



## City of Red Lodge

# Public Works Monthly Activities Report

March 19 – April 22, 2021

Prepared to summarize monthly activities of the Public Works Department, City of Red Lodge. This is a brief description and update of the near or present long-term projects, maintenance, ad hoc and administrative activities the Public Works department is engaged with ongoing.

Each the projects tabled here is listed within the City’s Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP was last updated 2019 and is kept on the City Website for review or download: <http://cityofredlodge.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Red-Lodge-2019-CIP-Final.pdf> Although the CIP represents a 5-year plan, this table only contains ‘near’ projects – those within present focus.

Public Works Capital Improvement Projects (2020/2021)					
Year	Category	CIP Project Title	2019 CIP description	Project Year Cost Estimate	Status
2020	Parks	New Swimming Pool (phase I)	page 15	\$1,648,000	Phase I – contact back and signed, no schedule yet, asbestos inspection performed, likely to start construction in May weather permitting
		Swimming Pool Enhancements (phase II)	---		Phase II –Received City approval 4/13 to move onto preparation of a cost estimates, plan and design
2020	Wastewater	Collection System I & I Study	page 9	\$21,000	Waiting on good weather to resume – result will be reported in Updated PER
2020	Wastewater	Updated Preliminary Engineering Report (PER)	page 9	\$52,000	Action pending, I & I study precedes (Engrs not yet tasked)
2020	Water	Preliminary Engineering Report (PER)	page 5	\$82,000	Completed – copy at City Hall for Public Review
2021	Storm Sewer	PER Phase 1 - Storm Sewer	pages 13-15	\$2,758,000	Applied for Grant, Engineering for Phase 1 work just started and is in progress 2021 – waiting on notice of award
2021	Water	7th Street (+ 2 blocks sewer)	pages 5-7	\$119,000	Plans/Design completed early Feb. and ready to go out to bid, but still awaiting DEQ approval
2021	Water	Grant Avenue(+2 block sewer section)	Pages 5-7	\$239,000	Plans/Design completed early Feb. and ready to go out to bid, but still awaiting DEQ approval
2023	Water	S Hauser (4 block section)	Pages 5-7	\$380,000	Plans/Design completed early Feb. and ready to go out to bid, but still awaiting DEQ approval
2021	Water	Pressure Reducing Valves (PRVs)	Pages 5-7	\$318,000	Plans/Design completed early Feb. and ready to go out to bid, but still awaiting DEQ approval
2023	Water	Kainu Ave Water	Pages 5-7	\$788,000	Not in Engr. Phase yet, funding not secured yet and SRF loans

					available if W&S eligible status maintained
2023	Water	Park Avenue	Pages 5-7	\$1,200,000	Not in Engr. Phase yet, funding not secured yet and SRF loans available if W&S eligible status maintained

**Accomplishments/Milestones:**

- Bid period for City Pool Engineering closed and awarded
- Approval to move ahead with Phase 1 Construction of the pool – during City Council March 9
- Approval to move ahead with Phase 2 Planning & Design – during City Council March 23

**Focus Next Month:**

- Monitoring ARPA decisions and reports from the State about allocations, terms, eligible projects so applications may be submitted to address any number of Public Works projects
- Interstate Engineering and Public Works will begin to plan and schedule activities for Phase 1 of Pool Project.
- Interstate Engineering and Public Works agreement to plan and design phase 2 of the Pool project

**Challenges or Concerns:**

**HOLDING “GRANT ELIGIBLE” STATUS** for water/wastewater capital project grants by sustaining & proving sufficient city funding for maintenance of water/wastewater systems.

