

Commissioners dissolve Reliance sewer district

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The Board of County Commissioners dissolved the Reliance Sewer District at yesterday's meeting.

The decision followed much debate involving Reliance Sewer District Representative Mike Chadey, Deputy County Attorney Cliff Boevers, County Grant Writer Krisena Marchal and Commissioners Randy Walker, Debbie Dellai-Boese and Paula Wonnacott.

The board was obligated to dissolve the sewer district, by state statute, due to the failure of the sewer district board to file an annual audit with the county.

Since the failure to file, the county has sent two notifications of failure to the sewer district, followed by a publication advertising the failure.

The commissioners appointed an interim board to oversee the dissolution plan.

This plan must be made within the next 30 days.

After the district is dissolved, further action will be needed to determine whether a new, larger district will be put in place, or if Reliance will be incorporated into the Rock Springs Sewer District.

The major difficulty in the dissolution of the district lies in the timing. Marchal announced the possibility of receiving grant money for the Reliance Sewer District, under President Obama's Stimulus package. Requests for these funds must be submitted by Feb. 24.

Unfortunately, in order to apply for the funding, the owner of the district must be known. For the time being, nobody owns the former Reliance Sewer District.

Commissioners instructed Marchal to move forward with the grant, explaining the situation.

Problems have arisen in the past having enough people from Reliance to serve on the five-member board. Even when the board is full, further problems in board attendance have prevented a quorum, and the decision making abilities that come with having a majority present.

"This is something they got themselves into," Cliff Boevers, deputy county attorney reminded the board, as they struggled to find a solution that wouldn't cut Reliance off from funding.

The future of the Reliance Sewer District is unclear at this time.