

THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING WAS HELD BY THE VIRTUAL MEETING ZOOM PLATFORM AND IN PERSON ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT 711 BIRKBECK STREET, FREELAND, PA. PRESENT WERE MR. KAVITSKI, MR. FISHER, MR. TIERNEY II, THE TECHNICAL MANAGER, THE ENGINEERS (via Zoom), THE ATTORNEYS (ATTY. FAGAN via Zoom), AND THE SECRETARY.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

JAY LYNCH OF MEISER & EARL, INC-SRBC GRANDFATHERING REPORT

Mr. Jay Lynch discussed the Well Report regarding the daily pumping and the SRBC grandfathering of the Wells. Mr. Lynch discussed the Daily Withdrawal of Well 4. The dark solid line is when the new flowmeter was installed in August of 2019, with five years of information after the flowmeter installation. Well 6 flowmeter installed October of 2020. Wells 4 and 6 were grandfathered by SRBC and both Wells are allotted lower daily withdrawals. The Authority feels the flowmeters were underreported to SRBC and the Authority wants to discuss with SRBC's decision for the well pumping. Well 4 is allotted 58,000 gallons per day and Well 6 is allotted 40,000 gallons per day based on a 30-day run average. The graphs, which Mr. Lynch showed, amounts have dropped down after the SRBC Grandfather Certification dated June of 2023 for allowed amounts. (Reference 2488-A).

Years ago, as far as Mr. Kavitski is aware, the Authority did not calibrate the meters and flowmeters do not speed up, they slow down. Jay Lynch said there are records for Well 10 only. Mr. Kavitski inquired to Mr. Lynch about reaching out to SRBC to see if they will consider raising the amount of gallons allotted to pump per day. Mr. Lynch will speak to SRBC to see if they will reconsider the numbers which were allotted to the Authority. SRBC gives docket renewals every 15 years, which the Authority will need to renew again. Mr. Kavitski is concerned regarding the withdrawal amounts during a drought situation. Well 10 has a large allocation which the Authority is not using per Mr. Lynch.

Mr. Kavitski mentioned the iron and manganese levels within the water system. Older employees were correct about this issue. Mr. Kavitski has indicated possible green sand filter at the individual wells to help with this situation. Manganese is black and thick and can discolor things. Flushing does help but it's still in the water system especially when wells startup. If manganese levels go above .3 mg/l, a health level alert must be placed to the public and DEP is notified.

Mr. Kavitski inquired about the results for the PFAS samples and Ryan Smith said no results yet. Ryan Smith stated all samples taken at the entry points when Mr. Lynch inquired. PA American Water just put in a 10-million-dollar water treatment system in Mahanoy City area for iron, manganese and PFAS removal.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

No citizens present.

APPROVE FEBRUARY MINUTES

Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve the February minutes and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 3-0.

APPROVE FEBRUARY PAID INVOICES

Mr. Kavitski made a motion to approve the February paid invoices for the Water Division totaling \$205,711.66, and the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$137,330.90 and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 3-0. (Reference 2488-B).

CURRENT INVOICES

Mr. Tierney made a motion to approve payment of the current Water Division invoices totaling \$89,052.00, the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$175,586.81, and the Sandy Run invoices totaling \$183.00 and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 3-0. (Reference 2488-C).

FINANCIAL STATUS

The Secretary reviewed the Financial Status as outlined in Reference 2488-D.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Mr. Brenden Miller and Chris Ferdik of HRG, Inc. presented the Engineering Report via Zoom. (Reference 2489-A).

Sewer Area

-SIUA and sampling stations – Chris Ferdik of HRG discussed via Zoom, on February 26, 2024, EPA gave HRG a written response regarding legal authority to enforce criminal penalties (adequately addressing Special Counsel's 11/3/23 inquiry and concerns). HRG has engaged with Special Counsel and the Co-Solicitor to finalize revisions to FMA's legal authority and to prepare to make formal legal authority resubmission to the EPA. Everything else in the Pretreatment Plan is currently approved.

Proposed amendments for Freeland Borough and Foster Township Ordinances will need to be completed after full approval from EPA. The Authority Sewer Rules and Regulations will also need to be amended.

Sampling station agreements were sent – waiting on PGA's response (PO Box is now closed and mail being returned) and Citterio has had questions on the agreement and currently working through the questions with the Authority and HRG. A locking mechanism will be placed on the sampling station during independent monitoring events conducted by FMA. Online flow data is a requirement.

NOV's issued to Citterio for non-compliance of monthly reporting. Ryan Smith, Technical Manager, contacted Citterio regarding a water leak located in meter pit, no response regarding this situation.

