



WATERSHED NEWS

F O U N D A T I O N

OCTOBER 31, 2006

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UPCOMING EVENTS

James River Basin Partnership needs volunteers Saturday, November 11, 2006 8am to 12noon for M Highway cleanup at the confluence of Finley and James River. Help prevent trash from entering our rivers!! If interested in volunteering for this second fall clean-up day, please phone 417-836-4847 or e-mail melissabettes@missouri.state.edu.

WITH YOUR HELP
WE WILL WORK
TOGETHER TO
MAKE BEAVER,
TABLE ROCK,
TANEYCOMO AND
BULL SHOALS
LAKES THE FOUR
CLEANEST
MANMADE LAKES IN
NORTH AMERICA.

TODAY'S HEADLINES

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MONEY NEEDS PROCEED SEWER OPERATIONS

By [Lori Harrison-Stone](#) The Morning News

Posted on October 30, 2006

URL: <http://www.nwaonline.net/articles/2006/10/31/news/103106rznacafinance.txt>

ROGERS -- It's probably going to be 2009 before a regional sewer plant is completed and ready for operations, but there are bills to pay long before the plant starts treating anything.

The Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority will serve four cities when its sewer plant first opens, but the authority has 10 member cities that plan to eventually use the plant.

Members of the authority's Finance Committee met Monday to talk about plans for \$182,910 in spending for 2007 and discuss whether a \$4 million land purchase should be paid by the first four cities signed up to use the plant or by all the members as potential users of the property in the future.

Mick Wagner, who represents Tontitown on the authority's board of directors, presented a plan at the meeting that would involve a monthly charge to each of the 10 cities based on the number of water users in the cities. His proposal is for 50 cents per water user.

Wagner said the 479 acres that the authority has purchased must be paid for, but the initial plant is being built to serve only four users and won't need the full 479 acres. To continue to be "a viable entity," the authority needs cash, Wagner said. Engineer Steve Yonker noted that just 20 to 30 acres will be needed for the initial plant.

If the charge is passed on only to the users, Wagner said they'll pay \$6 per year for environmental service "each time they flush the commode." The per-user fee would be used to pay off the \$4 million loan the authority has entered for the property, he said.

"This has nothing to do with the plant start-up," Wagner said, adding that by paying for it separately, the four initial users won't carry the burden of the loan for the land as well as the plant's construction costs. "We've got land bought, and now we've got to figure out how to pay for it."

Chris Weiser, representing Springdale, said he had a hard time selling it to officials in his city when he had to come back and ask for funding a second time for the initial start-up costs for the authority. Springdale just completed an expansion of its wastewater treatment plant that should serve the city's needs for the next 20 to 25 years, Weiser said.

Wagner pointed out that when the authority officially seeks bond funding to pay for the plant's construction, the bond financing company will look more favorably on the authority if all the members "buy in" rather than just four.

According to Weiser's proposal, the authority could raise \$498,000 yearly by charging 50 cents per water user.

John Sampier, the authority's executive director, said, "It's always an issue -- how much are folks here today willing to pay for folks here tomorrow."

The four cities planning to use the plant as soon as it's available are Bentonville, Centerton, Tontitown and Highfill. The authority and its engineers are in the process of developing user agreements for those cities that will include their cost for using the regional wastewater treatment plant.

The committee agreed that Wagner would present his ideas to the authority's full board of directors for consideration.

By The Numbers

Paying Per Capita. The Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority will consider a proposal at its Nov. 16 meeting that will provide funding for the authority based on the number of water users in each city at 50 cents each. The expected revenue per year is as follows:

- * Bentonville -- \$84,000
- * Bethel Heights -- \$6,000
- * Cave Springs -- \$4,800
- * Centerton -- \$48,000
- * Elm Springs -- \$4,800
- * Highfill -- \$2,400
- * Lowell -- \$30,000
- * Rogers -- \$132,000
- * Springdale -- \$180,000
- * Tontitown -- \$6,000
- * TOTAL -- \$498,000

Source: Staff Report

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CALENDAR ALSO BRINGS AWARENESS

By Mike Penprase Springfield News-Leader

Posted on October 31, 2006

URL: [http://www.news-](http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061031/NEWS01/610310361/1007/NEWS01)

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Buyers will be reminded of environment daily through new local venture.

Instead of being read and filed away, this year's Greene County Environmental Report Card will be a day-to-day reminder of environmental awareness. That's because it's both a report on environmental trends for the past year and a calendar.

