

**HASTINGS UTILITY BOARD
AGENDA**

**Airport Conference Room - Hastings Municipal Airport
3300 W 12th Street
March 12, 2026
9:00 AM**

ROLL CALL:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

MOTION TO ADOPT CURRENT AGENDA FOR March 12, 2026 REGULAR MEETING.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Official Notice of the Regular Meeting was published in the Hastings Tribune on Tuesday, March 10, 2026. Pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute Section 84-1412, the public is advised that a copy of today's agenda and all reproducible written material which will be discussed at today's meeting is located at the back of the Council Chambers. Also, a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted on the south wall of the Council Chambers which is accessible to members of the public.

MANAGER'S COMMUNICATIONS:

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS:

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMUNICATIONS:

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. All Consent Items.
 - (a) Approval of the minutes of the Hastings Utility Board Meeting of February 12, 2026.

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.
3. General Business.
 - (a) Finance
 - i. Virtual Audit Presentation from AMGL.
 - ii. Q1 Financial Update

- (b) Production
- (c) Operations
 - i. Water Outages Update
 - ii. PCF Virtual Presentation
- (d) Administration
 - i. Share the Warmth Update
- (e) Other

4. Possible Closed Session (if necessary or requested).

ADJOURN:

The Hastings Utility Board reserves the right to enter into an executive session at any time during the meeting, in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, even though the closed session may not be indicated on the agenda. It is the intention of the Hastings Utility Board to take up the items on the agenda in sequential order. However, the Hastings Utilities Board reserves the right to take up matters in a different order to accommodate the schedule of the Utility Board Members, persons having items on the agenda, and the public.

CITY OF HASTINGS, NEBRASKA
MINUTES OF UTILITY BOARD REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, February 12, 2026

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Regular Meeting of the Utility Board of Hastings, Nebraska was conducted Airport Conference Room - Hastings Municipal Airport 3300 W 12th Street, on February 12, 2026.

ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Bill Hitesman with the following members present: Jeanette Dewalt, Scott Kvols, Susan Meeske, Derek Zeisler, Steve Huntley, Larry Consbruck, Erik Nielsen, Shane Stone, Karl Block, Jaci Higgins, Noel Nienhueser, Kyle Patten, Tony Herrman, Jason Redding, Brandan Lubken, Larry Fox, Mark Funkey, Jesse Oswald, Lori Hartman, Roger Nash.
Absent: Jay Beckby, Regg Rutt

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Bill Hitesman led the group in the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

MOTION TO ADOPT CURRENT AGENDA FOR February 12, 2026 REGULAR MEETING.

Moved by Meeske, Second by Dewalt to adopt the current agenda for the February 12, 2026, regular meeting. Roll call: Ayes: Bill Hitesman, Jeanette Dewalt, Scott Kvols, Susan Meeske. Nays: None. Absent: Regg Rutt. The motion carried.

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MANAGER'S COMMUNICATIONS:

We have a few items that everyone can look forward to in future meetings. We are finishing up the solar ITC refund process for solar phase II. Appreciate everyone's help. We do have the potential option to do a solar phase III. It has been taken out of the budget. If we were to get this project moving, we will run some numbers and have discussions and run through the board meetings before a final decision is made. Discussions with nuclear are still ongoing. It will probably be another 10 years away, maybe longer for us. Budget process is right around the corner. We will give baselines on where we are and where we plan to go. If there are any changes that you would like to see, contact Derek.

BOARD CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS:

Agreed with Derek's comments.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMUNICATIONS:

None

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. All Consent Items.

- (a) Approval of the minutes of the Hastings Utility Board Meeting of December 11, 2025.

Moved by Kvols, seconded by Dewalt to approve the minutes for the meeting of December 11, 2025. Roll Call: Ayes: Hitesman, Dewalt, Kvols, Meeske. Nays: None. Absent: Rutt. Approved.

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. Unfinished Business of Preceding Meeting.

3. General Business.

- (a) Finance

i. Status of Monthly Financials

Everyone should be receiving the monthly financials as they are finished. Larry and Roger are here to answer any questions you may have.

