

**MINUTES**  
**OPERATIONS & ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 10, 2024**

---

Attendants: Messrs. Cartafalsa, DiSantis, Hurst, Kern, Lehman, Martin, Moss, Mullen, Nagle, Shuster, Willert, and Mesdames Amadio, Billings, Caulk, Garner, Keffer, and Nichols.

1. ROLL CALL: Nine members of the DELCORA Board of Directors were present at the meeting constituting a quorum.

The following were present: Mike Ewall, B. Preston Lyles, and Steve Vinci. There were no other members of the public present.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All parties present at the meeting recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. BID OPENING:

- Contract No. TC-2404-C – Incinerator Maintenance and Emergency Repairs

Mr. Hurst stated that there was one bid received.

	<u>BID AMOUNT</u>	
	<u>1 YEAR</u>	<u>2 YEARS</u>
IFCO	\$784,203.70	\$1,625,335.38

Mr. Mullen stated that this bid will be reviewed by Staff and our Solicitor's office, and consideration of award will be placed on the agenda for the September 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

4. MONTHLY REPORT – DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE: Mr. DiSantis highlighted certain items in the written report. He stated that during the month of August there were three NPDES violations at the WRTP for exceeding the fecal coliform single sample maximum permit limit twice. This particular permit limit only happens May through September as it is identified as the 'swimming season' in the Delaware River by the DRBC and the PADEP. We are working with the regulatory agencies regarding this permit limit because it generally only applies to Pennsylvania and there are numerous violations in eastern Pennsylvania alone based upon our review of other Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) besides our own. Mr. DiSantis explained that we met with a consultant that previously worked with PADEP because we believe that this should be changed. He added that when doing the geometric mean, we needed to plug in the number 2,420 with seventeen zeros behind it to force the geometric mean over the permit limit, illustrating the absurdness of this limit. Continuing, Mr. DiSantis stated that dry weather continued in August. Solids handling had an average of 48.35 dry tons per day. Mr. DiSantis reported that we received 97.6% of the flow from the CDPS during the month of August. He reported that there were seven reportable incidents during the month. Two were for emissions caused by #2 incinerator

RTO short stack openings. The remaining five were SSOs. The wet weather SSOs included two at Norwood's Martin Lane PS and one at the Rose Valley PS with normal operation resuming once rain subsided. The other three SSOs were related to the striking of our Eastern Force Main by a PennDOT contractor. The damaged line has been repaired and is now secure.

Mr. DiSantis stated both incinerators were in service 65% of the month and that no cake was hauled to compost during the month. Mr. DiSantis also reported that the addition of air mixing to the mechanical mixing in the sludge holding tank ET-1 has shown good results for mixing and a large reduction in Hydrogen Sulfide concentrations in the feed sludge which is of great benefit to staff and equipment. Regarding remote operations, he stated that there were no violations. Sewer Maintenance had a typical month with 26% of their time spent on routine line cleaning and televising. He stated that since converting to Artificial Intelligence (AI) to inspect manholes, the results have been good. Mr. DiSantis stated that there were 20.81 million gallons received during August. Mr. DiSantis had no additional comments to the written report.

Ms. Keffer asked if there are any fines associated with violations of the NPDES permit. Mr. DiSantis replied that the fine is up to the Department of Justice (DOJ). We have never been fined for permit violations, only for sanitary SSOs. Ms. Keffer also asked why the flow from CDPS is being singled out. Mr. DiSantis answered that in 2001, PWD told DELCORA that our wet weather flow was too much to handle, so DELCORA decided to send all CDPS flow up to 20 MGD to WRTP instead of PWD. This addressed PWD's issue and lowered our treatment costs.

Mr. Nagle asked whose idea was it to add air mixing to the mechanical mixing. Mr. DiSantis answered that when we had only air mixing, it wasn't adequate. But after we installed mechanical mixing, various staff suggested adding air mixing with mechanical mixing. Due to the reduction in hydrogen sulfide in the feed sludge, we haven't needed to use the chemical Endimol which had normally been added to the sludge feed flow to reduce hydrogen sulfide. The Committee had no other questions regarding the written report.

5. MONTHLY REPORT – DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING: Mr. Hurst highlighted certain items in the written report. Mr. Hurst explained that majority of August's focus was on the 420 Force Main repair. He added that 420 Force main now has brand new piece of iron pipe. Regarding the Monroe property, Phase 2 work has begun. Regarding the LTCP, we are into the model calibration work and installed multiple meters. The UV design continues to move along. Meetings have been held with three vendors for potential equipment providers. Mr. Hurst also added that he visited one site so far, and plan on visiting two more. Lastly, in regard to the Land Services project, there has been some continued discussions with the City of Chester regarding the subdivision of the land at the 2<sup>nd</sup> & Dock parcel. Mr. Hurst had no additional comments to the written report. The Committee had no questions on the written report.

6. MONTHLY REPORT – ENGINEERING ADVISOR: Mr. Lehman highlighted several on-going projects on the written report, which had been provided to all Board members in advance of today's meeting. He stated that SWMM modeling proceeds as normal. Mr. Lehman also reported that there was an issue with the rain gauge at the WRTP, WESTON was able to supplement the WRTP gage with data from the CDPS. Mr. Lehman also stated that the Metering Program is progressing well. Mr. Lehman had no additional comments to the written report. The Committee had no questions regarding the written report.

7. CHANGE ORDERS:

- Contract No. SEW-2403-CO – Furnishing Equipment, Labor & Supervision For Sewer Maintenance, Repairs, And Other Construction Related Projects – Change Order No. 1 – Increase In Contract Amount Of \$500,000.00 (Jurich, Inc.)

