

February 28, 2008

It's occurred to me that Council members and the public would like an update on the status of public works during and following the flood. As most people probably know, the immediate problem was making clean water. As soon as electricity was restored, at least one crew member worked at the water plant 24 hours a day for the week it took for it to be operational and to make clean water. The water level did become dangerously low, but at no time was the water unsafe to drink. Nearly round-the-clock monitoring continued for another week.

Any change in the amount and type of turbidity in Rock Creek makes it essential to adjust chemicals and monitor water quality with this 1986 system of the City. This means that this is an ongoing problem—requiring many extra hours by public works.

The entire crew was busy with clean up and other duties including shutting down, cleaning and restarting the wastewater pumping stations. Arrangements had to be made for fixing some issues with wastewater pump stations and at Anderson Park that could not be handled by staff. I have spent numerous hours with FEMA representatives assessing damage.

After the flood, the extreme weather put extra duties on all of the public works crew for an extra 3 weeks.

Since all of these extra hours were accrued as comp time, we were happy to see Mayor Harrison's second letter allowing more flexibility with use of this comp time.

Our city wastewater lab was destroyed during the flood & has just now been restored as of 2 weeks ago.

Since January we have been short one employee and are working our parks person into the water plant and meter reading duties.

One quite extensive water leak occurred at the Mini Mart during February that took an entire afternoon and evening and cooperation of the entire staff to repair.

After 3 months public works is starting to assume somewhat normal day-to-day duties.

\*Street sweeping is still the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month.

Jeff Burch, Public Works Foreman

