

ODC hears update on water recycling grant

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Board members with the Odessa Development Corporation heard a presentation about the status of a federal grant that would allow a state agency to explore establishing a large-scale industrial water recycling infrastructure for oilfield use.

Charles Harris, the superintendent for the Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority's Odessa plant, said the application—which ODC members approved giving \$39,000 for the study—was still being reviewed by the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Reclamation.

The Odessa City Council approved the \$39,000 during their April 22 meeting.

The purpose of the study is to see if Gulf Coast Authority can take used oilfield wastewater and clean it again for oilfield use; something city officials said could save them fresh water in the future. Currently, the Odessa location treats municipal wastewater.

Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority was originally formed in 1969 by the Texas Legislature as a non-taxing entity to help clean up the Galveston Bay. The Odessa plant has been in operation since 1997, and the other three facilities are located in the Houston and Galveston area.

During Thursday's meeting, Harris said they had meet with potential partners—Pioneer Natural Resources, Shell and ConocoPhillips—who have expressed interest in the project if the company gets the grant.

ODC Board President Buz Browning said the potential partners could possibly help pay for a plant and use the recycled wastewater it produces.

"It's going to be a good investment," Browning said.

During the meeting, ODC board member Kris Crow also expressed an interest in seeing the project succeed, saying by recycling water for hydraulic fracturing use, it would ultimately cut back use on water sources for municipal purposes.

"If we can take that water and use it for fracking ... it would significantly cut down on fresh water use," Crow said.

No action was taken on the presentation.