"That was the whole point," Springfield-Greene County Health Department community health planner Karen McKinnis said of switching from a brochure to a calendar: "Put something out that would be kept on the wall the whole year, and remind people of what we have and to protect it."

The opening pages of the calendar — sponsored by the health department and Springfield City Utilities, with information provided by other organizations — includes environmental health indicators ranging from water quality to energy usage.

The rest of the calendar features photographs of outdoor scenes shot by area photographers.

Many of the photos were entered in contests at the Ozark Empire Fair.

"We picked photos we thought would be good for this project," McKinnis said.

A final selection was made by people who designed the calendar.

With 2,100 calendars printed, it's likely they'll go fast, McKinnis said.

Copies are free and are available at the health department, the Busch Municipal Building and Springfield-Greene County Library District libraries, she said.

She's already seen the calendar on walls, and that's encouraging, McKinnis said. "We'll probably revamp it more next year so that is more environmentally literate, bring it home."

Mansfield resident Kristine Whorton, 15, said having a photograph in the calendar was a surprise.

She shot the photo in the calendar that starts with November. It shows an autumn view of the spring at HaHa Tonka State Park near Camdenton.

While Whorton described her interest in photography as "just sort of a hobby kind of thing," her mother, Anna, was more enthusiastic.

"Immense pride," she said of her daughter's accomplishment. "It's so cool."

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PRESCOTT VALLEY TO AUCTION WASTEWATER RIGHTS

ASSOCIATED PRESS / Arizona Daily Star

Posted on October 31, 2006

URL: <http://www.azstarnet.com/sn/hourlyupdate/153684.php>

PHOENIX - An auction will begin Wednesday to sell the rights to some of Prescott Valley's treated wastewater so it can be used in new subdivisions.

The treated wastewater won't flow directly into homes, but will percolate into aquifers, recharging them as wells supply the new homes.

The auction is the first of its kind in this country and will create a new source of water for growth in a part of Arizona that has nearly used up its existing reserves.

Selling the rights to effluent marks a major advance in the use of recycled water, which until now has been limited to irrigating golf courses or parks.

If the auction succeeds, it also could help speed the transformation of water from a public resource to a commodity that is traded, bought and sold on the open market.

"Water is already a commodity, one that has similarities to real estate," said Clay Landry, managing director of WestWater Research, the consulting company managing the auction, which ends Thursday.

The water rights up for bid are enough to support nearly 6,000 homes and more, if apartments or condominiums are built.

The town has set a minimum bid of \$28,000 per acre-foot, or roughly 340 times the cost of Colorado River water in the Phoenix area. An acre-foot equals 325,851 gallons.

Officials said the slower housing market has dampened interest in recent weeks, but the town still expects multiple bidders. The company conducting the auction believes the town could raise as much as \$50 million.

Prescott Valley, a high desert town about 85 miles north of Phoenix, can use the money it raises to help pay for a pipeline that would import more water.

While the town has grown rapidly in recent years and offers abundant land, its water supplies are limited. The area, which includes nearby Prescott and Chino Valley, draws virtually all its water from the ground and is pumping far more than can be replaced either naturally or artificially.

With few other options, the town agreed to help Prescott build a pipeline to bring water from the Big Chino Aquifer more than 30 miles away near the Verde River. The project's cost could balloon to more than \$200 million.

Town officials want to use revenue from the effluent sale to help pay for its share of the pipeline.

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HACKER HITS PENNSYLVANIA WATER SYSTEM

United Press International

Posted on October 31, 2006

URL: <http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/view.php?StoryID=20061031-125011-5264r>

HARRISBURG, Pa., Oct. 31 (UPI) -- The FBI in Philadelphia is investigating how a hacker bypassed security and compromised the computer of a Harrisburg, Pa., water filtration plant.

FBI Special Agent Jerri Williams told ABC News the apparent motive in the Columbus Day attack wasn't to disrupt the plant's operation, but rather to use its computer to covertly distribute mass e-mails or pirated software.

"The concern was high because it is a computer that controls an important infrastructure system, and if, for some reason, it caused it to fail, it would have disrupted service," Williams said.

The hacker originally gained access by tapping into an employee's laptop, officials said. Since the intrusion, the plant has changed all passwords to the system and eliminated home access to the system, ABC said.

WaterISAC, an industry information sharing and analysis center with members from among more than 1,000 water and wastewater systems in the United States, said it was the fourth intrusion into a member's systems in the past four years.

In one attack, the hacker announced entry into the system with the message: "I enter in your server like you in Iraq," the report said.

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