- Keeping and utilizing 2018 Grant funding for capital projects requires the City to establish a budget for water/wastewater maintenance that proves maintenance of the utility is sustainable as an “enterprise”
- Resolution 3386 details water/wastewater fee schedules based on engineering rate metrics for a 5-year period ending FY 2019/2020. The fee schedule is meant to be adjusted, republished and approved every 5 years and was not updated for the present 5-year period as intended.
- The Resolution of intent (3567) was approved by Council on April 13. It communicates the City’s intent to adjust the water/wastewater fee schedules annually according to the City’s documented rate tables and an annual modifier (the inflation rate of the Montana Average Annual Consumer Price Index) with a cap of 3% (as the maximum allowable modifier)
- Using the State published annual average inflation rate to adjust the fee schedules, the City may sustain a fair maintenance fee schedule without the need to create new rate tables and pass an amended resolution every 5 years. It also ensures the City remains grant eligible and may continue receiving funding for water & sewer capital projects.

**FUNDING FUTURE STREET PROJECTS** - City Street Projects will ideally follow completion of storm sewer projects but funding is not readily available. Funds from gas taxes (1% annually) are minimally sufficient to cover costs of patching and repairing streets. Although there are plenty of loans available, there are no grants found for Street Improvement projects because streets are not assets: curbs, culverts, sidewalks, bedding/pavement, boulevards, planting vegetation, etc.(“complete streets”). Unless the City begins growing & saving funds for “Complete Street” projects near future, there won’t be any funds for implementation of Capital improvement projects as outlined in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Creation of a “Streets District” or special improvement district (SID) is necessary to move ahead with any of the capital street projects.

- Whatever funding mechanism the City puts in place, it must first follow public consensus that resident’s value and want to secure or achieve funding for Streets Projects. The desire is to make sure funding for all City Streets is provided – a city wide mechanism avoids further creation and management of separate neighborhood SIDs.
- There is an existing SID for streets already created for Country Club Estates on the west bench. Any City-wide funding solution proposed will need to specify how to prevent a doubled payment condition (for contributors to the existing SID) yet is in balance with any city-wide streets program. Payments need to be equitable among all City property owners.

<b>Maintenance and Operations Activities</b>		
Category	Maintenance Activity	Comments

Parks	Pruning & Debris Cleanup from City ROWs/property	Clearing/trimming larger limbs or topples following wind storms so plowing may proceed
Parks	Mowing apart from MOUs	Not in season
Parks	Equipment/Storage Facility Maint.	Not in season
Streets	Traffic Signs and Signals	Fixing/straightening few from plowing
Streets	Plowing	In progress as needed
Streets	Sweeping	In progress as weather permits
Streets	Sanding	In progress as needed
Water	Meter Maint/repairs	Check meters as monitoring indicates
Streets	Identifying Potholes, Patching/Filling	Beginning to assess condition
Streets	Alley Grading	Began grading in between snows, weather permitting
Water	Monitoring, testing, reporting	Monthly reports to DEQ/EPA
Wastewater	Monitoring & reporting	Monthly reports to DEQ/EPA & scheduling “smoke tests”
Wastewater	Supervisor Control & Data Acquisition (SCADA)	Working on SCADA for system
Storm Sewer	Monitoring retention pond drainage to creek	On-going
Fleet	Repairs	worked as needed
Equipment	Repairs	worked as needed
Computers	Upgrades/Updates	status excellent (new equipment in use)
Programs	Updates & retraining	Upgraded computers/programs and CDC training sessions on-going through DEQ
GIS	Data Collection & Data Management	In progress – on-going
Acquisitions	Aged out Equipment Replacements	Searching for new/leased road sweeper & sale of existing Searching for new/leased plow truck & sale of existing
Locates	Requests to check before digging	Year-round requests – may use SCADA for this
Controlled Burns	Debris collection, burning monitoring	Terminated offer to collect and burn off debris from residents or around the City due to inability to monitor piles for weeks on end

**Accomplishments/Metrics:**

- Fewer, but some “leak letters” have been sent to property owners where water meter monitoring indicates a homeowner potentially has a water leak in their private line (from the City main) that needs to be addressed.

