
Community of Phippsburg Wastewater Treatment Plant Special Use Permit

ACTIVITY #: PL20220112

HEARING DATES: Planning Commission: 6/29/2023 at 6:00pm
Board of County 7/11/2023 at 11:30am
Commissioners:

PETITIONER: Routt County (Scott Cowman, Environmental Health)
PETITION: Special Use Permit for a Central Sewage Treatment System
outside a County approved Special District.
LEGAL: TR IN SW4SW4 SEC 9-3-85 & SE4SE4 SEC 8-3-85
LOCATION: County Road 12 immediately east of the railroad tracks.
ZONE DISTRICT: Agriculture/Forestry (AF)
AREA: 2.54 acres
STAFF CONTACT: Michael Fitz – mfitz@co.routt.co.us
ATTACHMENTS:

- Vicinity map showing adjacent ownership
- Site survey with location options
- Collection system Administrative Boundary
- Site plan (including solar array & preferred location A)
- Reclamation Plan – site contours
- Building rendering
- CPW Comments
- Site Photos
- Supplemental narrative
- Project narrative (PNA Document)

History:

The Town of Phippsburg is an unincorporated community that was platted in the early 1900s. Originally it lacked any comprehensive water distribution or wastewater treatment infrastructure. The current water distribution and wastewater collection and treatment systems that serve the Town were installed in the 1970s, providing modern water supply and sanitation to the high-density lots, which are too small for adequate individual septic systems. At the time the wastewater system was constructed, it was within a County-approved Special District (the Phippsburg Sanitation District). Central Water or Sewage Treatment Systems within a Special District are uses-by-right requiring no permit. The operation and administration of the wastewater collection and treatment system was subsequently taken over by Routt County, and the district no longer exists. Phippsburg also has a water distribution system, constructed slightly later, and permitted for operation by Routt County under Special Use Permit PP-1978-004. Today Routt County Environmental Health operates both systems, serving approximately 220 residents through 132 residential and 3 commercial service connections, covering a service area of approximately 63 acres, and processing approximately 19,400 gallons per day. The current wastewater treatment facility is the original basic aerated lagoon system, which

discharges into the Yampa River. This system has reached its useful lifespan and requires replacement.

Site Description:

The site of the current wastewater treatment plant is a 2.54-acre parcel of land approximately 1/3 of a mile north of the Town of Phippsburg, east of State Highway 131 on County Road 12, just under the narrow, wooden railroad track underpass. It is bounded on the west by the railroad tracks, the south by County Road 12, and is surrounded on all sides by agricultural grazing land owned the the SKCK Settlement Corporation. The County has owned this legal non-conforming parcel since 1976. The site contains three ponds, a constructed wetland treatment pond (unused at present), a small shed near the road to screen intake material, and a treatment building in the northeast corner. Little White Snake Creek wraps around the property on the west and north sides, as it flows northeast to the Yampa River. The site has no trees, and vegetation is limited to grasses. It is surrounded by an agricultural fence to keep out livestock.

Project Description:

The County proposes to replace the 47 year old aerated lagoon system with a mechanical membrane bioreactor. The proposed system fits within a single building and was selected because of its filtration capabilities, modularity, small footprint, ease of installation, ability to meet future anticipated discharge permit limits, and simplicity of operation. It will be rated for the same hydraulic and organic capacity as the existing lagoon, and continue to utilize the Yampa River as its discharge location. The proposal will also incorporate a solar array to provide power, which will use some of the newly-available space where the existing lagoons are currently located.

Staff Comments:

The current treatment system is in need of replacement. In winter, it does not perform adequately, with the lagoons occasionally freezing over. The liners in the lagoons need repairs, and the facility struggles to meet water quality compliance metrics, which have only gotten stricter over time. Due to the facility's age, condition, and failure to comply with today's stringent water quality standards, replacement of the system will greatly benefit the Town of Phippsburg and Routt County as a whole.

Although the existing wastewater collection system is not within a Special District, it does have a defined service boundary, known as an "administrative boundary". Because this wastewater collection and treatment system has never been permitted with a SUP, this approval will bring the proposed treatment system as well as the wastewater collection system into compliance with the requirement that such systems operate under a Special Use Permit. The boundaries of this SUP will be the administrative boundary containing the collection system, the property containing the wastewater treatment plant, and the easement between the two which contains the sewer line going to the treatment plant.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the application be **RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL** to the Board of County Commissioners.

*****Issues for Discussion*****

Planning Staff has not identified any issues for discussion.

Compliance with the Routt County Master Plan, Sub Area Plans and Zoning Regulations

The Routt County Master Plan (Master Plan), Sub Area Plans, and Zoning Regulations contain dozens of land use policies and regulations that are intended to reinforce the guiding principles of the Master Plan. This report categorizes subject matter content that is important to consider when reviewing. The categories include:

1. Health, Safety and Nuisances
2. Regulations and Standards
3. Standards for Central Water and Sewage Treatment Systems
4. Community Character and Visual Impacts
5. Roads, Transportation, and Site Design
6. Natural Environment
7. Mitigation

Within each category are applicable policies and regulations. Specific Zoning Regulations sections include:

- **Section 5** of the Zoning Regulations are designed to limit or eliminate conditions that could negatively impact the environment and/or use of surrounding properties and shall apply in all Zone Districts and to all land uses unless otherwise noted.
- **Section 6** of the Zoning Regulations contains mitigation techniques and applies to all Minor, Administrative, Conditional or Special Uses allowed by permit only, PUD plans, Site plans, and Subdivisions.
- **Section 8** of the Zoning Regulations applies to certain land uses and are intended to assist in determining the compatibility with the surrounding uses and appropriate mitigation of potentially significant negative impacts.

Interested parties are encouraged to review the Master Plan, Sub Area plans and Zoning Resolution to determine if there are other policies and regulations that may be applicable to the review of this petition.

Planning Staff comments are included in bold at the end of each category and highlight questions and/or comments from the general public, referral agencies, and Planning Staff.

