

**City of Polson - Water Improvements**

TSEP/RRGL Testimony – 2013 Legislative Long-Range Planning Committee

**Brief Discussion about the water system in Polson**

- Source:
  - Polson lost its surface water source in 1994 due to contamination.
  - Since then, the City has worked diligently to secure adequate groundwater sources to provide safe and adequate water to its domestic and commercial users.
  - Currently the City has 4 functioning groundwater wells and demand is expected to exceed the MDEQ-mandated production capacity within the next 8 years. With the complexities of obtaining water rights through CSKT, the process of drilling and testing a new well needs to be started a.s.a.p.
- Distribution/Storage:
  - City has been involved in an ongoing program to identify deficiencies in the storage and piping network.
  - Recently replaced 2 and rehabilitated 1 of its 6 storage tanks; installed automated system controls; and made other major improvements thanks in part to previous TSEP, RRGL and stimulus funding.
  - The result of all the recent improvement projects is a combined water/sewer rate that exceeds 120% of the “target rate”.
  - Detailed hydraulic modeling had revealed that piping in the Downtown area is incapable of delivering even half of required fire flows necessary to protect existing structures.

**Solution**

- Drill a new well and secure water rights to serve Polson for at least the next 20 years
- Replace and enhance 5,600 lineal feet of deteriorated/undersized watermain in the Downtown area to achieve fire flows.
- With TSEP funding, Polson residents will be paying 127% of target rate.
- Without TSEP funding, Polson residents will be paying 131% of target rate
- City secured a RRGL grant for this project in 2011. Unsuccessful in TSEP
- Ranked # 28 (one away from fundable portion of list).
- Polson needs TSEP \$\$ to continue being proactive in improving its utility infrastructure.
- Strongly encourage the 2013 Legislature to fund the Treasure State Endowment Program to the greatest practical extent possible, allowing our communities to deliver safe and adequate drinking water to Montana citizens.

Testimony provided by:

Paul Montgomery, P.E. – Anderson-Montgomery Consulting Engineers, Inc. (406) 459-8463

11-11-11  
11-11-11  
11-11-11

8000