

Poughkeepsies' Joint Water Board

June 1, 2021

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Board Members

| City | Present | Absent | Town | Present | Absent |
|--------------|---------|--------|---------------|---------|--------|
| Marc Nelson | X | | Jay Baisley | X | |
| Rich DuPilka | X | | Bill Carlos | X | |
| Sara Salem | | X | Jessica Lopez | | X |

Others

Randy Alstadt, Water Plant Administrator
Don Beer, Clark Patterson Lee
Doreen Tignanelli, Town Customer
Tom Colgan, Town Water Supervisor
Jim Horan, Wallace and Wallace
Eric Chastain, Central Hudson
Mark McLean, Central Hudson

Meeting was conducted online utilizing Zoom.

1. Public Participation

Doreen Tignanelli question status of audit. Doreen then stated that if Board returns to in person meetings that the meetings be held in accordance to CDC guidelines including social distancing.

2. Approval of May 4, 2021 Minutes.

Minutes approved 4-0

3. Plant Status Report

Randy Alstadt advised that plant is operating well. Production was up over 800,000 gallons per day which is typical as we move into summer.

Randy stated that Low Lift #3 return has been returned and is operating well. Low Lift #4 will be sent out for repairs which once complete will resolve issues with Low Lift Pumps. Randy stated the rebuild of pumps has been very successful. Once Low Lift #3 is returned and operational we will schedule Low Lift #4 repairs which

Randy stated that the chemical bid will result in an increase of \$20,000 which is 4.2 percent of our chemical budget. Randy stated that he believes this will not impact overall budget.

Randy stated that there was a press conference to publicize the impact of turbidity events caused by NYDEP held in Saugerties.

Marc Nelson asked status of staff. Randy replied that staff is complete and that

COVID issues are no longer an issue.

1.

4. Impact of December 2020 – 2021 Turbidity Event

Marc Nelson discussed concerns of turbidity caused by NYDEP and asked Randy to summarize for Board. Randy presented slides that showed the releases and turbidity discharged into the Lower Esopus and the raw water turbidities at the Hudson 7 plants. Randy then showed a chart comparing solids production from December 2020 through April 2021 compared to average solids production for those months compared to average for 2012 through 2020. Randy then presented a similar chart that compared tons of sludge disposed.

Randy then showed the cost impact of the added turbidity. Randy calculated to electric cost and sludge disposal cost increase which he summarized in a memo provided to the Board. Randy projected increase cost was \$11,387.98.

Marc Nelson asked Randy to point out on first chart when event started and what turbidity was. Randy showed that event started around December 29th with a turbidity of 400 NTU. The next recorded turbidity was around 160 NTU. Marc asked if other weather events impact turbidity. Randy stated rain and snowmelt are typical causes of turbidity.

Bill Carlos stated that he invited Bill Richardson, Manager for NYDEP. Bill stated that Bill Richardson was directed by his supervisor not to attend our meeting. Bill questioned if Board can charge NYDEP for our added expenses. Jim Horan stated costs can be invoiced if Board can prove causation. Jim stated that NYDEP will use fact that discharges were permitted by current permit, which should relieve them of added expenses. Jim suggested a comparison of our data to a facility north of the Esopus should be conducted to confirm impact.

Bill stated we should put NYDEP on notice. Jim recommended DEC be provided based upon Randy's memo. Board moved and approved action That Jim develops letter for Marc's approval. Jim agreed to prepare letter.

5. Central Hudson Update on Dredging Plan

Eric Chastain stated that report on pilot study was submitted to DEC. Report showed that dredging was successful and water plant worked as expected. Eric stated that average removal was 11.5 cubic yards per hour which would make time for dredging to be 14 years. Based upon discussions with DEC it was determine that dredging is not practical and that they are looking at other options. Eric stated that there will not be any dredging in 2021.

Marc Nelson thanked Eric for his update.

Bill Carlos stated that Board would like to be kept informed. Mark McLean and Eric agreed.

6. Update on 2021 Operating Budget.

Randy Alstadt stated that expenses are in line with budget. Randy stated that expenses to date are 35% as 41% of year has been expended. Randy pointed out that overtime is higher than expected and will need to keep an eye on it.

7. Update on Capital Projects

Randy stated that PLC project after bid is \$100,000 greater than budgeted. Randy stated he has a meeting with City Finance to discuss options. Randy stated one option would be to include project in UV project which currently has a projected surplus of \$300,000. Randy said that changing financing with EFC and State Health could make this option not feasible. Randy stated it might be necessary to go back to City Council and Town Board to get approval for additional funding.

Marc Nelson stated that the \$100,000 would be split between City and Town. Marc question current budget contingency. Randy stated \$50,000 is current contingency budget. Marc agreed that project should move forward and be supplemented through operating budget.

Jay Baisley asked why the costs increased so much. Randy stated that additional controls were added to High Lift Pump Controls and costs have increased due to COVID. Jay asked for what was item that caused increase. Randy stated that costs were due to High Lift Pump Controls and Filter Controls.

Randy stated trailer is still being fabricated in Indiana. Company has had difficulty finding skilled employees to perform work and lead welder was injured for a long period. Randy stated that the trailer is completely fabricated in the shop which makes impact of laborers greater.

Randy stated that as he said documents being reviewed by State Health with no time frame for approval. Randy stated that he was told our project is in the que with many others.

Marc stated that he would like to get a capital budget plan.

8. Old Business

Marc Nelson stated that he has advised letter from City was sent to Central Hudson to advise that City is decommissioning the old College Hill Reservoir. Marc stated his letter was acknowledged.

Marc stated that the subject of attendance by Board Members to Board Meetings has and continues to be an issue. Marc shared letter with Board members which he proposes to send out tomorrow. Jay Baisley agreed to send out letter. Board concurred that letter should be sent out.

9. New Business

Marc Nelson stated that we may be returning to in person meetings in July. Bill Carlos stated he has no objection to going to open meetings. Bill expressed concern that Boardroom might be too small if public attends in significant numbers.

Randy stated that we have a Hepa Filtration system that can be placed in Boardroom and can disinfect room prior and after meeting. Jay Baisley stated if we need to have larger space we could use Town Boardroom. Bill stated we could use Breakroom if need more space.

Next Meeting: July 6, 2021 4:30PM. By ZOOM.