Mr. Ferdik stated the Authority needs to document everything from both Industrial Users.

Sludge testing for the influent & effluent at the wastewater treatment plant was discussed. March 31, 2025, will be the first report due to the EPA via electronic filing.

-Sludge Dewatering Project – Contracts for PSI Pumping Solutions, General Contractor, and George J Hayden, Electrical Contractor, for review and signature were sent to the Authority. HRG will be working with all parties in the coming weeks to conduct the pre-construction meeting. Settlement on the PENNVEST loan for this project is scheduled for April 4th at 10 AM.

-NPDES Permit Renewal Work – Review being done by DEP, technical review started June of 2023.

Mr. Ferdik will call and check on the status.

-ACT 537 Special Study – No significant activities.

-Sewer Rules and Regulations – Approval has been tabled at this time.

-Sewer Tapping Fee Studies – HRG sent report.

-Dynamic Separator – Email sent February of 2024 after last meeting to DEP regarding possible placement at the Wyoming St PS and HRG has not heard a response to date.

Water Area

-AdEdge System – Chris Ferdik suggested looking at this system for iron and manganese, another client of theirs is using this system and it has helped.

-Oak Street Water Storage Tank – All submissions are completed. Foster Township Subdivision Plan, meeting on April 4, 2024, HRG will be there to attend and representation from the Authority should attend as well. PENNVEST to review the application on April 24, 2024.

-Hydraulic Model Flushing Analysis – No update this month.

-Water Division Rules & Regulations – Draft sent to Office Manager for the administrative portions.

-Centre Street Water Main Replacement Project – HRG sent an agreement proposal for administration of the grant funding. CFA Projects can be technical, which needs to be incorporated in the project. HOP for the project through PennDOT was given to HRG, need to determine how many valves will be installed at Front Street before permit is submitted. A pdf will be sent to Ryan Smith for review. HOP permits are quick and there should be no issue receiving the permit per HRG.

-SRBC Water Conservation Grant – Currently being reviewed by SRBC.

-Water Tapping Fee Study – HRG sent report.

-Sandy Run Corrosion Control Study -Samples collected which were provided to Shannon Chemical for complete computer model recommendations of dosing. Once results are completed HRG will complete and submit the report by May.

SEWER DIVISION

Ratification of Contract #24-01 General Construction Dewatering Upgrade Project- PSI Pumping Solutions for \$267,415.00 Mr. Kavitski made the motion for approval and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 3-0.

Ratification of Contract #24-02 Electrical Construction Dewatering Upgrade Project-George J. Hayden, Inc. for \$109,000.00 Mr. Fisher made the motion for approval and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 3-0.

Sewer Rules and Regulations were tabled this month due to awaiting approval from EPA regarding the Pretreatment Plan, Mr. Tierney made to motion to table and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 3-0.

McCrometer Quote for the annual renewal of the HACH flowmeter data loggers for \$2,895.00, Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 3-0. (Reference 2490-A).

Forschner Wireworx LLC – 3 Phase 480v Surge Protection Quote at the Wastewater Treatment Plant with a 10-year warranty for \$9,364.86 for replacement of modules only, Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 3-0. (Reference 2490-B).

Maryland Biochemical Company-Ultrasonic Algae Control Device, Ryan Smith discussed the clogged utility screen and build up of algae in the secondary clarifier, and bladder snails that feed on algae are clogging up water lines. The device would create ultrasonic waves under the water and disrupt the cell walls to the algae which in turn would eliminate the snails. Ryan Smith would like to install the devices but the rotating arm in the clarifiers could create entanglement issues. The other option is an Algaecide sold by bag or pail, \$114.00/bag, or \$162.50/pail plus HAZMAT shipping charge due to high pH oxidizer \$75.00 per shipment. Mr. Kavitski made the recommendation to purchase four 50-pound bags to see how efficiently it works. Ryan Smith wants to investigate to see if the device can be installed elsewhere like in the effluent box. Dosing amounts were discussed - granular verses mixing material with water. Mr. Kavitski inquired if this chemical will interfere with the pumps; Ryan Smith said the chemical dissolves quickly. The only concern is the UV bulbs because the chemical is an oxidizer which employee John Yefchak pointed out. Maryland Biochemical stated other plants use this chemical with no issues, in fact Mr. Zynel uses this chemical at the Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority. The Board all agreed to try 4 bags first. (Reference 2490-C).