**Focus Next Month:**

- Shaping up approach to line clay sewer lines before they deteriorate too far –preparing for opportunities with 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractors that may occur during fair weather
- Sweeping, patching potholes, grading alleys, supporting Parks Clean-up activities
- Continue budget planning for fiscal year 21/22

**Challenges or Concerns:**

- The street sweeper the City has now costs more to continuously repair and operate than it would cost to buy a newer one. Public works seeks to sell the one it has to purchase a new/used one that operates efficiently.
- Number of private water-line breaks and property owner expectations that City is responsible for fixing...Public works usually finds them, but owners are responsible for fixing the lines into their homes and many have not prepared financially (through insurance). PWs is finding many (home owner) copper lines are aging out.
- Not enough man-power to monitor burn piles for multiple weeks and have determined service to community is no longer feasible. Residents will need to remove/eliminate downed limbs/debris independently

**Ad Hoc or Emergency Activities and Requests**

These are some of the unplanned things that came along and needed to be addressed by Public Works this past month – not all.

**Two Mile Bridge Flooding** - County Commissioner, Bill Bullock, requested collaborative effort at solving for flooding around two-mile bridge (anticipated Co. project planned for 2024 potentially stepped up and/or mitigated w/ City help)

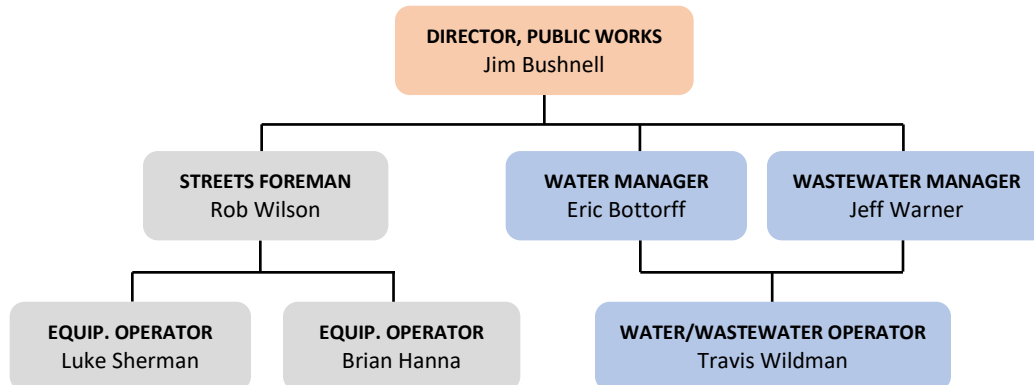
- “band-aid” solution planned for implementation among County: Army Corps of Engineering granted permission to dredge the creek in this vicinity to allow for some relieve to flooding
- The City is monitoring activities to ensure sewer pond and outflow pipes are not disturbed by the dredging

**S Platt Resident’s Concerns** – a number of residents between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> streets on S Platt shared concerns about storm water drainage (lacking), state of streets regarding run-off, freezing/thawing water from snow and snow berms along easements causing difficult conditions.



Newest Public Works member, Travis Wildman, will be attending MWRS in May to obtain 1 of 2 certifications needed for his job

## Administration & Personnel



## Administrative and Personnel Activities

1. Training/Conferences/Workshops/State Legislative Sessions  
Jim Bushnell and selected staff planning to attend Montana Rural Water Systems Conference (MRWS) in Great Falls, May 19-21
2. Awards/Recognitions – none reported
3. Grant Applications/Proposals for Funding –2.7 Billion COVID related grants may be available to water and sewer projects. Will apply for grant by deadline as information released from State
4. Contracts – numerous 3<sup>rd</sup> party contracts reviewed, renewed, edited on-going
5. Budget Planning – Mayor has initiated activity among department heads outlining their budget requirements and requests for the fiscal year 2021/2022. Jim Bushnell is preparing the public works draft budget for continued joint budget planning sessions that began February 19.

Signed:  Jim Bushnell, Director Public Works 4/22/2021 Date

For supporting information see the following link <http://cityofredlodge.net/departments/public-works/>