Larry and Roger go over the status and updates of these. They felt like the audit went very well. The numbers will be discussed and presented at the March 12th meeting. Dewalt had some questions about the Payment in Lieu of Taxes, but was a little late getting information to Larry. He will get back on those.

Hitesman asks how the income vs spending will go with such a mild winter. Costs of items and materials are going up. How is that going to impact next year?

The electric side helps balance things out. Utilities generate and we are also a customer. When pricing is low, but when we are buying for city load, it is also low. We are always looking for ways to be more efficient.

- (b) Production

(c) Operations

(d) Administration

i. At Your Service Rate Comparison Review

Jaci discusses "At your Service Rate" comparisons. These will be in everyone's monthly bill. These will also be forwarded on to all board members. This will be brought up again during budget season.

This is included in all the February bills.

ii. Water and Sewer Cost of Service Studies Status

Kyle discusses the Water and Sewer Cost of Service Study

- RFPs went out to 2 vendors. Both responded.
- Contracts have been informally awarded to JK Energy Consulting
- Tiered water rates will be part of the study.
- kickoff meeting will be February 17th.
- Tentative presentation to Utility Board June 11th
- Tentative presentation to City Council June 22nd.

What do you see with the water rates? With the study coming in, will there be other options to help lower that or do you see rates going up again? It is too early to say. We will be looking at subsidies.

iii. Late Fee Ordinance Final Discussion Before Draft

Karl discusses customer service and late ordinances.

- 2025 was when we moved from the old billing system to the new billing system. There were some issues in the beginning, but they are working them out.

Karl discussed the Yearly Stats for shut-off and delinquent notices. Late Fee Projection Study and what is happening around the state in our peer group.

Additional Information: Review of due date/delinquent date—timing of the late fee.

Including the ability to waive late fees when working with agencies—other situations when working with customers. Timeline on implementation.

(e) Other

4. Possible Closed Session (if necessary or requested).

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn by Kvolts, second by Meeske. Roll Call: Ayes: Hitesman, Dewlt, Kvolts, Meeske. Nays: None. Absent: Rutt. Adjourned at 9:34 am.

APPROVED:

Board Secretary



HASTINGS UTILITIES

Area Utility Rate Comparisons

Hastings Utilities staff members collected rates from several other communities around Nebraska.

The Hastings Utilities average billing amounts listed here represent rates that recently went into effect. The employees of Hastings Utilities are committed to continued efforts to provide customers with the reliable services they expect at a competitive price.

Rate increases in Hastings are based on past cost-of-service studies.

To provide continuity among the communities, these totals use the same, common measurements and consumption amounts:

Electric: 960 kwh-summer, 640 kwh-winter

Gas: 13 ccf-summer, 75 ccf-winter

Water: 6 ccf and 3/4 inch meter (w/o irrigation)

Sewer: 6 ccf

ELECTRIC RATES

The Hastings Utilities electric rates include a 5% Cost of Service rate increase for the current fiscal year.

Hastings has an energy cost per kilowatt hour of 10.33 cents. Lower than the Nebraska average of 13.1 cents.

GAS RATES

This comparison is based on average residential usage, using a volumetric measurement of ccf (hundred cubic feet). These prices include all purchase gas adjustments and distribution charges. Hastings Utilities gas rates include a 6.3% increase.

