



City of Springfield's City Water, Light & Power Water Forum Questions and Answers

On Wednesday, April 19 the City of Springfield hosted a public forum focused on the community's water resource. The Mayor along with City Water, Light and Power staff led the conversation and listened to residents and area organizations ask questions while the city was able to provide responses and necessary follow-up.

Those in attendance included residents from Springfield including from Ward 1, and representatives from organizations including the Prairie Rivers Network, Sustainable Springfield, the NAACP and Sierra Club.

Following are the comments, questions and answers brought up during the hour and a half forum.

1) A request was made to the Mayor to host three forums during a calendar year and requested that dates were presented with a specific topic or the date(s) would be an open discussion.

- *Mayor responded that these forums are one way to communicate with the city and encouraged attendees to go online to submit comments through the website, via email or to call us anytime.*
- *The next forum will most likely take place in September with the date and topic to be determined.*

2) It was asked if anyone from the Army Corps of Engineers was present. There was feedback provided in 2000 to the Corps from community and curious to what happened to that feedback?

- *Ted Meckes, Water Division Manager for CWLP said those comments will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) currently being conducted as part of the Supplemental Water Research.*

3) What happens if the Clinton Power Plant shuts down? What will happen to that water source? Can we use that?

- *The State of Illinois is the one who will make that decision (keep it open or shut it down). The city can discuss with our state representatives our input.*
- *We cannot wait for that decision or go out on a wing and a prayer. We have to make our own destiny.*
- *Mohamet aquifer that supplies Clinton Lake is part of the EIS alternative study.*

4) Will the Watershed Work? Are we paying farmers?

- *Yes. We are paying farmers.*
- *We are not part of the entire state program. We have our own.*
- *It is Springfield's own local watershed*

5) Would we have better leverage if we were part of the National Watershed Association?

- *Whatever we do, we cannot impede another community's source of water.*

6) What is the city's plan for renewable energy? When will the Dallman go off line?

- *The wind contracts have cost the residents of Springfield \$110 million dollars.*
- *Dallman 31 and 32 will go off line when they are no longer profitable.*
- *The city needs to be at a balance with renewable energy. CWLP will analyze power market and generation expenses to determine proper balances and when units would come off line.*

7) Where does our wind come from now?

- *Iowa*

8) Concerns over Ash Ponds was brought up including what impact it has on air quality, an eyesore that it is becoming and is it dangerous?

- *Building a wall to hide it is very expensive. CWLP hasn't had the money to do that but needs to look at the beautification – including reaching out for grants. We welcome residents to provide grant info, be on the focus group to help beautify. CWLP will develop options.*

9) Are we creating more ash than can be used?

- *Yes. The recycling market is limited.*

10) Is our water safe because of Ash Ponds?

- *Yes. Our water is safe.*

11) Kudos was given to the search and rescue teams that recovered the body of the recently deceased jet skier.

12) Buoys: residents cannot see the buoys at night even with lights on boats. Residents wanted to do a volunteer program to add reflective tapes but were told no. But we need to do something to let them be seen

- *Yes, money in the budget.*
- *CWLP to provide a timeline for replacements*

13) How is Hunter Lake attached to Power Plant in Pawnee?

- *The impact of the proposed plant is still under review. Our process is still moving forward as scheduled for the secondary source of water recommendation.*

14) How does the proposed EmberClear Plant impact CWLP? Did we contract with The Energy Authority to see how it would impact us?

- *The plant is still in the planning stages*
- *We did contract with The Energy Authority to provide an impact report, which will be issued in May.*

15) When is study to be expected to be release from TEA?

- *3 to 4 weeks*

16) On our CWLP bill, what are we being charged for in the “Others” heading?

- *Sewer*
- *Sanitary*
- *Recycling (Large item pickup, branch and yard waste collections, hazardous drop off)*
- *Then “Other” is the Fuel Adjustment that is the renewable aspect.*

17) How can we combat a high bill?

- *Assistance is provided based on income need through programs including Project Relief; Project Round Up; LiHeap (County or Capital Township).*
- *Offered to call her the next day to talk about programs but she declined.*
- *List of programs and services are available online at <https://www.cwlp.com/ServicesHome/ServicesInformation/BillAssistance.aspx>*

16) Million of gallons are unmetered out of 22 Million that is untreated – where does the 2 or 3 million go that are not being metered?

- *Look into that and let you know at the next meeting.*
- *Table 1 in 2015 – water demand study shows additional information.*

17) Is the CWLP policy that the power plant has to shut down at 548ft lake level?

- *Yes*

18) Why?

- *Because the power plant cannot get adequate cooling water to operate the power generation equipment below the 548ft lake level.*

19) Do we still have permits with the Corps, EPA and DNR for the emergency damn on the river?