1. Public Health, Safety and Nuisances

Applicable Zoning Regulations

- 5.1.1 Every use shall be operated so that it does not pose a danger to public health, safety or welfare.
- 5.1.2 Every use shall be operated in conformance with all applicable federal, state and local regulations and standards. Failure to comply with any and all applicable federal, state and local regulations and standards may be cause for review and/or revocation of any Land Use Approval granted pursuant to these regulations.
- 6.1 General Approval Standards
 - 7.C Natural Hazards
 - 7.H Wildland Fire
 - 7.I Noise
 - 7.L Odors

7.M Vibration

Applicable Master Plan Policies

- 10.2 Support energy, water efficiency and conservation in land use in development.
- 10.5 Encourage new construction to be as energy efficient and sustainable as possible.
- 11.2 Support water conservation practices to effectively manage water resources.
- 11.12 Discourage land uses that increase the potential for wildfires in high risk wildfire hazard areas.
- 12.2 Encourage development in Future Growth Areas that incorporates essential services (e.g. grocery, medical care, childcare).

Staff comments: The replacement wastewater treatment plant system will significantly improve the County's ability to safeguard public health and safety while minimizing nuisances. The land is already developed and no additional land is needed. The new facility will be able to comply with today's more stringent water quality standards for discharged effluent into the Yampa River. Phippsburg is a Tier 3 growth area, which needs a modern, compliant wastewater treatment system to avoid negative impacts from additional growth and sewage discharge. The site is not located in the floodplain and the replacement of the open lagoons with the new treatment building will likely be a reduction in nuisance.

****Is the application in compliance with the Policies and Regulations outlined above? Yes or No**

2. Regulations and Standards

Applicable Zoning Regulations

- 5.2 Dimensional Standards:
- 6.1.2 The proposal shall be consistent with applicable Master Plans and sub-area plans.
- 6.1.5 The proposal shall meet or exceed accepted industry standards and Best Management Practices (BMP's).

Staff comments: The replacement wastewater treatment plant represents a modern effort to meet today's best management practices and industry standards. Because Phippsburg is a Tier 3 growth area, it is appropriate for it to be served by a wastewater treatment system, and it is essential that the system perform adequately. While engineered site designs are not yet available, the site is very small for the A/F zone district, and any failure to comply with dimensional standards will require a variance before construction.

****Is the application in compliance with the Policies and Regulations outlined above? Yes or No**

3. 8.9 Standards for Central Water and Sewage Treatment Systems

Applicable Zoning Regulations

- 8.9.2 Standards
 - A. New central water and sewage treatment systems will be constructed in areas that will result in the proper utilization of existing treatment facilities and the orderly development of central water and sewage treatment systems of adjacent communities.
 - B. The installation of the new central water and/or sewage treatment system or the extension of an existing central water and/or sewage treatment system does not conflict with the Routt County Master Plan or such other adopted plans and policies as may be in effect for the property.

- C. The installation of the new central water and/or sewage treatment system or an extension of an existing central water and/or sewage treatment system will not materially decrease the quality of surface or subsurface water resources.
- D. Age of existing water and sewage treatment systems, operational efficiency, state of repair, and level of treatment is such that replacement is warranted, or existing facilities cannot be upgraded or expanded to meet increased demand or the discharge permit conditions of the Colorado Water Quality Control Division.
- E. Area and community development and population trends demonstrate clearly a need for such development.
- F. New or expanded central water or sewer treatment systems shall be under the control of a public entity (incorporated town, special district, etc.) or shall be privately owned in common by all lots served by the system. In the case of private ownership, a homeowners association or other entity that provides for adequate representation of all serviced lots shall be required.
- G. Applicant has demonstrated that the system has been provided with adequate financial resources to ensure that both ongoing maintenance and long-term capital replacement needs will be met.
- H. No Special Use Permit for construction of waste treatment facilities shall be issued for a site in the 100-year flood plain unless emergency plans and procedures for action to be taken in the event of flooding are prepared, filed with, and approved by the Water Quality Control Division of the State of Colorado Department of Health. Such emergency plans and procedures shall provide for measures to prevent introduction of any pollutant or toxic material into floodwaters.

Staff comments: The new wastewater treatment plant proposal by the County is in clear compliance with all Section 8.9.2 standards. The wastewater treatment facility is already existing and serves a clear need for the Town of Phippsburg, a Tier 3 growth area, and is urgently needed due to the existing facility's age and failure to comply with modern water quality standards. The site is not in a mapped floodplain. As an existing facility, it will continue to be owned and maintained by Routt County.

***Is the application in compliance with the Policies and Regulation outlined above? Yes or No*

4. Community Character and Visual Concerns

Applicable Zoning Regulations

- 5.1.4 Outdoor storage of materials which might cause fumes, odors, dust, fire hazard, or health hazards is prohibited unless such storage is within enclosed containers or unless a determination is made that such use will not have a detrimental impact on the environment
- 6.1.6 Outdoor Lighting: The proposal shall comply with the Outdoor Lighting Standards in Section 6.3 of these Regulations.
- 6.1 General Approval Standards
 - 7.G Visual Amenities and Scenic Qualities.
 - 7.K Land Use Compatibility.
 - 7.O Historical Significance.

Applicable Master Plan Policies

- 4.1 Direct new growth and development to Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 Future Growth Areas, in that order and as defined in the Growth & Land Use Chapter.

- 4.2 Support infill development and redevelopment that is complementary to existing character and consistent with available resources to accommodate evolving community needs within the Future Growth Areas.
- 4.4 Support needed housing, economic and infrastructure development to accommodate growth in Future Growth Areas as defined.
- 4.6 Support efforts to maintain Dark Skies and control light pollution.
- 6.19 Allow commercial development in Tier 1 municipalities, allow appropriately scaled commercial development Tier 2 Targeted Growth Areas and, on a case-by-case basis, in Tier 3 Small Established Communities if determined to address a community need.
- 9.16 Protect unique view corridors with high aesthetic value, including the south valley floor and the Hwy 40 and CR 129 corridors.

Staff comments: The proposed wastewater treatment plant broadly improves community character in the Phippsburg area. The current open-pit lagoons will be removed and replaced by one building which processes wastewater in an enclosed space. The proposed system supports the continued maintenance and even growth of the Town of Phippsburg as a Tier 3 growth area. It will have no additional impact to adjacent properties or the community or County as a whole, and will have fewer visual and environmental impacts than the existing system.