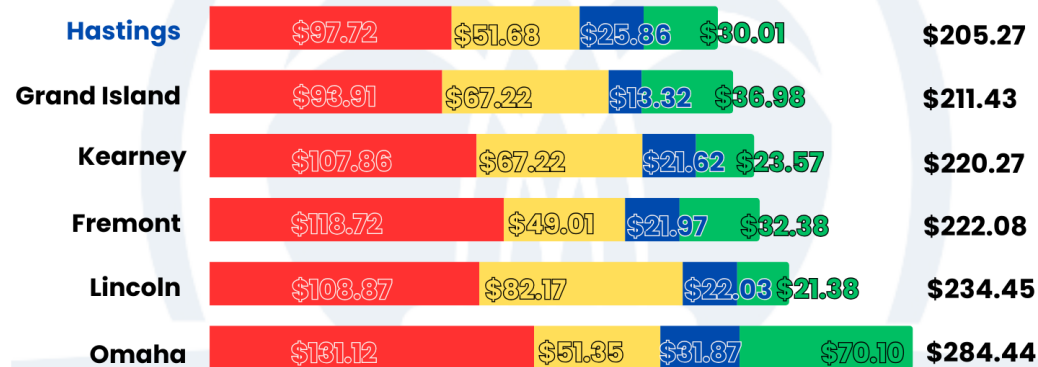
WATER RATES

One ccf (hundred cubic feet) equals 748 gallons of water. Hastings Utilities water rates include a 5% increase. This increase helps support water main and lead water service replacement programs.

SEWER RATES

Hastings Utilities sanitary sewer rates remain unchanged for the 2025-26 fiscal year.

Rate comparisons with other Nebraska utilities effective January 2026

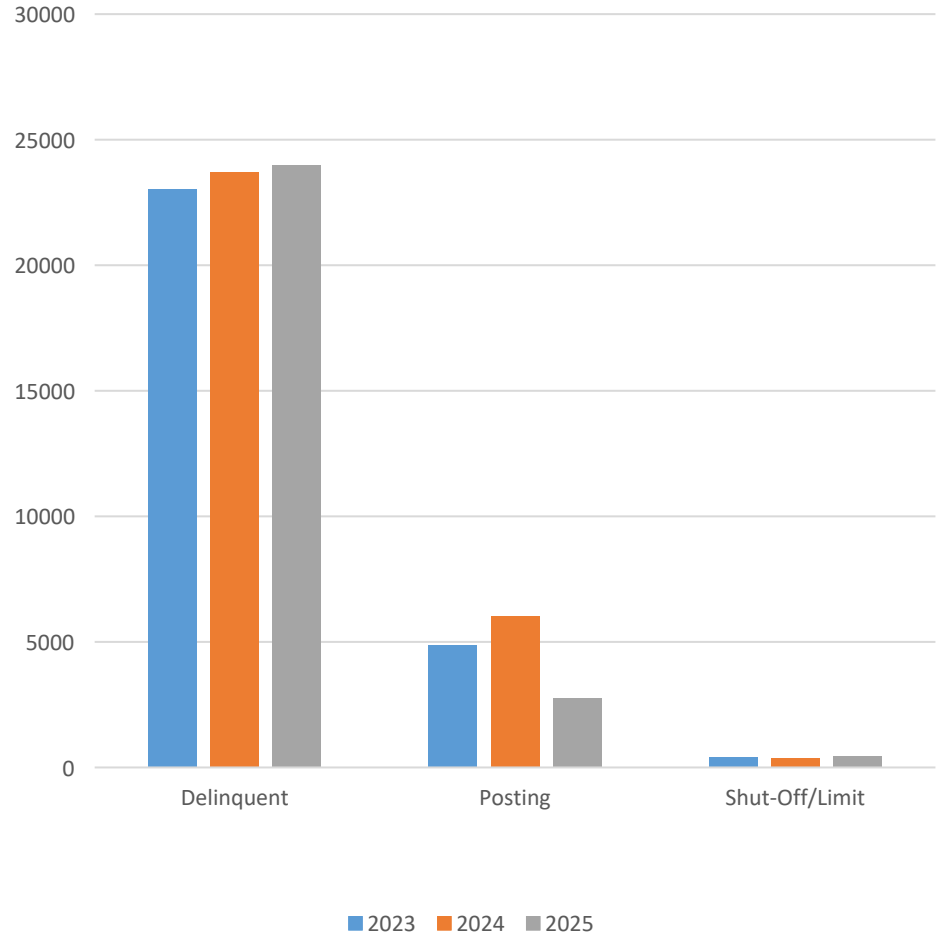


Water & Sewer Cost of Service Study

- RFPs went out to 2 vendors, both responded
- Contracts have been informally awarded to JK Energy Consulting
- Tiered Water rates will be part of the study
- Kickoff meeting will be February 17th
- Tentative presentation to Utility Board June 11th
- Tentative presentation to City Council June 22nd

