has concerns about.

Councilmember Clark arrived at 6:54 p.m.

Mr. LeMon gave a summary of the risks and uncertainty: site wells, ID aquifers and capacity - Quaternary, ID aquifers and capacity- TCW, contamination, well interference, and impacts to wetlands and water bodies. He gave the Council the following options for going forward:

- Do nothing; wait till the need is greater.
- Ignore risks and uncertainty and drill wells.
- Reduce risk and uncertainty (recommended).

Mr. LeMon gave the Council the following four options to reduce risk and uncertainty:

- Option 1: If data exists, update model to understand impacts to SNAs.
- Option 2: Install monitoring well nests, do aquifer test with existing wells then update model.
- Option 3: Drill production and monitoring wells perform required aquifer test.
- Option 4: Progression from Option 1 to Option 2 then to Option 3 with a goal to reduce uncertainty at each step with off ramps after each step.

Councilmember Hovland asked what if the City wanted to put in three wells instead of two wells. City Engineer Keely stated the current permit for pumping states the City has the potential for four new wells before the permit expires. Mr. LeMon stated the City can put in up to four new wells. He noted getting permission to drill the wells is different than getting permission for pumping the wells. He noted that the DNR at any time could stop a city from pumping wells.

Councilmember Hovland asked if an existing well could be drilled deeper. Mr. LeMon replied yes, but probably not. He stated screened wells are more work and it would be cheaper to drill a new well. He noted the DNR is lowering cities' water use per capita.

Councilmember Clark questioned the number of wells needed for full build-out and asked how many wells the City will need. Public Services Manager Therres stated the full build-out goal is 6,000 gallons of water per minute. He stated two wells probably will not do it and four wells could.

Councilmember Bourke asked if the City's Comprehensive Plan should be updated to include more wells in the future. Mr. LeMon replied the City may

not want to reopen discussions with the DNR and noted the City already has permission to build four new wells. He suggested the Council think through the current Comprehensive Plan cycle and drill the four wells that the City has permission to drill.

Councilmember Herbst summarized the City puts in test wells or move ahead without the test wells. Mr. LeMon stated the DNR will not give the City the appropriations permit without the test wells.

Councilmember Herbst suggested the City move ahead with the test wells. Mr. LeMon replied monitoring test wells provides great data.

Councilmember Clark asked if the data from the monitoring test wells could be used for future wells. Mr. LeMon replied the monitoring wells should remain in place because the data will be used now and in the future. He stated if the City gets three wells that produce 2,000 gallons the City would be at its goal of 6,000 gallons.

Mayor Ryan commented wells improve while they are pumping. He stated idle wells do not develop caverns. He stated there is a well near Northpoint that should be providing good data. Mr. LeMon replied the computer ground water model takes data from the existing wells for the shape of the aquifer that is modeled and the productivity of the aquifer is taken from pumping tests taken from the region. He stated shallow wells are screened wells with no caverns and the deeper wells, if not over pumped; the caverns should not degrade too much. He stated over pumped wells draws sand in and sands settles and fills the cavern. He noted deeper wells would require blasting in order to create caverns.

Mr. LeMon gave details to the Council of the recommended path forward options:

- Option 1: Paper study to improve model using existing data. Cost is low. Risk is that DNR wants a pumping test. Uncertainty is the City is bounded by existing data.
- Option 2: Monitoring wells with existing well test pump. Cost is moderate. Risk is pumping well would not be in Northeast wellfield. Uncertainty is that the nest at Northeast wellfield eliminates most sand unit concerns.
- Option 3: Pumping test with new Northeast wellfield well. Cost is high. Risk is well impacts SNA or sensitive wetland and DNR limits well capacity. Uncertainty is that majority of uncertainty is eliminated.

Councilmember Clark asked for the duration of each of the options. Mr. LeMon replied option 1 would be two months and option 2 would be four to

five months or by the end of the year.

Councilmember Clark asked how long will the test wells need to run in order to get the needed data. Mr. LeMon replied from 96 hours to two to three weeks for background data.

Councilmember Herbst stated the City should get the wells done the right way now because it will be tougher in the future.

Councilmember Hovland asked if the Council should consider drilling four wells. Mr. LeMon replied once you drill the first well you will know how much water you will get and the Council will be able to decide if the City needs four wells.

Councilmember Bourke asked for a well's maximum and if 2,000 is common from a well. Mr. LeMon replied no and 2,000 is a good well. He stated there are good aquifers in Blaine. Public Works Director Ulrich stated well 17 pumps 2,500 gallons.

Councilmember Hovland left the meeting at 7:15 p.m. and returned at 7:20 p.m.

#### **Discussed**

#### 1. [WS 13-23](#)

#### **MUD GAMES (METRO GUN CLUB)**

**Sponsors:** Schafer

Planning and Community Development Director Schafer stated Mud Games involve a course layout with obstacles (built and natural) for runners. The event is planned for June 8-9, 2013 at the Metro Gun Club. He stated staff have concerns about the event and the location and are currently working with the organization to prepare an acceptable safety/operations plan. He stated a permit will be required from the RCWD since much of the course runs through regulated wetlands. He stated the Metro Gun Club is a legal non-conforming use, which makes it a challenge to process approvals for new activities of any type. He noted the potential neighborhood impact is outside the scope of activity that the City has seen before and staff recommends any formal Council consideration occur after generous public notice.

Scott, (Keith, Mark Krogh, and Brian), from The Mud Games, stated he and fellow associates live in Blaine. He stated the Mud Games will consist of two obstacle course races. He noted the courses are designed for safety. He stated The Mud Games has sponsors and partners for the event as well as beneficiaries like Children's Hospitals, youth organizations, U of M Obesity Center and Blaine football program. He noted participant expectations are

from 800 to 1,000 people. He stated the vehicle expectations are approx. 400-700. He stated the event will have one volunteer for every ten participants. He stated the Red Cross also has 20 volunteers per day. He stated there will be entertainment with one band and a DJ. He stated The Mud Games representatives met with RCWD on the proposed course. He noted the RCWD suggested adjustments be made to the course. Scott gave an overview of the site layout and parking. He stated The Mud Games is working with Premier Security and they are providing eleven security staff members. Scott gave an overview of the onsite radio communications. He noted that The Mud Games promote health and wellness.

Councilmember Clark asked about the neighborhood impacts. Planning and Community Development Director Schafer stated local businesses will need to be notified. Scott replied Aveda wants to work with The Mud Games.

Councilmember Swanson asked what is happening at the Sports Center that weekend. Scott replied a Christian Concert will be at the Sports Center that weekend.

**Discussed**

**ADJOURN**

The Workshop adjourned at 7:35 p.m.