

WESTERN WESTMORELAND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING – MARCH 21, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Western Westmoreland Municipal Authority held a regular monthly meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. in the Authority conference room, duly advertised, as required, and with the following persons in attendance:

1. Roll Call:

Board Members in Attendance:

Mr. Stanley Caroline, Jr.

Mr. Charles Gilbert

Mr. Charles Konkus

Ms. Lisa Kovac

Mr. Joseph Lapia

Mr. Dylan Mace

Attended virtually, through Microsoft Teams:

Mr. Kevin McHugh

Absent:

Mr. Kurt Bonnet

Mr. Bob Regola

Mr. John Slivka

Others in Attendance:

Mr. Matthew Racunas, Solicitor

Mr. Chad Hanley, Consulting Engineer

Mr. Stanley A. Gorski, Jr., Authority Manager

Mrs. Johanna Wtorkowski, Finance Director and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer/Recording Secretary

2. Mr. Caroline led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comments: None

4. Communications: None

5. Secretary's Report: Secretary's Report: Joseph Lapia

- A. Mr. Lapia requested the approval of the minutes for the regular meeting of February 15, 2024 as presented. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Konkus, and seconded by Ms. Kovac. The motion passed unanimously.

This concluded the Secretary's Report.

6. Treasurer's Report: Charles Konkus:

Mr. Konkus requested the approval of the following requisition:

- A. Revenue Fund Requisition No. 443: \$432,051.67: A motion to approve was made by Mr. Lapia, and seconded by Mr. Gilbert. The motion passed unanimously.

This concluded the Treasurer's report.

7. Authority Manager's Report – Stanley Gorski, Jr.:

- A. Mr. Gorski reported that there were no NPDES violations nor plant by-passes during February. Average plant flow was 3.0 mgd. Maximum flow was 5.4 mgd.

B. COA-Phase III Project:

1. Mr. Dale Mills, of the PaDEP, signed off on the final inspection. Mr. Gorski received the inspection certificate today. The project is officially closed out.
2. There is one item that needs to be resolved with the Westmoreland County Conservation District, concerning Paintertown Road. The Authority completed full restoration with full growth, and silt sacks were removed, but there was a subsequent landslide, and PennDOT performed restoration and placed new silt sacks in the area. The issue is PennDOT's, and not WWMA's. An inspector from the Westmoreland County Conservation District will inspect WWMA's work in April, at which time this issue will be resolved.
3. Mr. Gorski referred to Wade Trim's request for an increase in the amount of \$8,000.00 for the Construction Management/Construction Observation agreements. The request, submitted by Mr. Brad Boddy, listed additional expenses for meetings (\$4,700), labor costs for the period beyond the 12-month construction period (\$8,200), and efforts for the period beyond the 16-month construction administration period (\$51,000), but Wade Trim is requesting \$8,000. Mr. Gorski described the additional work that was performed by Wade Trim. Mr. Gorski stated that the PaDEP requested a significant amount of