Yearly Stats

	2023	2024	2025
Delinquent	23049	23711	24003
Posting	4883	6046	2766
Shut-Off/Limit	427	390	453



Customer Charge –
 Delinquent Notice – \$0.00
 Shut-off – \$50.00

HU Cost Analysis
 Delinquent Letter – \$17,186.15
 (\$0.716)

Late Fee Projection Study

What is Happening Around the State in our Peer Group?

Grand Island – 3% of Electric

Fremont – 10% (\$10.00 Max)

LES – 3% of Total Bill

North Platte – 1.333% of Total Bill

OPPD – 4% of Total Bill

NPPD – 3% of Total (\$15.00 Minimum)

Southern Power – 2% of Total (\$10.00 Minimum)

Average Residential Bill Amount – \$201.04

	Single Bill Delinquent Fee	Total Delinquents Jan-Dec 2025
Projected 3% Fee	\$6.03	\$144,766.89

Bill Amount		Delinquent Fee
\$100	3%	\$3
\$200	3%	\$6
\$300	3%	\$9
\$500	3%	\$15

*Peer Group Data collected in 2025

Additional Information

- Review of Due Date / Delinquent Date
 - Timing of the Late Fee
- Include Ability to Waive Late Fees when Working with Agencies
 - Other Situations When Working with Customers
- Timeline on Implementation?



HASTINGS UTILITIES

Utility Board Meeting
March 2026



Financial and Operating Report

Fiscal Year 2026 Q1
March 2026

Electric Department

	FY2025 Q1	FY2026 Q1	FY2026 Budget	Percent of Budget
Operating Revenue	\$13,471,840	\$12,826,166	\$58,613,646	22%
Operating Expenses	\$11,422,261	\$11,606,958	\$55,100,447	21%
Net change before Other Inc/Exp	\$984,004	\$105,557	(\$845,692)	
Net Change in Financial Position	\$2,258,692	\$1,957,376	\$11,226,787	