***Is the application in compliance with the Policies and Regulations outlined above? Yes or No*

5. Roads, Transportation and Site Design

Applicable Zoning Regulations

- 5.4 Parking Standards
- 5.5 Addressing Standards
- 5.6 Access to Buildable Lot Standards
- 6.1 General Approval Standards
 - 7.E Water Quality and Quantity
 - 7.J Wetlands
 - 7.N Snow Storage

Staff comments: The removal of the existing lagoons will free up significant space onsite, and no parking or access issues are anticipated. The new plant will better safeguard water quality and adjacent wetlands, and the lack of lagoons frees up much of the site for snow storage.

***Is the application in compliance with the Policies and Regulations outlined above? Yes or No*

6. Natural Environment

Applicable Zoning Regulations

- 5.11 Waterbody Setback Standards
- 6.1 General Approval Standards
 - 7.D Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat
 - 7.E Water Quality and Quantity
 - 7.F Air Quality
 - 7.J Wetlands
 - 7.P Reclamation and Restoration
 - 7.Q Noxious Weeds

Applicable Master Plan Policies

- 4.5 Apply best practices and data to inform decisions impacting sensitive ecological and wildlife areas throughout the County.
- 9.12 Noxious weeds must be controlled at the expense of the landowner.
- 9.13 Enforce the weed management program and educate new or unaware landowners or those that refuse to manage weeds.
- 11.3 Protect wildlife species and their habitats.
- 11.4 Include wildlife habitat and species information in land use and site plan decision making.
- 11.5 Encourage land use practices that will minimize conflicts between wildlife and human uses.
- 11.7 Minimize the cumulative impacts of development on wildlife and wildlife habitat.
- 11.9 Protect and/or improve the diversity of native vegetation.

Staff comments: The proposed wastewater treatment plant will have fewer environmental impacts than the current open lagoon system, reducing the footprint of the operation and restoring the site to flat, vegetated land. Removal of the open pit lagoons will also reduce the risk of wildlife getting caught or trapped in the lagoons. The Little White Snake Creek passes through this parcel and is currently interrupted by the lagoons. While engineered site designs are not yet available, the site is very small for the A/F zone district, and any failure to comply with dimensional standards will require a variance before construction.

***Is the application in compliance with the Policies and Regulations outlined above? Yes or No*

7. Mitigation Techniques

Applicable Zoning Regulations

Mitigation Techniques to Reduce Impacts to Agricultural Uses:

- 6.12.B Fence the site to prevent access by humans and animals.

Staff comments: Colorado is a “fence-out” state for agriculture. The current fence around the site is in poor condition, and the adjacent landowner has expressed frustration with his cows getting into the site and occasionally into the lagoons. During the site visit, cow excrement was noted around the lagoons and buildings. A condition is suggested requiring the fence to be repaired within 1 year of approval and maintained indefinitely to prevent livestock intrusion.

***Is the application in compliance with the Policies and Regulations outlined above? Yes or No*

PLANNING COMMISSION / BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OPTIONS:

1. **Approve the Special Use Permit request without conditions** if it is determined that the petition will not adversely affect the public health, safety, and welfare and the proposed use is compatible with the immediately adjacent and nearby neighborhood properties and uses and the proposal is in compliance with the Routt County Zoning Regulations and complies with the guidelines of the Routt County Master Plan.
2. **Deny the Special Use Permit request** if it is determined that the petition will adversely affect the public health, safety, and welfare and/or the proposed use is not compatible with the immediately adjacent and nearby neighborhood properties and uses and/or the proposed use is not in compliance with the Routt County Zoning Regulations and/or the Routt County Master

Plan. Make specific findings of fact, citing specific regulations or policies by number from the Routt County Master Plan and the Routt County Zoning Regulations.

3. **Table the Special Use Permit request** if additional information is required to fully evaluate the petition. Give specific direction to the petitioner and staff.
4. **Approve the Special Use Permit request with conditions and/or performance standards** if it is determined that certain conditions and/or performance standards are necessary to ensure public, health, safety, and welfare and/or make the use compatible with immediately adjacent and neighborhood properties and uses and/or bring the proposal into compliance with the Routt County Zoning Regulations and Routt County Master Plan.

FINDINGS OF FACT that may be appropriate if the Special Use Permit is approved:

1. The proposal, with the following conditions, meets the applicable guidelines of the Routt County Master Plan and is in compliance with Sections 4, 5, 6 and 8 of the Routt County Zoning Regulations.

CONDITIONS that may be appropriate may include the following:

General Conditions:

1. The SUP is contingent upon compliance with the applicable provisions of the Routt County Zoning Regulations including but not limited to Sections 4, 5, 6, and 8.
2. The SUP is limited to uses and facilities presented in the approved project plan. Any additional uses or facilities must be applied for in a new or amended application.
3. Any complaints or concerns that may arise from this operation may be cause for review of the SUP, at any time, and amendment or addition of conditions, or revocation of the permit if necessary.
4. No junk, trash, or inoperative vehicles shall be stored on the property.
5. This approval is contingent upon the acquisition of and compliance with any required federal, state and local permits. The operation shall comply with all federal, state and local laws. Copies of permits or letters of approval shall be submitted to the Routt County Planning Department prior to the commencement of operations.
6. Fuel, flammable materials, or hazardous materials shall be kept in a safe area and shall be stored in accordance with state and local environmental requirements.
7. All exterior lighting shall be downcast and opaquely shielded.
8. All trash shall be stored either inside a garage or inside Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) certified receptacles
9. Accessory structures/uses associated with this permit may be administratively approved by the Planning Director, without notice.
10. Transfer of this permit to any operator other than Routt County shall require review of all Conditions and their applicability by Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners.
11. The Permittee shall prevent the spread of weeds to surrounding lands and comply with the most current version of the Colorado Noxious Weed Act and Routt County regulations for noxious weeds.

Specific Conditions:

12. The Special Use Permit (SUP) is valid for the life of the use provided it is acted upon within one year of approval. The SUP shall be deemed to have automatically lapsed if the uses permitted herein are discontinued for a period of one (1) year.