- information at the end of the project, which contributed to the increase in Wade Trim's costs. Mr. Gorski stated that Mr. Boddy should have approached the Board if he knew that his costs were going to exceed the amounts stated in the agreements. Mr. Gorski stated that he didn't understand where the \$51,000 and \$8,200 amounts came from, because when he was reviewing his charts, things were right where they should be. A lengthy discussion followed. No action was taken.
- C. Mr. Gorski requested Board authorization to hire one (1) summer employee for a period not to exceed 120 days for the year, with the hourly rate set at \$16.00. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Konkus, and seconded by Ms. Kovac. The motion passed unanimously.
 - D. Mr. Gorski requested Board authorization to purchase and install interior galvanized fire-rated hollow metal doors with primer paint, including locksets, hinges, and kick plates, from AB Specialties, Inc., for the Operations Control Center, the Control Building Electric Room, the Control Building hallway to foyer, the Break Room, and the Locker Room, at a cost of \$10,980.00, which is COSTARS pricing. Mr. Lapia asked what the fire rating of the doors was. Mr. Gorski stated that the fire rating was 90 minutes. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Mace, and seconded by Mr. Lapia. The motion passed unanimously.
 - E. Waste Management/Landfill Update:
 - 1. Mr. Gorski reported that WWMA has prepared a draft agreement that is being finalized by Mr. Racunas. The Authority is developing a surcharge flat-rate fee. Mr. Gorski stated that the Authority is close to finalizing the ammonia limits for the landfill. The next meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2024. Monthly meetings will continue until the new agreement is reached.
 - F. New hire Slater McGonigle passed the commercial driver's permit test and his federal drug test, and is currently driving with Authority employees. Mr. Gorski stated that he is doing well.
 - G. Mr. Gorski is currently working with vendors to obtain pricing to replace or repair the wet end of the thickener pump. The cost to replace is \$21,000.00. Mr. Gorski is waiting for costs to repair the equipment. Mr. Gorski plans to submit a request to the Board for approval at the April 18, 2024 meeting.
 - H. Mr. Gorski reported that a Managers and Engineers meeting was held on February 29, 2024, with representatives of the Authority's Member Municipalities. Mr. Gorski plans to continue these meetings on a quarterly basis. The next meeting will be held at the North Huntingdon Township Municipal Authority office in early June 2024. A discussion followed.
 - I. Mr. Gorski reported that there was a chlorine leak on March 18, 2024. Mr. Gorski stated that he was impressed with the response of Authority employees. The valve on the tank was faulty. The leak was detected immediately, and emergency protocol was followed. SAL Chemical delivered a new tank of chlorine that morning, sealed the faulty tank, and hauled the tank away. SAL Chemical's Safety Director will be on-site on April 16, 2024, to review and perform a walkthrough of the process to change chlorine tanks. JCI, the maker of the tanks, will be on-site on that day, as well. JCI manufactures the tanks and valves, and SAL Chemical fills the tanks with chlorine gas.
 - J. Mr. Gorski reported that a vehicle crashed into the telephone pole located near the exit gate on March 6, 2024. The vehicle caught fire. There were no injuries, and there was no loss of electric power at the plant. North Irwin Volunteer Fire Department was first on the scene and extinguished the fire.

This concluded the Authority Manager's report.

- 8. Consulting Engineer: Chad Hanley, HRG:
 - A. Update:
 - 1. Mr. Hanley reported that the annual Chapter 94 Report was submitted today to the PaDEP.
 - 2. Mr. Hanley has been working with Authority staff regarding charges that the Authority expects to incur for the plant upgrade and treatment of ammonia. A meeting with staff and Mr. Racunas was held on March 20, 2024. A conference call has been scheduled for Monday, March 25, 2024, and a meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 27, 2024.
 - 3. The Process Improvements Project design is being dove-tailed with the landfill discussions.

This concluded the Engineer's report.

- 9. Solicitor's Report – Matthew Racunas:
 - A. Mr. Racunas stated that he is not working on many matters for the Authority, but the matters that he is addressing are big in scope.
 - B. Mr. Racunas stated that the team has been working diligently on the landfill matter. Mr. Racunas stated that the Authority should know relatively soon if the agreement will be completed, or if things will "fall south".
 - C. Mr. Racunas reported that he will be working with Authority personnel and Mr. Hanley on the Penn Township sewer line extension.
 - D. Mr. Racunas stated that he does not have an update on the Concordia development. Mr. Racunas is not aware of appeal filings being made.

This completed the Solicitor's report.

10. Reports of Committees:

- A. Personnel Committee: Joseph Lapia: There was no report.
- B. Finance and Budget Committee: Lisa Kovac:
 - 1. Ms. Kovac requested Board approval of the fund transfer listed under Agenda Items 10B 1(a), and investment listed under Agenda Items 10B 1(b), including:
 - a. Authorize a transfer in the amount of \$130,949.75 from the Revenue Fund to the PENNVEST Account, *and*
 - b. Authorize the purchase of a Capital Improvement Fund three-month United States Treasury Bill, in the amount of \$8,865,000.00, providing the interest rate is positive. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Konkus, and seconded by Mr. Lapia. The motion passed unanimously.

This concluded the Finance and Budget Committee report.

- C. Legal and Engineering Services Committee: Kevin McHugh: There was no report.

