

**Water and Wastewater Project Updates**  
**Buffalo River Conservation Committee**  
**July 17, 2023**

**Jasper:**

Approved Funding

\$250,000	BRCC Funding - \$250,000 Dispersed
\$440,000	Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan - \$8,350 Disbursed
\$1,351,750	Clean Water State Revolving Fund Principal Forgiveness - \$70,223 Disbursed
\$5,000,000	American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – None Disbursed

Over the past few months, the Jasper project has encountered numerous issues that have delayed the construction of the lift station. Listed below are the key occurrences on the project.

**Wastewater Phase 1: Lift Station**

- The contract was signed on August 16, 2021, with a completion date of February 12, 2022. The contract amount was \$633,500 with a duration of 180 days.
- During November 2021, after digging the pit to 30' depth, the entire base of the pit was unsuitable for the foundation as the material consisted of mucky soil to an additional depth of 6 to 8 feet.
- The consultant, with counsel from the contractor, determined that the best solution would be to place shot rock, 12" to 24" in size, into the pit and then pour a mud mat made of Class B concrete over the top of the rock. A change order totaling \$34,420 was added to the contract along with increasing the time by 30 days.
- Several delays occurred over the next few months due to weather and coordination of the concrete pour. Common were rain events that creating delays as the water from runoff was pumped out of the pit.
- In March 2022, with the rock and mud mat in place and following a heavy rainfall event, it was determined that one side of the material had settled, creating another unsuitable environment for the foundation to be constructed.
- Following several meetings, GTS, Inc. was hired in May 2022 to do further geotechnical analysis of the site. Their report showed that one side of the pit's floor would currently be unsuitable for construction.
- Based on the recommendation from GTS, a company called Duroterra was contacted about the design and construction of a driven pile foundation system. Following several conversations with them, they felt that Foundation Specialties, Inc. (FSI) would be the best sub-contractor.
- FSI was contacted in June 2022 and after visiting the site, they put together an estimate for the deep foundation of \$77,709. During the time spent preparing an estimate, FSI visited the site and expressed concern about the lack of bracing and shoring at the construction site. Another site visit was made to aid in producing a proposal for the installation of a soldier and lag support of excavation wall.

- On July 26, 2022, the estimate for the support of excavation wall was received at \$575,238. The estimate was dated July 25, 2022, and is valid for 30 days. After conversations with Jeff Dehnhardt (Engineering Services, Inc.), we felt that the City's best interest would be to reach out to one or more deep foundation contractors to obtain comparison pricing. We discussed this with Mayor Jan Larson, and she agreed with this assessment. I mentioned the possibility of exploring the alternate site again. Jeff stated that this had been discussed but there was concern that the same sub-surface issues would be present at that location. Also, the city had not been receptive to using the alternate site.
- A goal was established of having comparison numbers and a recommendation reached by August 18, 2022. This would be in time for the next city council meeting at Jasper on the same date.
- Change order #2 was executed on January 26, 2023, for the installation of a deep foundation system to support the wet well. The deep foundation consists of five 30" diameter reinforced concrete piers. The piers will be steel encased and socketed a minimum of 3' into the bedrock. Construction on the deep foundation was expected to begin when the materials are delivered in late March; however due to weather conditions construction was delayed.
- Specialty Foundation Contractor mobilized to the site on July 10, 2023.

#### **Wastewater Phase 2: Treatment Plant**

ANRC approved \$5,000,000 in ARPA funding for wastewater treatment plant improvements.  
Drinking Water System Improvements

- ANRC approved \$1,935,000 in ARPA funding for improvements to the drinking water system.

#### **Marble Falls:**

Next steps will be getting an approved Engineering Service Agreement with Great River Engineering. Marble Falls/Big Cedar are looking to obtain federal grant funding to replace the loan funding approved by the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission. Legal document preparation has begun on the reappointment of the Board of Commissioners. Engineering work is still being completed and on schedule. Everything is moving along, and all parties are satisfied with progress. The design is expected to be complete in the Spring of '23 with Plans & Specs to be submitted shortly after design completion.

Completed the topographic field work and are about 40-50% complete with the design for the Phase 1 improvements. They have been working with the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District and US Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration for funding related to the Phase 2 improvements. They have provided them with all the documentation requested and are awaiting word on a potential award. They will let us know as soon as they receive any additional updates. They are currently on their 3rd Project Manager with ADEQ, so they have been working hard to keep them informed of the status of the project and the history related to it. Their schedule still has them set for Advertising for Bids for

construction this fall. We are waiting on the ESA, ADH approval, ADEQ construction permit, and P&S are still under development.

ARPA funding of \$409,614 approved for wastewater system improvements.

**Sceptic Tank Program:**

H2Ozarks, formerly known as Ozarks Water Watch (OWW), has been approved as the managing organization for the Septic Tank Remediation Pilot Program within the Buffalo River Watershed. The purpose of this pilot project is to improve and protect water quality in the Buffalo River Watersheds while assisting residents in remediating their failing onsite septic systems. By participating and meeting all necessary requirements in this program and depending on their household income, residents in the Buffalo River Watershed will be eligible to receive some financial assistance, not to exceed \$30,000, in the form of grant/loan as reimbursement for repair or replacement of a failing septic system.

The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission approved in June of 2022 an amount up to \$278,400 in a grant to H2Ozarks to expand the Septic Tank Remediation Pilot Program to the Buffalo River Watershed. In addition, this approval will allow H2Ozarks to utilize the previously approved \$1,000,000 in construction funding from the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund to include the Buffalo River Watershed. The Buffalo River Watershed addition official kickoff was September 9, 2022, \$47,341.00 has been disbursed for remediation in the watershed.