- *The EPA permit is not in effect. We have phosphorous issues. We have to mitigate that issue. Our issue is meeting that standard and it is difficult to obtain.*
- *The Hunter Lake redesign is being done to reduce the phosphorus level. The redesign is not as long and meandering and is actually deeper, which will reduce the phosphorus level resulting from farm runoff.*

20) What was the lake level to trigger that position?

- *We will look into what level would trigger the emergency permitting and damming.*

21) Are the alternatives listed on the website from AMEC?

- *It is on the City Clerk's website but will ensure it is added to CWLPs.*

22) What is the daily demand being studied?

- *12 million gallons a day and now study has dropped to approximately 10.5 million*

23) Resident expressed appreciation for LiHeap program.

24) What is CWLP's plan to include wind as an energy alternative?

- *Wind contracts will come off in 2017 and 2018*
- *It comes down to budget keeping energy prices low.*
- *Solar and wind will be looked at to determine if we should generate it or have other sources.*

25) Task Force studying health issues about water. How are renewables more expensive when they are free from nature and improve our health risks?

- *It is still higher (we will put cost out there because subsidy needs to be factored in from Federal government)*
- *What is proper balance – for us to generate and distribute, we need to make a profit to pay our bonds*
- *We have been approached by solar companies but we are not going to get locked in at a rate that is detrimental to our residents.*

26) How much are we paying on repairs on 31 and 32 in 2016 alone?

- *\$2-\$3 million a year*
- *Last year \$6 million alone. Units are overhauled every four years.*
- *We need to analyze it on a regular basis and develop long-term strategy to determine unit profitability.*

27) What are the costs of the removing of the Coal Ash?

- *\$50-\$100 million depending on what is needed.*
- *We have not gotten a bid on cost for renewing it.*

28) Does CWLP test the water in Sugar Creek adjacent to the pits?

- *Have to get back to what we test, how often, where, etc.*

29) When you estimate your cost for Dallman, are you looking at all costs (repairs, operations, generations, etc)?

- *Yes.*

30) How much water does the CWLP water does power plant use?

- *4 or 5 million gallons a day but we will double check.*

31) Attorney representing Sierra Club asked about Ash Ponds. It is leaking and unlined and water comes into Ash Ponds and becomes ground water and surface water.

- *We are mitigating the issue.*

32) How is CWLP going to respond to results showing violations?

- *As we stated before, we follow all applicable rules, including the CCC rules and EPA rules.*

33) How is CWLP reacting to rules?

- *CWLP is being very proactive. We met the clean power plant regulations with million dollar upgrades but earned allowance credits were taken away while other plants paid to pollute.*
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34) A resident thanked the Mayor for the Solar Farm proposal. They didn't understand news coverage about credits but disappointed in the Aldermen who voted it down. If Mayor does another proposal, the resident requested aldermen to please take advantage of the proposal and support him.

35) Concerns were raised about Sewage Treatment for three communities.

- *Sangamon County raised their rates 400% it wasn't the best solution.*

36) Were the concerns in the 2000 water plan considered? Why not?

- *We have specifically addressed those concerns and you will see it in the EIS.*

37) When is the City going to do a long-range plan?

- *They are expensive and with the new presidential administration we would like to see more certainty.*
- *Burns & McDonalds study is in progress and needs to incorporate how government change affects outcomes.*

38) When will the city host the next public meeting?

- *August/September*
- *The topic will be electricity*

39) It was asked about testing surface water on Sugar Creek. Can someone from the public test the water?

- *Private persons who want access to private property must obtain the permission of property owners before entering the property otherwise it would be trespassing.*

40) Outdoor water use: businesses and government watering all hours of the day in the summer. Does CWLP offer assessments and offer rebates to move over to smarter, more efficient solutions?

- *CWLP gives out rain gauges and recommendations for smart solutions.*
- *CWLP will look into that as a more formal program/plan.*

41) Since projections aren't always accurate, what makes you confident that these projections are accurate for Hunter Lake?

- *Army Corps asked for independent source to do study (AMEC) and engineering firm AMEC was selected by the Corps and CWLP.*
- *This process keeps the analysis and recommendations impartial.*

42) What are we doing about lead in schools and making the study public?

- *This is the responsibility of the school district.*
- *Pursuant to Senate Bill 550 – CWLP helped District 186 come up with a sampling plan.*
- *Most results were in less used sinks and hand washing sinks – it could be in the fixtures because of underutilization.*

43) Statement: In a drought – conservation will play itself out.

- *Water conservation is looked at in everything CWLP does. When we get to a certain lake level, we will consider that in the rate structure.*

44) Have we looked at waste water recycling as an alternative to the new lake?

- *It is hard to get people past the “yuck factor” of using recycled waste water for daily uses.*
- *We don't know we are in a drought until we go through the 1st year so it's difficult to use that as an alternative.*