Victor–Driggs Joint Wastewater Work Session

EDUCATE FIRST • IDENTIFY MISSING INFORMATION • SET THE PATH FOR NEGOTIATION

DATE	Wednesday, July 29, 2026	**TIME**	6:00–8:00 p.m.
LOCATION	Teton County Courthouse	**FACILITATOR**	Mayor Brent Schindler, City of Tetonia
ZOOM	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86201838007	**WRITTEN COMMENTS**	wastewater@driggsidaho.org

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Public comment will not be taken during this work session. Written comments sent to the joint email above will be shared with both councils. Councilmembers receiving comments directly are asked to forward them to the joint mailbox.

Posted Agenda

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Introductions and Ground Rules
3. Objectives: Understand the Present; Plan for the Future; Reconcile the Past in a Separate Process
4. Current Status and Design of the Driggs WWTF Upgrade and Expansion
5. Victor Infrastructure Presentation
6. Project Cost and Financing: Grants, Loans, Rates, and Application of the Current Agreement
7. Goals, Timing, and Process for Reaching a New Regional Agreement

Purpose and Desired Outcomes

This meeting is intended to establish a shared factual foundation before negotiations begin. Governance structures will be addressed in a subsequent educational session. No final agreement or long-term commitment is expected tonight.

- Understand the infrastructure proposed by Driggs and the alternative previously evaluated by Victor.
- Clarify current project costs, grants, debt, rates, and short- and long-term financial obligations.
- Identify agreed facts, missing information, responsible parties, and deadlines.
- Set the schedule and scope for governance education and future negotiations.

Facilitator Opening — Suggested Language

Tonight is not about deciding who was right or wrong in the past or negotiating a final agreement. Our task is to understand the infrastructure and financing before us, identify what we still need to know, and agree on an orderly process for future decisions. The length and form of any commitment by both cities will depend on the complete negotiated framework—including costs, governance, capacity, rates, regulatory responsibility, and protections for both communities. Tonight is about building the shared facts needed for that discussion.

Past claims and reconciliation matter, but they will be tracked separately so they do not prevent progress on the future.

Working Principles

- Equal opportunity for both cities to present information and ask questions.
- Questions for understanding will be taken at the end of each presentation.
- Distinguish verified facts, estimates, assumptions, and policy proposals.
- Place unresolved items on an “Information Needed” or “Future Negotiation” list.
- Avoid assumptions about motives or character; focus on the decisions before the councils.

Detailed Agenda

1. 6pm Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance

2. Introductions and Ground Rules | 6:00–6:10 p.m.

- Call to order, roll call, pledge, introductions, purpose, and working principles.
- Confirm that no final agreement or long-term commitment will be made at this meeting.

3. Objectives

a. **Understanding the Present (this meeting)**
b. **Planning for the Future (initiate at first meeting)**
c. **Reconciling the Past (future meetings)**

4. Driggs Infrastructure and Regulatory Presentation | 6:10–6:35 p.m.

- Existing plant, lagoons, lift stations, force main, trunk line, current performance, staffing, flows, inflow/infiltration, and capacity constraints.
- Proposed upgrade and expansion: design status, treatment process, Class A/Class B plans, sludge management, capacity, growth projections, water rights, reuse/discharge, construction phases, schedule, and principal risks.
- Current framework: 2011 Inter-City Agreement, ownership and operation of assets, present flow and cost allocation, federal consent decree, EPA/DEQ requirements, and the contractual relationship while negotiations proceed.
- Which costs are treatment-plant costs, and which are collection or transmission costs?
- What infrastructure would Driggs require if the plant served Driggs alone/additional infrastructure and cost are attributable to serving both cities?
- Capacity is assigned to each city, and how can the facility expand over time?

Council Questions and More Information Needed

5. Victor Infrastructure Presentation | 6:35–6:55 p.m.

Victor's engineer will summarize the independent facility previously evaluated by Victor. This is not a renewed commitment to build a separate plant; it is intended to give both councils an apples-to-apples understanding of the alternatives and future service scenarios.

- Engineering completed to date; site requirements; proposed technology, treatment class, sludge management, capacity, and growth assumptions.
- Water rights, reuse/discharge, collection and transmission changes, North Lift Station and trunk-line implications.
- Preliminary capital cost, annual O&M, and 10- and 20-year planning estimates.
- Infrastructure that could remain useful under a shared system and major unresolved site, regulatory, or financing issues.

Council Questions and More Information Needed

6. Shared-Plant Financing and Funding | 6:55–7:25 p.m.

A. Total Project Cost

- Plant design and construction; engineering and project management; land/easements; contingency and escalation; interim compliance; lagoons/sludge; lift stations, force mains, trunk line, and each city's collection system.
- Water rights/reuse, staffing and certification, existing debt, new debt and interest, and 10- and 20-year replacement reserves.

B. Grants and Outside Funding

- For each source: amount awarded, conditionally committed, requested, or only eligible; eligible costs; match; deadlines; and project conditions.

- Explain State Revolving Fund financing, loan versus forgiveness, whether interim financing is needed, and whether the current $26 million package could increase for a larger regional facility.
- Clarify whether funds can support or transfer to a joint entity and the status and future management of the MC2 grant process.

C. Debt and Cost Responsibility

- Under the 2011 agreement, who incurs the debt and what is Victor's legal payment obligation?
- What security, term, interest rate, and estimated annual payment are anticipated?
- Is Victor a co-borrower, contractual payer, or customer?
- Can obligations be capped, and who bears cost overruns or changes in growth assumptions?

D. Short- and Long-Term Expenses

- Through commissioning: current O&M and debt reimbursement, consent-decree work, interim repairs, design and engineering, and interim financing if needed.
- After commissioning: new debt service, O&M/staffing, collection and transmission maintenance, future expansion, reserves, monitoring, corrective work, and withdrawal or decommissioning costs.

Council Questions and More Information Needed

7 Goals, Timing, and Process For Reaching a New Regional Agreement | 7:30–8:00 p.m.

- Work on New Regional Agreement now or after Driggs plant startup?
- Use a facilitator for New Regional Agreement?
- Discuss dates, location, facilitator, topics and expected outcome for the next joint meeting.

Adjourn