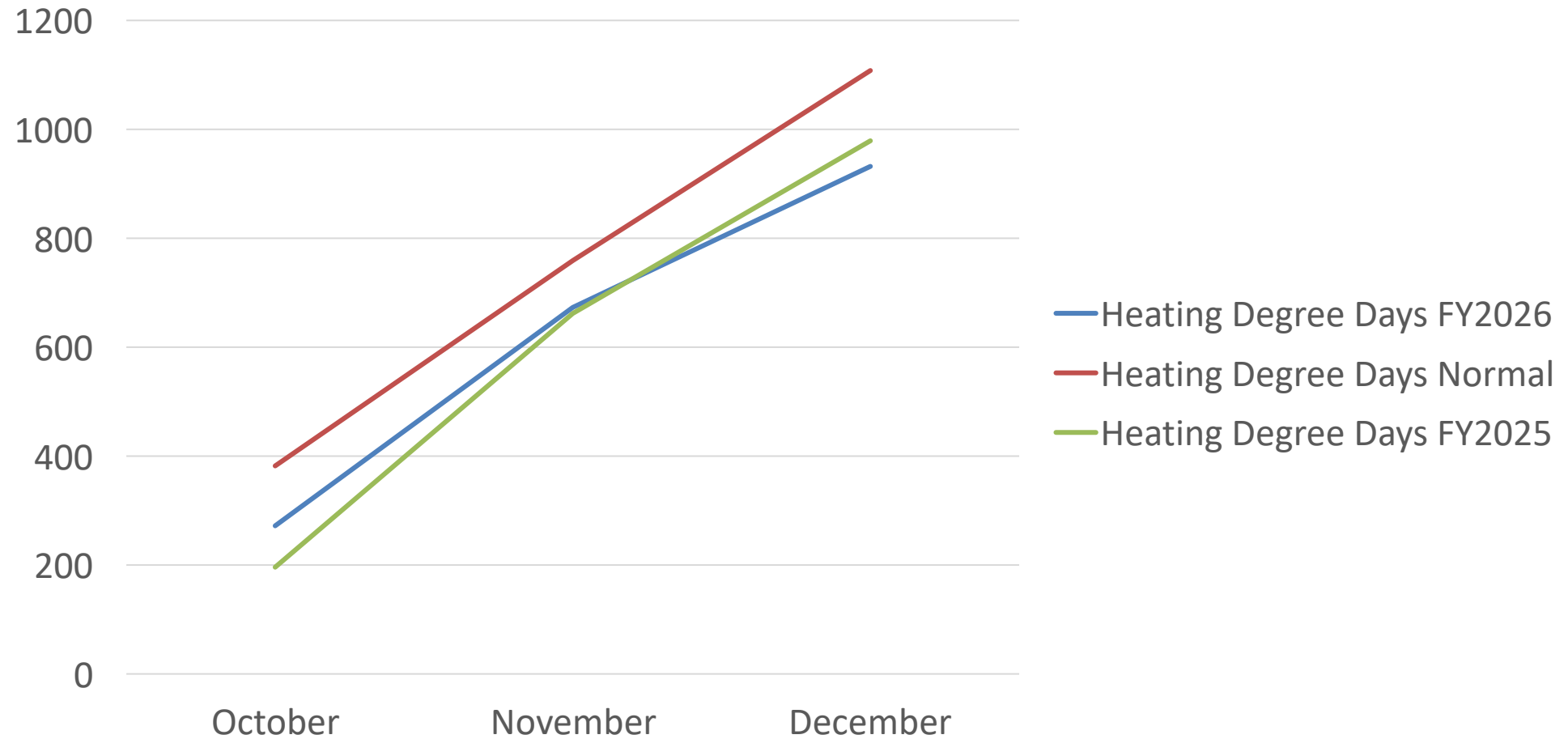
- Payment in Lieu of Tax moved to Dividend fee and is reflected in a decrease in revenue and expenses
- Longer than normal fall outage (compliance driven) leading to less generation and higher expenses making the most of the long outage

Gas Department

	FY2025 Q1	FY2026 Q1	FY2026 Budget	Percent of Budget
Operating Revenue	\$2,129,687	\$2,280,945	\$11,326,415	20%
Operating Expenses	\$2,262,394	\$2,389,190	\$10,418,556	23%
Net change before Other Inc/Exp	(\$172,444)	(\$152,554)	\$735,859	
Net Change in Financial Position	(\$20,504)	\$87,287	\$1,608,257	

- Payment in Lieu of Tax moved to Dividend fee and is reflected in a decrease in revenue and expenses
- Very mild fall with low gas usage
- Mild fall allows for an “extended” construction season

Heating Degree Days



Water Department

	FY2025 Q1	FY2026 Q1	FY2026 Budget	Percent of Budget
Operating Revenue	\$2,055,940	\$1,734,424	\$8,066,086	22%
Operating Expenses	\$1,139,160	\$980,010	\$5,189,869	19%
Net change before Other Inc/Exp	\$691,846	\$519,794	\$1,963,217	
Net Change in Financial Position	\$737,988	\$729,739	\$3,769,734	

- Payment in Lieu of Tax moved to Dividend fee and is reflected in a decrease in revenue and expenses
- Wet late summer into fall, reducing the usage for yard watering

Sewer Department

	FY2025 Q1	FY2026 Q1	FY2026 Budget	Percent of Budget
Operating Revenue	\$1,775,338	\$1,496,360	\$7,035,380	21%
Operating Expenses	\$1,061,824	\$943,845	\$4,594,424	21%
Net change before Other Inc/Exp	\$254,150	\$62,764	\$387,956	
Net Change in Financial Position	\$282,874	\$140,442	\$888,175	

