

# Water/ from page 1

The board decided that it is not prudent to bind members of the water system to a substantial debt to service Hyperion.

The actual costs, in dollar figures, of constructing a water delivery system from CRWS never became part of the talks between Hyperion and the water system board.

"We never got that far in the discussions," Merrigan said. "The real issue was just up front, who was going to pay and when, and it never got past that very first step to investigate anything further."

The Clay Rural Water board has consented to allow Hyperion to seek water from other sources for the energy center's commercial and industrial needs only. At the same time, the board is not consenting or waiving its legal right to be the service provider for all other current and future water users in the area surrounding the proposed site of the energy center.

"One of the things that they (Hyperion) is promoting is to try to use local service providers, and we do provide water service in that area," Merrigan said. "We don't have capacity in our system to serve that type of a load, but since we are a water service provider in that area, they came to us first and said, 'would you be interested in supplying water?'"

"But then how to pay for it and when to pay for it and who was going to pay for it became the next step (in the discussion), and we never got beyond that," he said.

Hyperion's proposed refinery and energy center would be located north of Elk Point. It would process 400,000 barrels of Canadian tar sands crude oil each day into low-sulfur gasoline, diesel, jet fuel and liquid petroleum gas.

The project would include a power plant that produces electricity for the refinery. It would use a byproduct of the refinery process, solid petroleum coke, which would be turned into gas and burned to produce electrical power. The company says the gasification would allow the

removal of more pollutants. Hyperion argues the refinery would be a clean, modern plant that would reduce the nation's dependence on oil from overseas.

Opponents contend the refinery would emit too much pollution and hurt the quality of life in the area.

"The Clay Rural Water System was one of several options we have been considering to supply water for the energy center," said Eric Williams, a Hyperion spokesman. "For good reason, everything to do with water service is highly regulated, and the rules effectively require that we first ask CRWS for service before pursuing the other options. We appreciate the professionalism of the board and management of CRWS displayed in this process."

"We're now stepping up our investigation into those other prospects, which include other sources or developing our own wells," he said.

The Clay Rural Water System provides water service to 2,025 locations in parts of five counties in southeast South Dakota. The sole purpose of the water system is to provide drinking water to its members for domestic, farm and business use.

Clay RWS is a member-owned, non-profit corporation incorporated in June 1975. The water system was financed and constructed from 1978-1980 primarily with member connection fees and loans and grants from the Farmers Home Administration. It became fully operational in late 1980. The original construction cost of the System was \$5.8 million.

Service to the member population base of 5,200 is provided from two water treatment plants. The main plant is located seven miles east of Wakonda. A second plant is located near McCook Lake. Water is distributed through a network of 900 miles of pipeline, six storage reservoirs with a capacity of 1,040,000 gallons, and three booster stations.

# Relay/ from page 1

way to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease.

The relay began in 1985 when Dr. Gordy Klatt, a colorectal surgeon in Tacoma, WA, ran and walked around a track for 24 hours to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Since then, it has grown from a single man's passion to fight cancer into the world's largest movement to end the disease. Each year, more than 3.5 million people in 5,000 communities in the United States, along with additional communities in 20 other countries, gather to take part in this global event and raise funds and awareness to save lives from cancer.

Wess said the local Colleges Against Cancer chapter and the Clay County unit of the American Cancer Society have proven to be an effective team.

"We think it's a good fit because with their involvement on campus, and our connections as community people, that can really be beneficial," she said. "We think it's just the best partnership – we're one big community, and we needed both organizations together to prove what a remarkable thing it can be when we all work together."

Participants in the relay raise funds for the American Cancer Society in a number of ways, from a small \$10 admission fee, to taking pledges for the number of laps they walked in the Dome that day.

"If someone wants to do additional fundraising, they can – a business, for example, can sponsor a casual Friday, where employees pay a certain amount to be able to wear blue jeans to work," Wess said. "Individuals can hit up family members for donations. So, we've seen some real creative ways for making money."

The American Cancer Society also receives funds from the event from corporate sponsors who provide



A participant in Sunday's Relay for Life paused long enough during her walk in the DakotaDome to collect a bead. People were encouraged to pick up a bead for each lap they completed, and string them to form a necklace that served as a symbolic reminder of the contribution they made in the fight against cancer that day. (Photo by David Lias)

direct or in-kind contributions.

"That helps us a ton," she said. "The costs of those services provided by in-kind contributions then don't come off the top of the money we raise. This is where everyone working together in our communities gets the word out, brings people in, and whether they come in and spend the whole day, or they come in and maybe just walk the survivor lap, it is still a way that they are participating in some fashion."

Sunday's relay began with a survivors lap – an inspirational time when survivors are invited to circle the track together. Caregivers were also recognized at Sunday's Relay For Life for the time, love, and support they offer to friends and family who face cancer.

The survivors were given a paper link before the event's start for every year they have survived cancer. The links formed large paper necklaces worn by each survivor during the survivors lap. When the lap was complete, all of the chains were linked together and draped along a wall of the DakotaDome to serve as a visual representation of the time people have enjoyed their

lives here after successfully battling cancer.

"It really reminds you of all of the extra years these people have been able to live because of research and medical advances and early detection, and steps like that," Wess said.

A large can filled with beads also drew walkers' constant attention Sunday. Each participant collected a bead each time they completed a lap; the walkers then could place them on a string as a physical representation of the number of laps completed that day.

"Everyone should be really proud of just being here today," she said, taking time to watch as groups of walkers of all ages passed by. "It's a celebration. It's all about recognition and participation – however people want to be a part of it," she said.

The DakotaDome track was lined with paper luminarias, each one hand-crafted by a family member or friend to honor someone who has died of cancer.

Among the many luminarias along the track was one placed by Wess in honor of her father.

"As you walk around, you see people wearing purple shirts – they are the sur-

vivors – and you see all of these luminarias, with names written on them to honor those who didn't survive. It's wonderful. It just makes you feel good."

"I'm just really tickled with all of the people who are here today, and the new people I get to meet every year," Wess said. "Many of these people – I see their faces every day, but I see them in a completely different way once they've been here, whether they are a survivor or a community person who has felt the need to be part of this celebration."

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