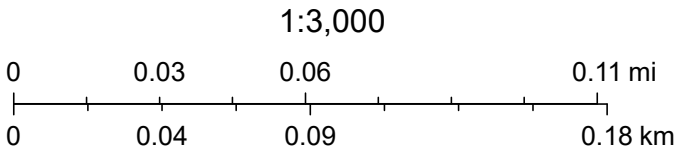
13. Revegetation of disturbed areas shall occur within one growing season with a seed mix that avoids the use of aggressive grasses. See the Colorado State University Extension Office for appropriate grass seed mixes.
14. The fence surrounding the site shall be repaired within 1 year of approval of this SUP, and shall be maintained indefinitely thereafter to prevent livestock intrusion onto the site.
15. The proposed site plan is conceptual and indicates the need for setback variances to construct the proposed improvements. Prior to issuance, any required variances shall be obtained.

Phippsburg WWTP Ownership Map

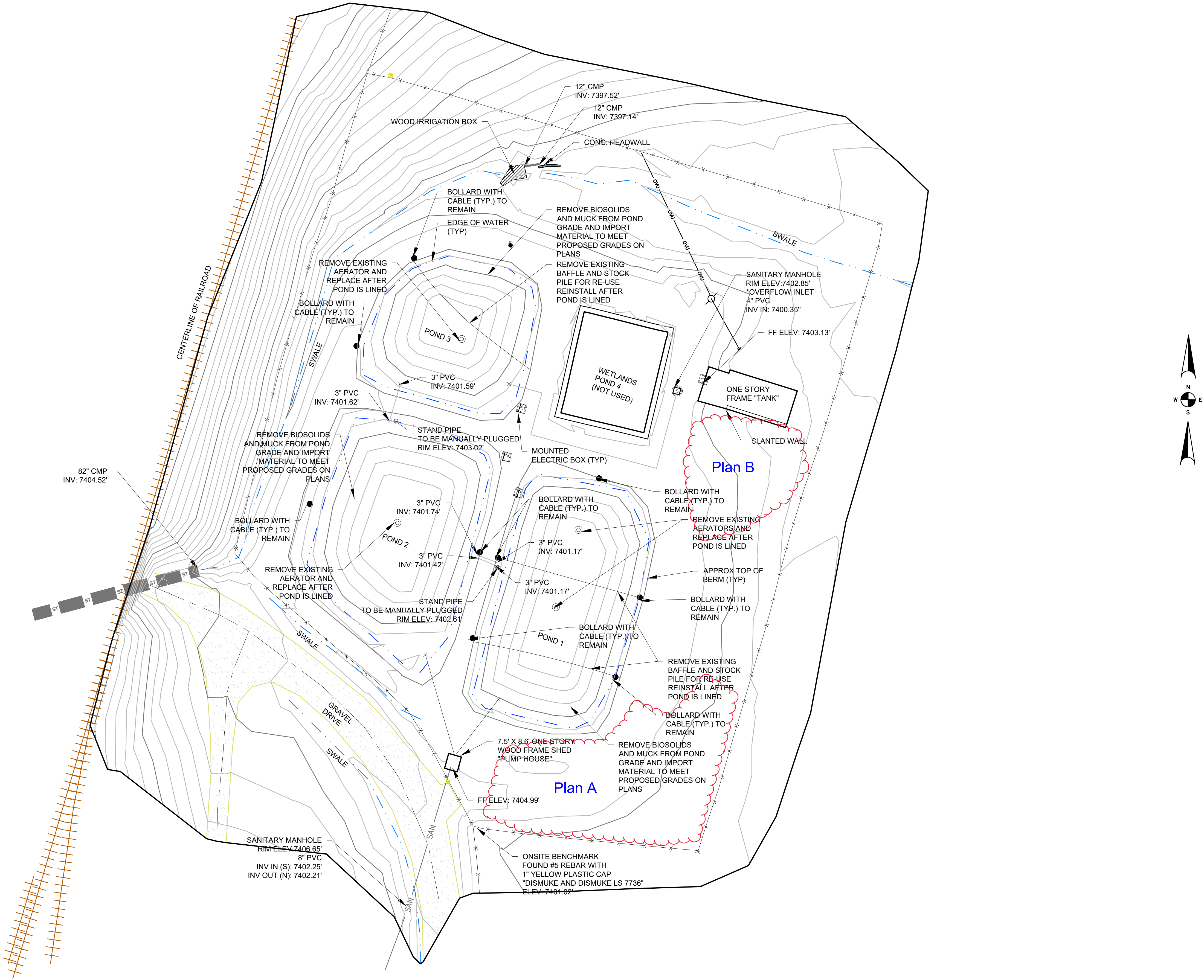


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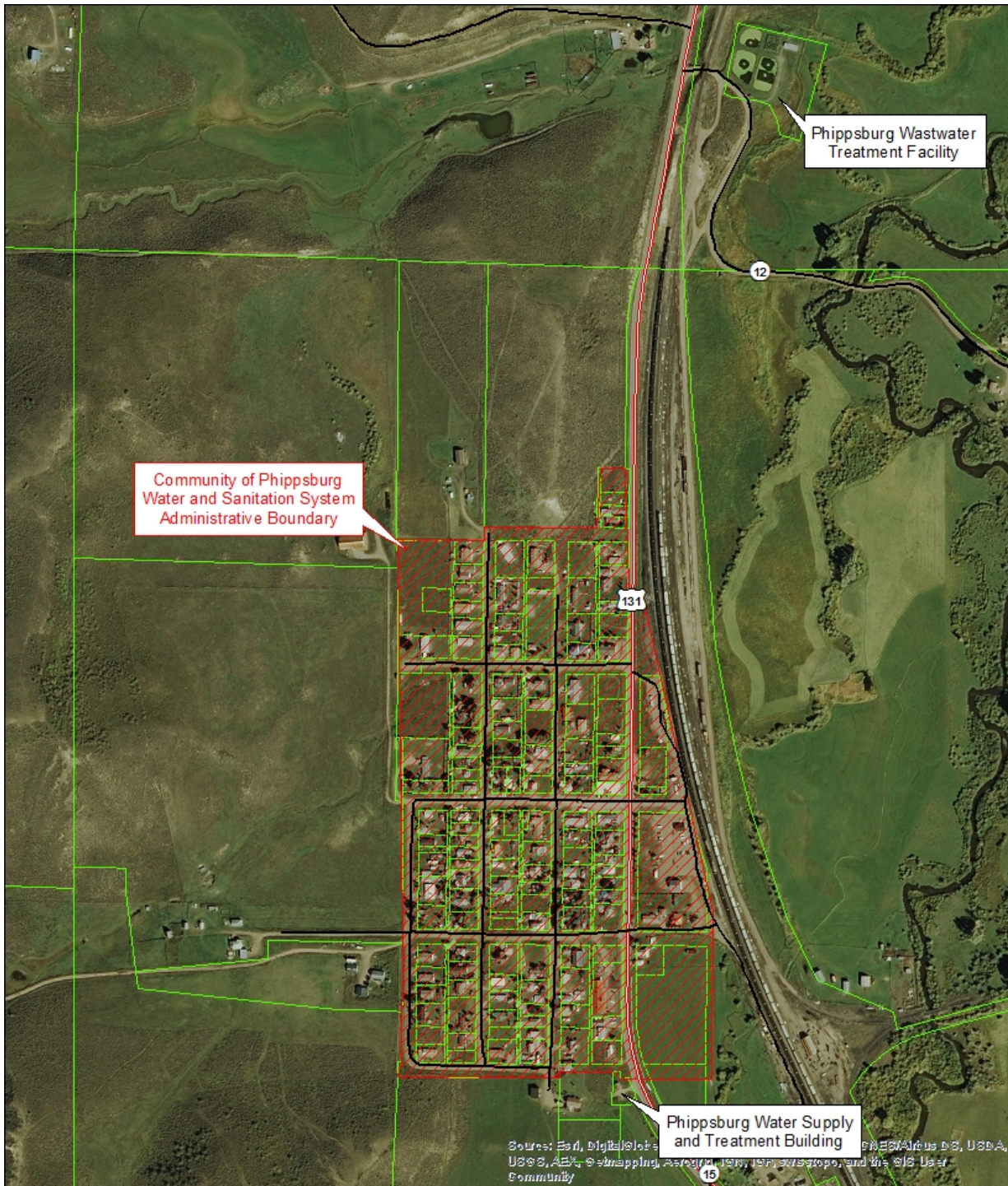
- ROUTT COUNTY BOUNDARY
- PARCELS
- ADDRESSES ROUTT COUNTY
- SECTIONS
- TOWNSHIP
- ROADS - ROUTT COUNTY AND TOWNS
- LOCAL PUBLIC ROAD
- REMOTE PUBLIC ROAD
- HIGHWAY



Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community, Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Source: Esri,



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**APPENDIX A
COMMUNITY OF PHIPPSBURG
WATER AND SANITATION SYSTEM
LOCATION MAP**



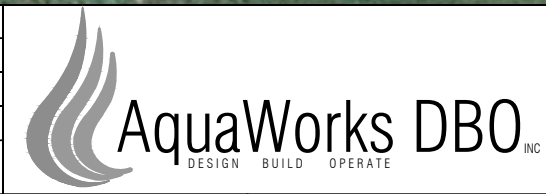
- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Road Centerlines | STATE | PWSS BOUNDARY |
| COUNTY PUBLIC ROAD | PRIVATE | Parcels |
| FEDERAL | CITY OR TOWN | |

** This map is for illustration purposes only. Areas displayed are approximate, and not necessarily accurate to surveying or engineering standards. Any other use or recompilation of the information is the sole responsibility of the user. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy, correctness and timeliness of materials presented, Routt County expressly disclaims all liability regarding accuracy or completeness.*



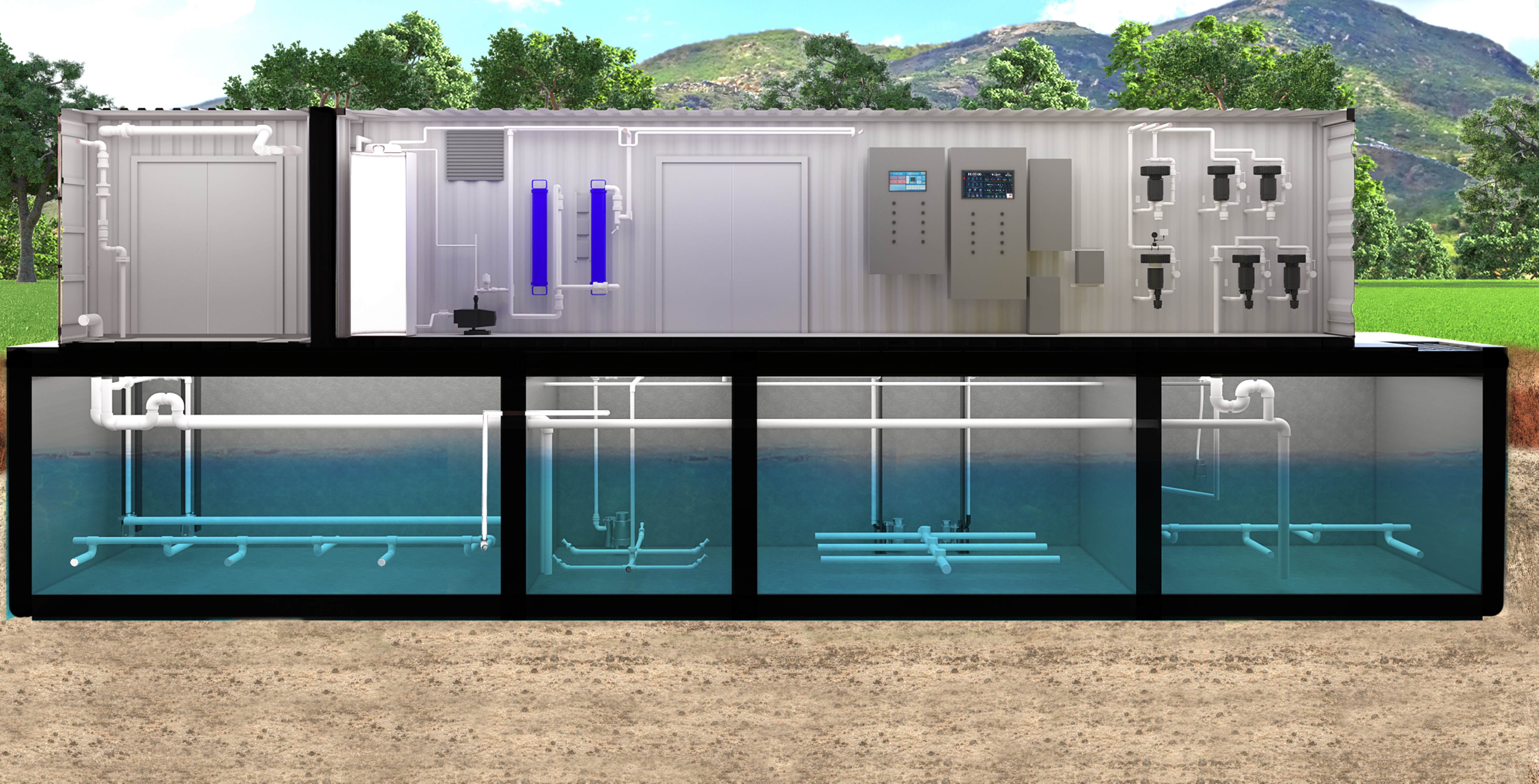
PRELIMINARY
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