WATER DIVISION

HRG Agreement for the CFA Grant Administration Centre Street Water Main Replacement Project for handling all administration, \$12,300.00, Mr. Fisher inquired if the agreement is a not to exceed price. Mr. Kavitski had concerns about the cost. Brenden Miller of HRG explained the agreement is standard with the CFA Grants and it is a not to exceed price. Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve the agreement with the stipulation not to exceed price of \$12,300.00, after discussion with Brenden Miller of HRG, and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 3-0. (Reference 2490-D). Ryan Smith inquired about a full-time inspector for the project.

SmartSights-SCADA Alarm System-Annual Renewal at the price of \$2300.00, Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 3-0. (Reference 2490-E).

MANAGERS REPORT

Ryan Smith presented the Technical Manager Report. (Reference 2490-F). Mr. Kavitski asked for standard things to be removed from the Technical Manager Report. If something out of the ordinary comes up with one of these items than put it in the report. Ryan Smith recommended after installation of Flow Paced Chemical Equipment, touch screen monitors at RTU panels for SCADA Control or purchase 2 tablets from Verizon with having Wi-Fi at Wellhouses. Sewer main replacement on Centre Street from Chestnut to Walnut was suggested by Ryan Smith. The sewer line contains a "T" connection currently, would like to add a manhole. The Authority has 700 feet of sewer pipe, looking to replace the sewer line completely, while the water main is being done. Mr. Kavitski inquired about this work being done in-house. Three employees plus a sewer person to help. Mr. Kavitski is concerned about the grade of the sewer line, and he inquired to ask Mr. Kaminsky. Mr. Tierney said to research the potential project further. Mr. Kavitski said to match two existing sewer connections to newly laid manholes, the grade must be exact. The Secretary inquired about the Verizon tablets, why not use the Rugged Water Operator Laptop. Ryan Smith stated the laptop could certainly work. The Board asked to revisit the discussion on purchase of tablets after installation of equipment is done. Mr. Tierney and Ryan Smith will be meeting with the guys to discuss the plans when Ryan Smith is off for two weeks for birth of baby. Mr. Fisher and Mr. Kavitski were also invited to attend.

ENGINEERING INVOICES

Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve HRG Invoice #179709 \$14,270.00, Invoice #179727 \$2,856.00, Invoice #179728 \$5,860.80, Invoice #179729 \$9,130.45, Invoice #179767 \$1,760.00, Invoice #180090 \$722.50, Invoice #180091 \$4,487.50, and Invoice #180102 \$2,697.00, and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 3-0. (Reference 2491-A).

ATTORNEYS REPORT

Attorney Malaska said he has been working on the Industrial Pretreatment Plan with Chris Ferdik and Atty Pompo finalizing the enforcement provisions. Regulations were submitted to the EPA this week. The Authority will have a little more weight for enforcement actions after the entire plan is approved. All deliverables were submitted to PENNVEST for the Sludge Dewatering Project and the third teleconference is tomorrow.

Attorney Fagan stated Attorney Malaska and he worked together for the PENNVEST Sludge Dewatering Project. Mr. Kavitski inquired about the Pagnotti land subdivision and has the solar company been in contact with Attorney Fagan. Attorney Fagan said Pagnotti is awaiting the subdivision and then closing will take place. Attorney Fagan apologized to the Board for not being in person, but he had minor foot surgery and is not navigating too well.

OPEN/OTHER ACTIONS

PenTeleData Camera Quote is \$19,171.21 with a monthly fee of \$20.00, additional cameras which the Authority discussed, Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 3-0. (Reference 2491-B).

PenTeleData Total Security License Annual Fee for \$419.20, Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 3-0. (Reference 2491-C).

Guyette Communications Phone System NEC Software Annual Fee of \$425.00, an incorrect amount of \$450.00 was listed on the agenda, Mr. Tierney made a motion to approve and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 3-0. (Reference 2491-D).

Ryan Smith inquired about a full-Time Inspector for the Sludge Dewatering Project and the Centre Street Main Replacement Project. HRG is making six separate site visits for the dewatering project, does the Board feel there should be more oversight. Ryan Smith is concerned; he does not have enough time to be there constantly. Mr. Kavitski said to send an email to Brenden Miller of HRG for a quote on a full-time inspector, which may be very pricey. Mr. Kavitski said six site visits is probably acceptable and if the Authority sees something is not right, we can always bring an inspector in at that time. Mr. Kavitski said the Centre Street Main Replacement would need an inspector on the job. There is another option for inspectors, Midlantic, would be one.

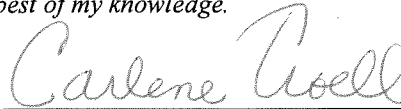
ADJOURN

Mr. Fisher made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 3-0.

These minutes are certified true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Paul Thomas, Secretary



Carlene Troell, Non-Member Secretary