

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 11, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Lehigh County Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 12:01 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2020, Chairman Brian Nagle presiding. The meeting was held via video and audio advanced communication technology ("ACT"), using the ZOOM internet application, due to the national COVID-19 pandemic emergency. Each Board member and other attendees of the meeting were able to hear each other attendee, and be heard by each other attendee. The public could also participate in the meeting via ACT, using the ZOOM internet application. A Roll Call of Board members present was taken. Chairman Brian Nagle, Jeff Morgan, Amir Famili, Linda Rosenfeld, Richard Bohner and Ted Lyons were present through ACT for the duration of the meeting. Board member Scott Bieber, Norma Cusick, and Kevin Baker joined the meeting while it was in progress.

Solicitor Michael Gaul was also present via ACT. Authority Staff present via ACT were Liesel Gross, Ed Klein, John Parsons, Phil DePoe, Andrew Moore, Lisa Miller, Todd Marion, Susan Sampson and Chris Moughan.

Chairman Nagle announced that the Board received their packets prior to the meeting.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Liesel Gross requested the deletion of an agenda item. The Kline's Island WWTP Sodium Hypochlorite System Installation Project will be discussed at a future meeting. There is no need for an Executive Session after today's meeting. Chairman Nagle reminded the Board and Staff that the next Board meeting is next Monday, May 18th and there will be an Executive Session to discuss personnel and matters of potential litigation after the regular meeting on Monday, May 18, 2020.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Richard Bohner noted a few grammatical errors. On a motion by Richard Bohner, seconded by Linda Rosenfeld, the Board approved the minutes of the April 27, 2020 Board meeting as corrected (7-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Suburban Division – Western Lehigh Service Area: 2020 Sewer Modeling

Phil DePoe gave an overview of the Western Lehigh Sewer Partnership hydraulic model that has been calibrated using 2019 flow meter and rainfall data. The model will be used to support long-term Act 537 planning for the Western Lehigh sewer service area. The Authority intends to retain Arcadis to use the calibrated model to analyze scenarios that will support decision-making regarding future system improvements. Mr. DePoe reviewed costs associated with the flow model calibration and preliminary modeling work completed in prior phases of this project. The next phase of modeling will utilize \$53,000 of funds authorized for this prior work, and requires an additional authorization of \$89,000 to complete the project.

Mr. DePoe reviewed and described each of the five tasks included in the proposed modeling project. Task 1 relates to the evaluation of scenarios to provide additional wastewater storage or conveyance capacity to relieve hydraulic restrictions in the interceptor that serves the Trexlertown area. This work is critical and will be completed by the end of June 2020. The remaining four tasks will be completed by November 2020 and will support regional Act 537 planning work that will begin in 2021. A proposal was attached from Arcadis describing each of the tasks in detail. There was some Board discussion.

On a motion by Norma Cusick, seconded by Linda Rosenfeld, the Board approved the Professional Services Authorization to Arcadis in the amount of \$89,000.00 to provide hydraulic sewer modeling services for the Western Lehigh sewer service area (8-0).

Kline's Island Sewer System – Interim Act 537 Plan

Liesel Gross gave a presentation on the Kline's Island Sewer System Interim Act 537 plan and reviewed the background of the project. Since August 2019, the fifteen municipalities that use the regional sewer system have been collaborating with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on plans to address future sewer capacity requirements. The municipalities and DEP have agreed to complete the planning work in two stages. The first is to develop an Interim Act 537 Plan, which describes the planning activities that will take place over the next five years from 2021 to 2025. During this five-year period, the municipalities will also be working on their sewer system rehabilitation projects to reduce inflow and infiltration (I&I). New sewer system connections during the five-year planning period will be approved by DEP based on a connection management plan that is also specified in the Interim Act 537 Plan. The planning work to be completed by 2025 includes: developing flow and growth projections through 2050; completing the sewage billing metering evaluation program; comprehensive flow monitoring to collect updated data on system flows and I&I by municipality; updating the regional hydraulic model to support evaluation of conveyance system requirements; evaluation of treatment alternatives to address current and future flows; analysis of alternatives including engineering, financial, legal, administrative, climate change, and other evaluations; and development of a final long-term sewage facilities plan to address the region's future sewage capacity needs.

Phil DePoe reviewed the connection management plan approved by DEP for new connections in 2020 along with the projected new flows from each municipality for the 2021 to 2025 planning period. Sewage planning modules will be tracked to ensure that new connections to the sewer system do not exceed these allocations over the next five years.

Mr. DePoe reviewed other details regarding the Interim Act 537 Plan. He explained the Authority and City of Allentown will submit an updated permit amendment application to DEP for the Kline's Island Wastewater Treatment Plant to increase the plant's rated hydraulic capacity to 44 million gallons per day (MGD). This is a 4 MGD increase from the current permit of 40 MGD and will cover the new connections expected during the five-year period. A recent engineering evaluation was completed to illustrate the treatment plant's hydraulic capacity, which will be included with the permit application when it is submitted to DEP.

Mr. DePoe stated that the COVID-19 pandemic emergency may impact the Interim Act 537 Plan by delaying the submission of comments from the municipal planning commissions, and delaying the public comment period, which is now scheduled to start on June 10, 2020. The municipalities' final approval of the Interim Act 537 Plan is expected to occur later this summer, and the plan will be submitted to DEP in September 2020. Mr. DePoe also noted that the long-term impacts of the

pandemic on the region's economic growth is not known, but may impact the long-term Act 537 planning process.

Liesel Gross noted that the approval process for the Interim Act 537 Plan involves all fifteen municipalities served by the system. Since the Authority is not a municipality, the Board of Directors is not required to approve the plan, but may choose to do so in order to illustrate commitment to the regional plan. The Authority will have significant responsibilities in the planning process and is expected to take a leadership role in developing the long-term Act 537 Plan. She noted that the Board should submit any questions they may have on the Interim Act 537 Plan in writing, so they can be incorporated into the final submission.

There was some Board discussion regarding the sewage planning module approval process.

Solicitor Mike Gaul noted that the Authority sees every planning module and will know if a developer or municipality requests sewer allocation for a new development that exceeds the amount approved by DEP via the connection management plan. Liesel Gross said that all planning modules are being tracked closely.

MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATES / INFORMATION ITEMS

Liesel Gross noted that the Audit will be completed by the end of May and will be on the agenda in June for discussion. For the upcoming May 18 meeting, there will be an update and retroactive emergency declaration for the water main break that occurred at 17th and Walnut Streets on April 29, 2020. Ms. Gross stated that a full report will be sent to the Board within the coming week. Chairman Nagle commended the staff in doing a great job of fixing this break quickly. Chairman Nagle reminded the Board that there will be an Executive Session regarding personnel matters and potential litigation at the May 18 meeting.

STAFF COMMENTS

None.

SOLICITOR'S COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS / OTHER COMMENTS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:16 p.m.

Richard Bohner
Secretary