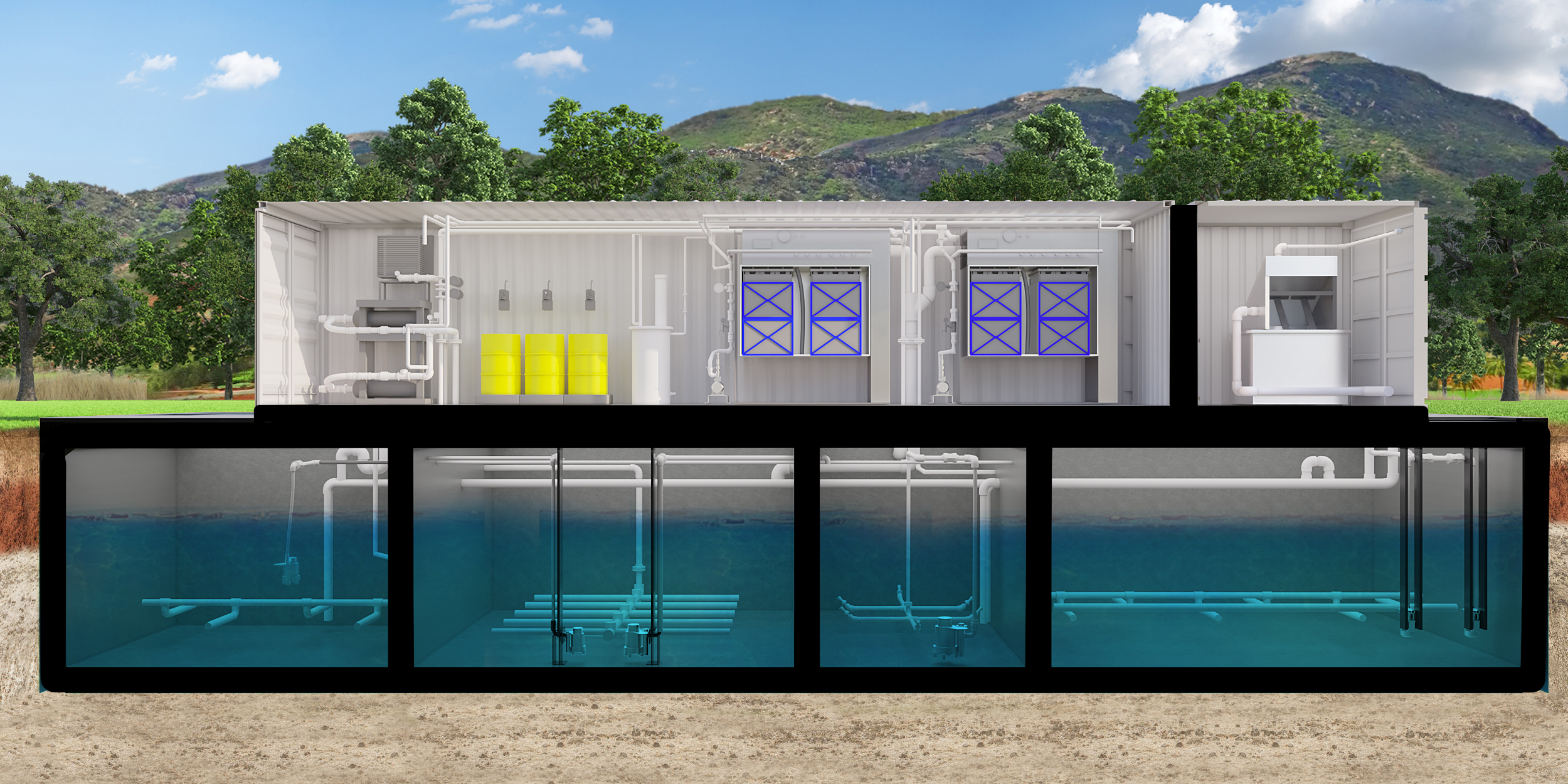
| | | | | |
|----------|-------|-----|-----------------------|--|
| REV. No: | DATE: | BY: | REVISION DESCRIPTION: | DRAWN BY: MG |
| | | | | DESIGNED BY: AS |
| | | | | FILE PRINTED ON: 5/26/2023 11:03:43 AM |
| | | | | COPYRIGHT: AQUAWORKS DBO, INC. |
| | | | | 0 1 IF THIS BAR DOES NOT READ 1" DRAWING IS NOT LABELED TO SCALE |



| | | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| PROJECT: PHIPPSBURG COLORADO WWTP COMMUNITY OF PHIPPSBURG ROUTT COUNTY, COLORADO | | SHEET TITLE: OVERALL SITE PLAN | | |
| ENGINEER: AQUAWORKS DBO, INC. 3252 WILLIAMS STREET DENVER, COLORADO 80205 (303) 477-5915 | | PROJECT NUMBER: 7830 | SCALE: 1"=40' | SHEET: C1 |