Cash Update

	FY25 Sept 30 Actual	FY26 Dec 31 Actual
Electric	\$13,517,300	\$11,003,209
Gas	\$13,603,418	\$13,337,003
Water	\$4,301,053	\$5,083,843
Sewer	\$1,238,257	\$864,896





Utility Board Meeting
March 2026

Pollution Control Facility (PCF)

- Commissioned in 1980
 - Rotating Biological Contactor (RBC) from 1980 to 2002
 - Trickling Filter from 2002 to 2014
 - Activated Sludge 2014 to present
- 3.4 Million Gallons Per Day
- Contaminant Loading:



Carbonaceous Biological Oxygen Demand (CBOD)
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)
Ammonia

Avg. 113.3 mg/L
Avg. 354.0 mg/L
Avg. 36.1 mg/L

Max 145.8 mg/L
Max 511.0 mg/L
Max 54.4 mg/L

Primary Treatment

- Influent raw water is screened to remove debris 1/8" or larger.



- Water portion of waste is pumped once, gravity does the rest.



Primary Treatment

- Grit Removal removes settleable inorganic solids.



- Primary Clarification removes settleable organic solids.

Primary Sludge Treatment

- Settleable organic solids from primary clarification transferred continuously to anaerobic digesters.
- Pathogens destroyed and solids digested by anaerobic bacteria. Large organic molecules broken into simpler compounds.
- Byproducts include biogas (40%) and class B fertilizer (60%).
- Biogas (< methane) utilized in plant boilers for building heat and digester process heat.



Biosolids Application

- EPA regulates many Biosolids constituents (metals, nitrogen). Annual Biosolids reporting required.
- PCF staff responsible for Biosolids land application and field organic loading.
- About 2.5 million gallons per year land applied each year.



Final Treatment (Activated Sludge)

- Microbiological life suspended in solution and provided oxygen to enhance growth.
- Microbes consume remainder of soluble organics leaving clean water.



Final Treatment (Activated Sludge)

- Microbial life in activated sludge treatment is diverse and plant specific.
- Aging sludge must be wasted to keep the system productive and healthy.
- Waste activated sludge (WAS) is stored and concentrated in lagoons at PCF. Trucked to Maxon Lagoons for final disposal.

Tt
Common Activated Sludge Microorganisms Chart

RELATIVE NUMBER OF ORGANISMS

LOWER PHASE PEAK TO REPRODUCTION (LOG PHASE) HIGHER PHASE

- BACTERIA: FEED ON SOLUBLE SUBSTRATE DIRECTLY AND ABSORB ORGANIC PARTICLES
- GLOBULAR PROTOZOA: FEED ON SOLUBLE PARTICLES AND SOLUBLE ORGANIC MATTER AND AUTOTROPHICALLY
- FLAGELLATED PROTOZOA: FEED ON SOLUBLE PARTICLES AND SOLUBLE ORGANIC MATTER
- FREE-LIVING CILIATED PROTOZOA: FEED ON SOLUBLE PARTICLES AND SOLUBLE ORGANIC MATTER
- CRAWLING CILIATED PROTOZOA: FEED ON SOLUBLE PARTICLES AND SOLUBLE ORGANIC MATTER
- CRAWLING CILIATED PROTOZOA: FEED ON SOLUBLE PARTICLES AND SOLUBLE ORGANIC MATTER
- METAZOA (PHYLUM LISTED): FEED ON SOLUBLE AND SOLID PARTICLES INCLUDING

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Final Treatment (Clarification)

- Aerobic Microbes settled out and either reused or wasted.
- Final treated water discharged to West Fork of Big Blue River.