11. Requisitions and PENNVEST Payments:

Mr. Caroline requested Board approval of the following Requisition:

- A. Approve Capital Improvement Fund Requisition No. 118, in the amount of \$15,053.06: A motion to approve was made by Mr. Lapia, and seconded by Gilbert. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Board Member Comments:

- A. Mr. Konkus asked when the Authority's electrical contract will expire. Mr. Gorski stated that the agreement will end in May 2025. Mr. Konkus asked what the Authority's current rate is. Mrs. Wtorkowski stated that the rate is \$.0645. Mr. Gorski stated that he is working with the broker to secure a rate now, for a future period.

13. Old Business: None

14. New Business: None

15. Executive Session: A motion was made by Mr. Lapia, and seconded by Mr. Mace, to enter into an executive session to discuss personnel matters and matters of potential litigation. The motion passed unanimously. The executive session began at 6:45 P.M.

A motion to return to the regular order of business was made by Ms. Kovac, and seconded by Mr. Gilbert. The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:56 P.M. The items discussed were personnel issues and matters of potential litigation.

16. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Lapia, and seconded by Ms. Kovac. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 P.M.


Joseph N. Lapia, Secretary



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CONSULTING ENGINEER'S REPORT

WESTERN WESTMORELAND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Attn: Mr. Stanley A. Gorski, Jr., Authority Manager
Report Period: February 2024
HRG Project Number: R008234.0426



March 21, 2024 Authority Meeting

RETAINER SERVICES (.0426)

- HRG is preparing the Wasteload Management (Chapter 94) report, which is due to DEP by March 31, 2024.

GENERAL SERVICES (.0427)

- Service Area review
 - HRG has attended meetings regarding the service area agreement.
- Landfill discharge:
 - HRG reviewed field study data provided by Authority Staff that includes ammonia-nitrogen, BOD, and free cyanide levels in samples from five manholes in the WWMA system (Bushy Run, Larimer, Manor, Paintertown, and Tinkers Run). The samples were conducted during a time when the landfill was purportedly not discharging leachate. HRG met with Authority Staff to discuss the landfill with staff on February 21st and with Valley Landfill on February 27th. HRG assisted with presentation revisions.
 - HRG is reviewing new agreement with landfill and will attend meetings on March 20th and March 27th.
 - Previously:
 - HRG provided PFAS data review from the landfill discharge and WWTP sampling and attended a meeting with WWMA and PTSA staff to discuss the service area agreement.
 - HRG evaluated whether it is beneficial to accept leachate from Valley Landfill and prepared a memo to provide a more comprehensive understanding of both the financial and operational impacts to the WWTP. A draft memo was provided to the Authority Manager and a final memo was provided prior to the September 21st meeting.

PLANNING MODULE REVIEWS (.0428)

- No reviews in the month of February.

NPDES PERMIT RENEWAL (.0429)

- HRG will coordinate with Authority Staff to prepare a sampling plan by the end of March and begin the TRE work plan that is due to DEP by July 1, 2024.

WWTP PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS (.0430)

LSA State-Wide Grant Project

- HRG met with Sanitaire (Xylem), Kappe Associates, and Authority Staff on January 4, 2024 to determine the extent of drawings that will be necessary to prepare.
 - Grant funds need to be spent by June 2026 and due to lead times, the goal is for HRG to complete drawings and scope of work specifications in spring 2024, have COSTARS proposal and submittals approved in summer 2024, and for construction to commence in early spring 2025.
 - HRG reviewed the proposal provided by Xylem on January 24, 2024 and provided comments.
 - HRG met with Authority Staff on March 8 to discuss adjustments to the Sanitaire Proposal.

WWTP Evaluation Study

- HRG received the preliminary effluent limits from DEP on May 22, 2023. HRG reviewed these and concluded there are significant differences between the effluent limits of the current stream conditions and a waterway that receives mitigated acid mine drainage flow. HRG continues to evaluate WWTP alternatives.

GIS SERVICES (.0431)

- No updates.

END OF ENGINEER'S RETAINER SERVICES AND ACTIVE PROJECTS REPORT

Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.



Chad E. Hanley, P.E.
Group Manager | Water & Wastewater

CEH/SCS/kmg
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c: Ms. Johanna Wtorkowski