- GRADING NOTES:
1. TOPSOIL WITHIN THE DESIGNATED PROJECT LIMITS OF DISTURBANCE SHALL BE SALVAGED PRIOR TO BEGINING OF HAULING, EXCAVATING, OR FILL OPERATIONS.
 2. TOPSOIL SHALL BE REPLACED TO DISTURBED AREAS AND SHALL BE PLACED DIRECTLY UPON COMPLETED CUT AND FILL SLOPES WHENEVER CONDITIONS AND THE PROGRESS OF CONSTRUCTION PERMIT.
 3. CONTRACTOR TO INSTALL FINISH GRADE ACCORDING TO PLAN GRADES, SLOPES, SPOTS, NOTES AND SPECIFICATIONS. PROVIDE A SMOOTH FINISH BY RANKING IN TOPSOILED AREAS. PROVIDE SMOOTH TRANSITIONS AT TOP OF BANKS AND TOE OF SLOPES.
 4. ALL EXCAVATIONS AND EMBANKMENTS SHALL BE FINISHED TO SMOOTH AND UNIFORM SURFACES CONFORMING WITH PLANS AND TYPICAL SECTIONS DETAILED AND SPECIFIED HERE.
 5. WHEN EMBANKMENT IS PLACED ON BOTH SIDES OF A CONCRETE WALL OR BOX TYPE STRUCTURE, THE EMBANKMENT SHALL BE BROUGHT UP EQUALLY ON BOTH SIDES OF THE STRUCTURE UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE ON THE PLANS.
 6. EMBANKMENT SHALL BE PLACED IN HORIZONTAL LAYERS NOT TO EXCEED 8 INCHES LOOSE MEASUREMENT AND SHALL BE COMPACTED AS SPECIFIED BEFORE THE NEXT LAYER IS PLACED.
 7. SURFACE WATER SHALL NOT BE ALLOWED TO POND ANYWHERE AND SHALL DRAIN AWAY FROM BUILDING AT ALL TIMES. ALL DRAINAGE IS SHOWN DRAINING AWAY FROM BUILDING ON THESE PLANS.

- NOTES:
1. IONSITE BENCHMARK FOUND :#5 REBAR WITH 1" YELLOW PLASTIC CAP "DISMUKE AND DISMUKE LS 7736" ELEV:7401.02'

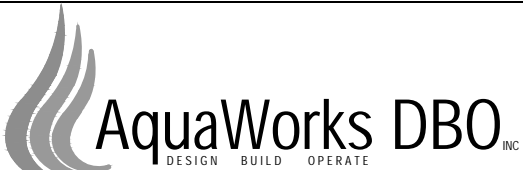
| LAGOON VOLUME SURFACE ANALYSIS | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| CUT | 17.56 CU.YD |
| FILL | 3434.79 CU.YD |
| NET(FILL) | 3417.23 CU.YD |

- RESTORATION SEEDING SPECIFICATIONS:
REFER TO PROJECT SPECIFICATION MANUAL SECTION 32 92 00 FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:
1. SOIL ANALYSIS
 2. SEED AND MULCH SUBMITTALS
 3. SITE PREPARATION AND PROTECTION
 4. SOIL PREPARATION
 5. SEEDING AND MULCHING
 6. WARRANTY AND CONDITIONS



LAGOON RESTORATION PLAN
1"=40'

| REV. No: | DATE: | BY: | REVISION DESCRIPTION: | DRAWN BY: MG |
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| | | | | DESIGNED BY: AS |
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| | | | | COPYRIGHT: AQUAWORKS DBO, INC. |
| | | | | IF THIS BAR DOES NOT READ 1" DRAWING IS NOT LABELED TO SCALE |



PROJECT: PHIPPSBURG COLORADO WWTP
COMMUNITY OF PHIPPSBURG
ROUTT COUNTY, COLORADO

ENGINEER: AQUAWORKS DBO, INC.
3252 WILLIAMS STREET
DENVER, COLORADO 80205
(303) 477-5915

SHEET TITLE:
LAGOON RESTORATION PLAN

PROJECT NUMBER: 7830

SCALE: 1"=40'

SHEET: C6



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Steamboat Springs (Area 10) Service Center
PO Box 775777 | 925 Weiss Drive
Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80487
P 970.870.2197 | F 970.871.2853

Routt County
136 6th Street, Suite 201
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

November 18, 2022

RE: Routt County Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades in Phippsburg and Milner

Dear Mr. Cowman

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed wastewater treatment plant upgrades in Milner and Phippsburg. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has a statutory responsibility to manage all wildlife species in Colorado. This responsibility is embraced through our mission to perpetuate the wildlife resources of Colorado and provide sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that educate and inspire future generations. CPW fulfills this mission by responding to requests for comments on wildlife impact reports, land use proposals, and consultations through public-private partnerships.

CPW Understands that the wastewater treatment facilities for the towns of Phippsburg and Milner will be replaced by converting the facilities from lagoon treatment operations to mechanical treatment operations utilizing membrane technology. The existing lagoons will be decommissioned by removing biosolids and liners and then backfilled. The new treatment facilities will consist of subsurface concrete basins and a treatment plant housed in a shipping container set on top of those basins. Connections will utilize the existing collection lines through a trenchless construction approach through existing manholes with the outfall to the Yampa River to remain in operation. The updated treatment facilities expect to improve the water quality discharged into the Yampa River.

In a review of the engineering material, CPW has identified the following scientifically-backed High Priority Habitats, (HPH) that support sensitive wildlife habitats that may be impacted by the proposed design and timeline. Improvements to the water quality and removal of wastewater lagoons will benefit the surrounding wildlife populations and disturbance will be short-term; therefore, CPW incorporates logically based flexibility to accommodate the project construction. The following recommendations are intended to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse impacts to those HPH areas.

Phippsburg WWTP Improvement Project:



Located approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of a mile North of the Town of Phippsburg and will replace the current wastewater lagoon system between the railroad line and the Yampa River along the Little White Snake Creek corridor.

Bald Eagle Active Nest: located within $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile from the construction site.

- Due to the construction of wastewater improvement facilities near an active highway and railroad, Bald Eagles that occupy this site are likely conditioned to disturbances. It is recommended to avoid construction during egg incubation until mid-April after the eggs are fully hatched.

Sportfish Management Waters

- During construction and operations, the contractor should prioritize erosion control measures identified within the NPDES Permit to minimize sediment transport that may enter the waterway.
- Remove any mud or debris and disinfect equipment, hand tools, pumps and hoses, boots, and other equipment previously used in a river, stream, lake, pond, or wetland before moving the equipment to another water body following the attached aquatic disinfectant protocols: <https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/Research/Aquatic/pdf/Publications/Quaternary-Ammonia-Compound-Disinfection-Protocols.pdf#search=disinfect>

Milner WWTP Improvement Project: This location occupies undeveloped land between the railroad line and the Town of Milner and will replace the current lift pump station of the existing wastewater treatment system, eliminating the need for the existing lagoon system.

