

## Project update

1 message

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To: UP Board <universityparkboard@gmail.com>

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Hi Everyone,

Jo Ann requested that I give a brief synopsis of the project to inform some of the residents of where we are at in the lagoon project. See below, if you need any more details feel free to reach out.

The wastewater treatment facility for University Park has been out of compliance with its discharging permit for several years. In response to the issue, EPA issued an order on consent to bring the facility into compliance, or replace the system altogether. Several alternatives were considered, including a discharging lagoon, non-discharging lagoon, updating the existing plant which is nearing the end of its useful life, and a new treatment plant altogether. In efforts to reduce the cost of the replacement and provide a long-term solution for waste, a lagoon was selected to replace the existing treatment facility. The initial cost of the project was estimated to be \$1,962,210.00. Several locations were considered and currently the most viable location is directly west of the water tower. Soil samples were obtained at this location, showing suitable area for excavation of the lagoon but unsuitable material for lining of the lagoon. One solution we are considering is bringing in bentonite clay to form a layer for "lining" the lagoon, in order to continue forward with the non-discharging lagoon. We are looking into this option and the potential costs currently.

Several applications were submitted for loan and grant funding, and we recently received confirmation that this project will be awarded \$1.5 million through the Small Town Water and Sewer Infrastructure Grant. We also confirmed that we are on the list for a loan, with potential loan forgiveness, through the State Revolving Fund (KDHE). That being said, the KDHE SRF loan program and possibility of loan forgiveness is competitive and will be based on other projects going on throughout Kansas. In addition to the SRF loan, a USDA loan application is in the process of being submitted. SMH consultants has been working with KDHE and EPA to update the timeline for meeting the consent order requirements, and will continue to do so through the remainder of the project.

Once again, if you have any questions or feel I missed anything, feel free to reach out.

Thank you,

**Evan McMillan**

**Public Works Asst. Director/County Engineer**

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