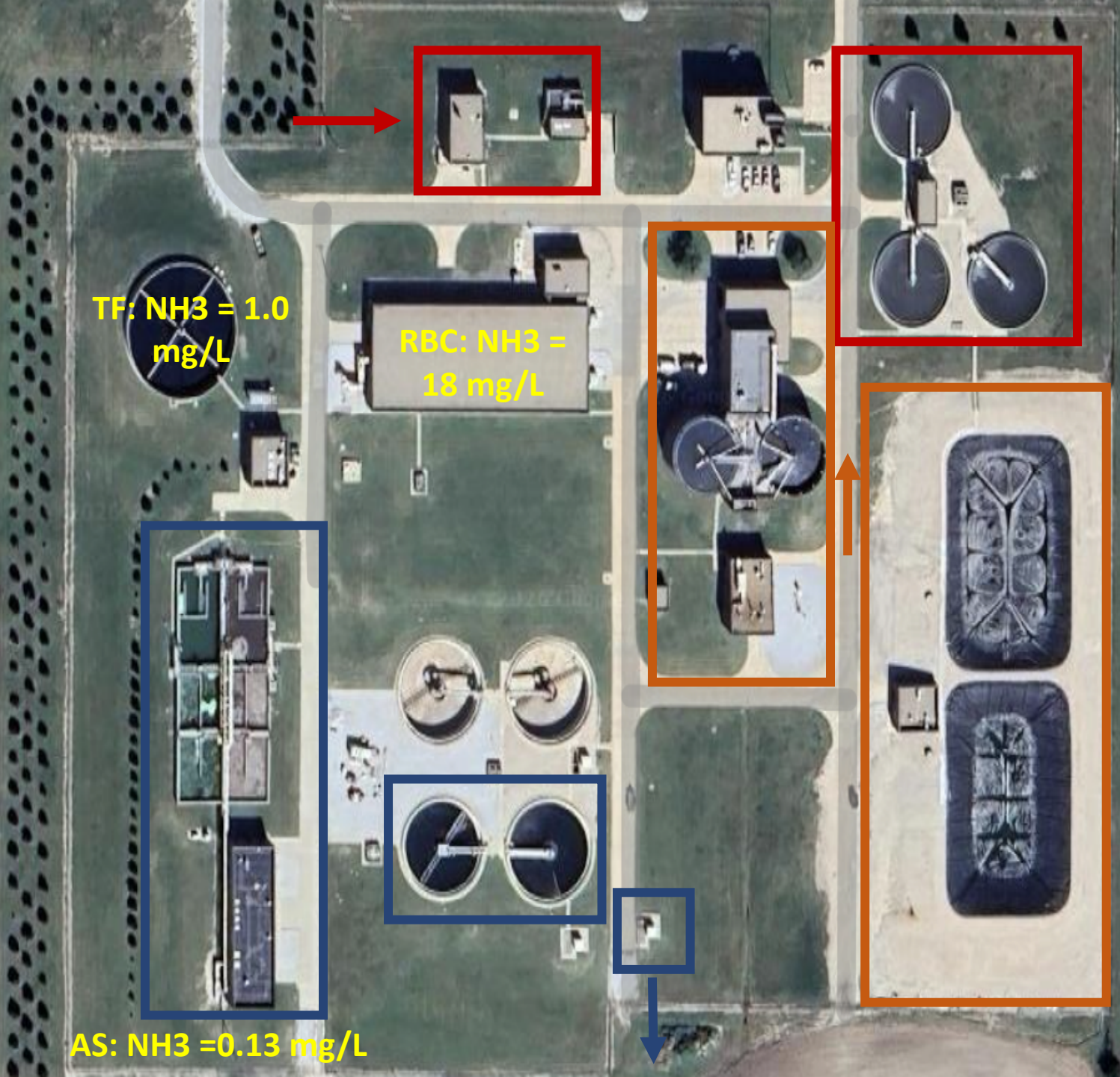


CBOD In 113.3 mg/L
CBOD Out 1.75 mg/L

TSS In 354.0 mg/L
TSS Out 2.43 mg/L

NH3 In 36.1 mg/L
NH3 Out 0.13 mg/L





Primary Treatment

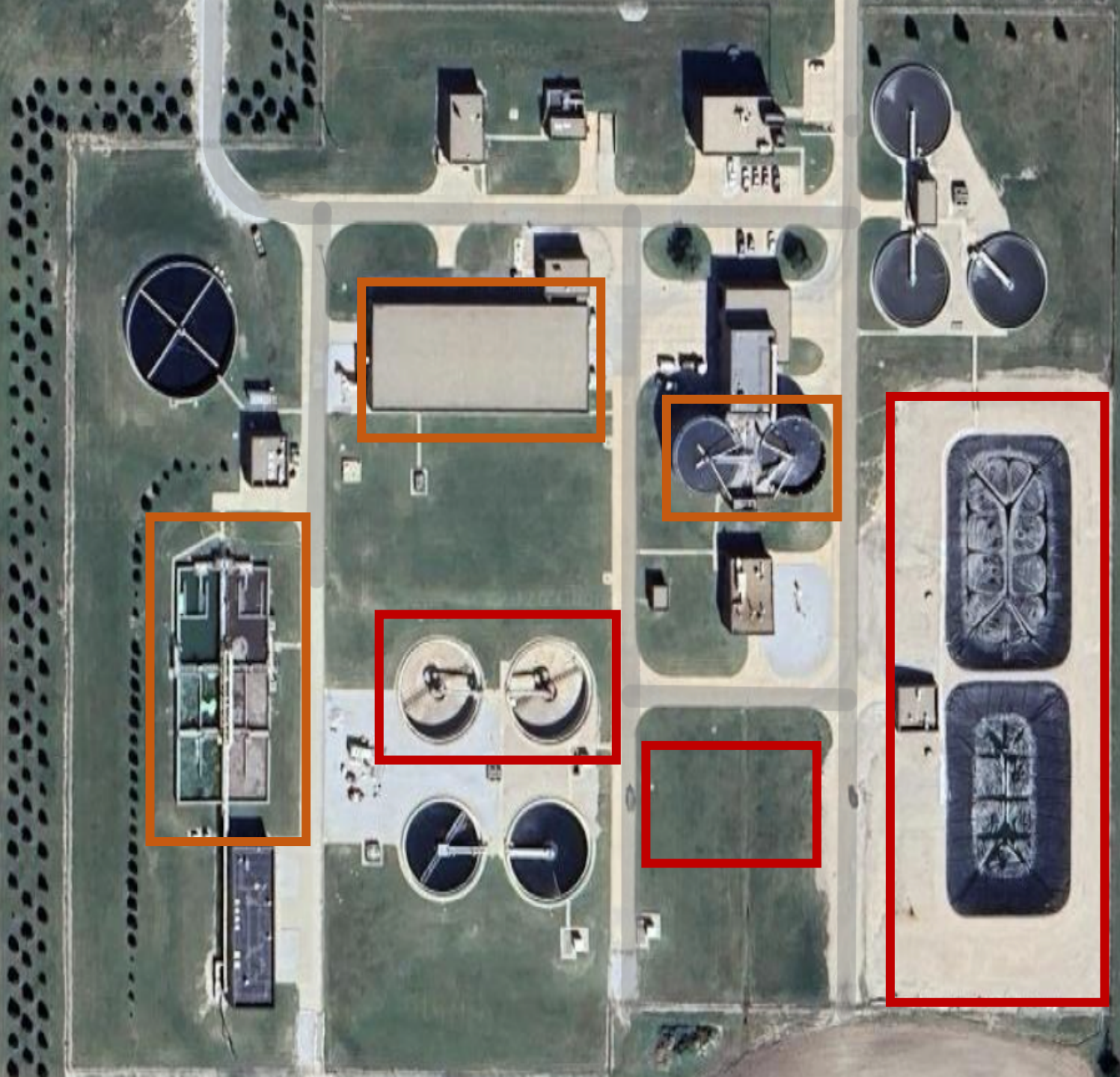
Primary and WAS Sludge Treatment

Final Treatment

TF: NH₃ = 1.0 mg/L

RBC: NH₃ = 18 mg/L

AS: NH₃ = 0.13 mg/L



What's New?

**New Digester
Covers**

RBC Conversion

**West Basin
Commissioning**

What's Next?

**UV
Sterilization**

**Nitrate &
Phosphorus
Removal**

Lagoon Overhaul



PCF is nature approved!

Questions?



HASTINGS UTILITIES