Colombian Sharp Tailed Grouse Production Area and Winter Range

- The construction area is mapped within Colombian Sharp Tailed Grouse production area; however, because of the proximity to the Town of Milner, active railroad lines, and roadways, construction activities are not expected to disrupt the local population.

Elk Production Area

- The construction area is mapped within Elk production area however, because of the proximity to the Town of Milner, active railroad lines, and roadways, negative impacts are not expected on local populations or interfere with calving activities.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife commends the project proponent for minimizing new disturbances and acknowledging wildlife in the area. CPW appreciates the opportunity to review this project application material and provide recommendations to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse impacts on wildlife. If there are any questions or needs for additional information, don't hesitate to contact CPW wildlife managers:

Kris Middledorf, Area Wildlife Manager, kris.middledorf@state.co.us, 970-819-3150

Molly West, Land Use Specialist, molly.west@state.us.co, 970.250.3818

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Middledorf". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kris Middledorf
Area Wildlife Manager

cc.

Bill Atkinson
Eric Vannatta
Libbie Miller

PL20220112 – Site Photos



Panoramic view of site from CR 12



Fence in need of repair (left). View of property to the northeast; White Snake Creek heading toward Yampa River (right)



Existing treatment building (left). Cow excrement within site (right).

Phippsburg:

** NOTE THAT PROJECT NEEDS ASSESSMENT (PNA) TABLE OF CONTENTS HAS ACTIVE LINKS TO SECTIONS AND TABLES*

- Proposed system capacity and service area
 - *Refer to PNA (Sections 8.2 and 5.2)*
- Design capacity of each treatment system and distribution or collection network demonstrated through organic or hydrologic capacity.
 - *Refer to PNA (Sections 8.2 and Tables 4-7)*
- Excess capacity of each treatment system and distribution or collection network demonstrated through organic or hydrologic capacity.
 - *Refer to PNA (Section 8.2 and Tables 4-7)*
- Written statement setting forth the ten-year projected increased need in treatment and hydraulic capacity.
 - *PNA includes stamp from professional engineer. Sections 8.2 and Tables 4-7 address hydraulic capacity and waste load forecasts*
- Alternative potential site locations and degree of feasibility of each, with a written statement indicating why a particular alternative was selected.
 - *PNA includes stamp from professional engineer. Refer to PNA (Section 8.6). Location to be same as existing system. Note that proposed system has a much smaller footprint*
- Description of the excess capacity of all existing and approved treatment systems and distribution of collection networks, in the proposed service area, including the age, state of repair and level of treatment in the existing facilities.
 - *Refer to Section 5.0*
- Demonstration of the impacts of the water and sewer services on the land use including:
 - Map detailing existing land uses and existing zoning in the service area, including peripheral lands which may be impacted at a scale appropriate for review.
 - *Refer to Appendix E of the PNA*
 - Conformity of the project with the Routt County Master Plan and such other adopted plans and policies as may be in effect for the property.
 - *Supports policy designated Tier 3 Small Established Community's. Replaces aging infrastructure, eliminates infiltration & inflow issues, meets compliance requirements for seepage and water quality (Refer to PNA Section 4.0)*
- Financial analysis of the facilities, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Estimation of capital outlay.
 - Estimation of operating outlay.
 - Estimation of operating income of the proposed facility.
 - Estimation of supportive governmental (or other) revenues utilized to finance the new facility.
 - *For all of the above refer to Sections 8.10 and 8.11 of the PNA, attached 2023 budget package (includes 10 year projections), and Cost Estimates/Funding Sources Table below*

| TOTAL COST CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING SUPPORT | FUNDING | | | | DIFFERENCE |
|--|---|------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|------------|
| | Design & Engineering Grant <i>(forgivable loan)</i> | STATE REVOLVING FUND (Estimate) | DOLA TIER II | County (ARPA) | |
| MILNER | | | | | |
| \$3,491,000 | \$300,000 | \$1,500,000 | \$750,000 | \$1,452,000 | \$511,000 |
| PBURG | | | | | |
| \$4,087,000 | \$300,000 | \$1,500,000 | \$750,000 | \$2,048,000 | \$511,000 |

*Assume \$1.5M Cap on State Revolving Fund

*In addition to facility replacement, costs include addressing aging collection infrastructure, installation of solar, and lagoon remediation/sludge disposal.

*Difference between costs and funding subject to change based on cost of actual construction and SRF funding support

- Site application form adopted by the Water Quality Control Commission.
 - *Site Application and Response Letter attached*
- Timetable for construction of the facilities
 - *Refer to PNA Section 8.13*
- Written statement demonstrating the need for a new sewage treatment system, including:
 - Population trends for the service area, e.g. present population, population projection, and growth area.
 - *Refer to PNA Section 6.4*
 - Predominant types of development to be served by the system.
 - *Refer to PNA Section 5.2*
 - Percent of design capacity of existing systems that are presently being utilized.
 - *Refer to PNA Section 6.4*
 - Potential of present facilities to be upgraded to adequately accommodate the ten (10) year projected increased need in treatment.
 - *Refer to PNA Sections 4.0 and 5.0*
 - Inventory of total commitments already made for the sewage treatment services.
 - *A lagoon system currently serves the entire community and has been operating since the early 1980's*
 - Detail of excess service capacity and the cost of such excess capacity if the proposed sewage treatment system exceeds the projected ten-year demand by ten (10), twenty (20), and fifty (50) percent.
 - *Refer to PNA Section 6.4)*
 - Written statement describing the potential impacts of the proposed sewage treatment system on water resources, including:
 - Potential effects of the sewage on any adjacent waterbodies and/or groundwater.
 - Potential effects of the sewage treatment system on plant and animal life dependent upon the water resources in the impacted area.
 - *Refer to PNA Section 8.5, newly issued Discharge Permit, and attached letter from Colorado Parks and Wildlife*

- Map of all surface water bodies and well locations within a one (1) mile radius of the proposed project, and the 100 year flood plain of any stream within the service area at a scale appropriate for review.
 - *Refer to Figures 6 & 7 (one and five mile radius maps) and Figures 26 & 27 (Floodplain and Wetlands Inventory Maps) of the PNA*