Mr. Hurst stated that this increase in price reflects ongoing work for the 420 Force Main break. He anticipates that this increase may be more than needed, but in October, he plans to provide the board with a full breakdown of the cost. He added that this change order reflects at 16% increase in contract value.

Ms. Billings asked if there is any dispute to the cause of the break. Mr. Hurst replied that anything in construction is always a dispute. The PennDOT contractor said that he was outside of the tolerance zone. Ms. Billings also asked what is considered the 'tolerance zone'. Mr. Hurst answered that the tolerance zone is 18 inches outside of the utility diameter.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend Board approval of the above change order. This item will be placed on the agenda for the September 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

8. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF CONTRACT CLOSE-OUT & FINAL PAYMENT: Mr. Mullen stated that there are no requests for approval of contract close-out and final payments at this time.

9. AUTHORIZATION FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

- A. Aqua Law PLC – Proposal Dated August 21, 2024 – For Professional Services To Provide Continued Assistance For The Long-Term Control Plan Update, Consent Decree, And Permitting Matters – Total Additional Amount Not To Exceed \$25,000.00 (Operating Funds) (Aqualaw Is Not Affiliated With Aqua Pa)

Mr. Hurst stated that this is ongoing legal support focused on environmental matters, primarily the LTCP and other permitting issues.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend Board approval of the above proposal. This item will be placed on the agenda for the September 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- B. Remington & Vernick Engineers – Proposal Dated September 9, 2024 – For Professional Engineering Services For Construction Management And Inspection Services For The Route 420 Force Main Break & Repair – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$27,500.00 (Capital Funds)

Mr. Hurst stated that this proposal is for construction management and inspection services in regard to the Force Main break.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend Board approval of the above proposal. This item will be placed on the agenda for the September 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- C. Brown And Caldwell – Proposal Dated September 3, 2024 – For Professional Engineering Services To Provide Continued Local Limits Development For The WRTP – Total Additional Amount Not To Exceed \$16,500.00 (Operating Funds)

Mr. Hurst stated that this proposal is to update our local limits program which is an EPA requirement that put limits in place for industrial waste dischargers.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend Board approval of the above proposal. This item will be placed on the agenda for the September 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

#### 10. AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS:

- Contract No. P2024-05 – Unleaded Gasoline And Diesel Fuel With Tracking System
- Contract No. P2024-06 – Trash Removal/Recycle/Disposal & Grit/Screenings Relocation; Removal, Hauling & Disposal
- Contract No. P2024-07 – Liquid Chlorine In One-Ton Cylinders
- Contract No. P2024-08 – Liquid Caustic Soda
- Contract No. P2024-09 –Phosphoric Acid 85%

Mr. Hurst stated that all five of these contracts are annual contracts for gasoline, trash, and three chemicals used at the WRTP.

Mr. Kern asked will the specs be adjusted for bidding requirements due to Coyne Chemical issues that have come up in the past. Mr. Hurst answered that yes, the specs will be adjusted.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend Board approval of the above contract advertisements. These items will be placed on the agenda for the September 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

#### 11. AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE:

- Purchase Of Construction Services For The Construction Of Multi Facility Upgrades Including:
  - B-3 Scrubber Pit Coating
  - B-3 Boiler Install
  - Central Ps & Muckinipates Ps Pump Install
  - Piping Corrosion Protection
  - Yates Avenue Force Main

Via The Keystone Purchasing Network (Contractor S. J. Thomas Company, Inc. Proposal Dated July 9, 2024, JOC Contract No. 2021JOCC-48)– Total Amount Not To Exceed \$5,067,546.91 (Capital Funds)

Mr. Hurst explained all of the five aspects listed. Ms. Billings asked how much it costs to have RVE review the quoted prices. Mr. Hurst replied that he can follow up with the exact pricing.

Ms. Nichols asked multiple questions in regard to this purchase. 1.) What is the difference between the Authorization to Purchase versus the Authorization for Professional Services, and whether this project was put out as a bid? Mr. Hurst answered that the Job Order Contract was publicly bid, S.J. Thomas was identified as the company that works in our area. S.J. Thomas will identify contractors to provide them with pricing to put together their proposal to us. 2.) Does this bid have to be reviewed by our solicitor like any other bid? Mr. Hurst replied that yes, this is forwarded to our solicitor just as any other bid. 3.) Will this new process help reduce dramatic change orders at the tail end of the projects? Mr. Hurst replied that yes, that has been the pattern so far with KPN projects, there has only been one change order so far, and that was due to a scope change initiated by DELCORA.

Mr. Martin asked for confirmation of the economy scale for a single contractor versus multiple contractors. Mr. Hurst answered that part of the bid process allows for markups, so the larger the contract, the lower the markups are.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend Board approval of the above purchase. This item will be placed on the agenda for the September 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- Hach– Quote Dated August 22, 2024 – For Purchase Of Hach UVAS US Sensor, Controller, Mounting Hardware And Warranty -Through PA Costars Contract #020-E22-040 – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$31,345.55 (Capital Funds)

Mr. Hurst stated that this purchase is for equipment for a UV probe to track how much UV light goes through our wastewater.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend Board approval of the above purchase. This item will be placed on the agenda for the September 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Minutes  
O & E Committee Meeting  
September 10, 2024  
page 6 of 6

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved by Ms. Billings, seconded by Ms. Keffer, and unanimously carried to adjourn the regular meeting at 4:16 p.m.