

## **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

### **June 28, 2021**

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The Regular Meeting of the Lehigh County Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, June 28, 2021, Chairman Brian Nagle presiding. The meeting was hybrid via in-person and video and audio advanced communication technology (“ACT”), using the Zoom internet application, including telephone option. 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 in-person or via ACT, using the Zoom internet application, including telephone option. A Roll Call of Board members present was taken. Chairman Brian Nagle, Richard Bohner, Norma Cusick, Ted Lyons, Kevin Baker, Linda Rosenfeld, Jeff Morgan, and Scott Bieber were present for the duration of the meeting.

Solicitor Michael Gaul of KingSpry was present along with Authority Staff, Liesel Gross, Ed Klein, John Parsons, Chris Moughan, Chuck Volk, Susan Sampson, Andrew Moore, Phil DePoe, Mark Bowen, Lisa Miller, Todd Marion, and Kevin German.

Chairman Nagle stated that the Board received their electronic copy of the Board packet in advance and asked if they also received their hard copy of the packet.

Chairman Nagle announced that Liesel Gross, Lehigh County Authority’s Chief Executive Officer, was recently appointed to the American Water Works Association’s (AWWA) Water Utility Council (WUC). She is one of twenty-five senior water utility leaders selected from across the United States to serve a three-year term on the council. The WUC oversees the AWWA’s government affairs program, ensuring all sectors of the industry and their consumers are represented. Ms. Gross’s term runs through mid-June of 2024.

#### **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Liesel Gross stated there are no changes to the agenda and an Executive Session is scheduled to follow the regular meeting to discuss matters of potential litigation and personnel.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

##### **May 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

On a motion by Richard Bohner, seconded by Scott Bieber, the Board approved the minutes of the May 24, 2021 Board meeting as written (7-0). Jeff Morgan abstained.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

#### **ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **Administration Division (Suburban) – Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System Improvements**

Chris Moughan gave an overview of the project which will transfer radio communications to cellular-based ethernet to connect to servers at the main office. The existing SCADA system’s communication has become unreliable and many of the remote stations reside on a licensed radio network with obsolete hardware and software components. He said that the Authority would like to

retain Keystone Engineering Group to provide the hardware and programming services since they have provided valuable, cost-effective, and satisfactory work to the Authority in the past. They will provide detailed site visits and meetings, delivery of detailed design drawings and specifications as well as assistance with the bidding process.

Chairman Nagle asked if this will bring the Authority up to date with all the SCADA in the system or just a limited number. Mr. Moughan explained that this will take care of all the satellite stations that are still on the Telog system and use similar systems for remote access.

On a motion by Linda Rosenfeld, seconded by Richard Bohner, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization for the Administration SCADA system upgrades in the amount of \$244,300.00 which includes the Professional Services Authorization to Keystone Engineering Group in the amount of \$214,300.00 (8-0).

### **CLD Upper System Water Supply Upgrade – Developer Cost-Sharing Agreement**

Liesel Gross introduced the Readington Farms project, a dairy processing facility, located in the Fogelsville area zoned light industrial. Chuck Volk described the location of the facility in the Authority's upper system, on a 48-acre tract near the Authority's Well 6 station. The water requirements are 350,000 gallons per day and 500,000 gallons per day during their peak week. Sewer requirements are 250,000 gallons per day and will be addressed by Upper Macungie Township via the Interim Act 537 Plan. Mr. Volk said that the Authority has been budgeting and planning for this type of project, but there are some challenges within the system. To deal with inadequate pressure, the Authority's engineer recommended constructing a booster station on the north side of Rt. I-78 that would tie into the upper system and add additional supply and pressure to the proposed dairy facility. A draft cost-sharing contribution agreement is being developed which would have the developer pay the full cost of getting water under the highway and pay approximately one-third of the cost for the booster station. Future growth would pay for the remaining cost of the booster station in the future. The total estimated cost for the main extension, highway crossing and booster station is approximately \$1.7 million.

Ed Klein reviewed his calculations showing the project provides a positive net present value and a 7.1-year payback period, assuming no additional growth in the area, which is a very conservative assumption.

Liesel Gross reviewed the next steps, which include developing a construction schedule for the booster station that aligns with the developer's schedule and preparing a developer's water system and cost-contribution agreement for which Board approval will be required. Once approved by the Board, the Authority staff will work on securing the necessary easements and permits and move into design and construction.

Some Board discussion followed.

### **Kline's Island Sewer System – Interim Act 537 Plan & Trexlertown Upgrade Project Update**

Phil DePoe updated the Board on the progress of the Interim Act 537 Plan briefly reviewing the background of the project. Mr. DePoe reported that the Department of Environment Protection (DEP) approved the plan on June 25, 2021. The next step in the workflow is the evaluation for the preliminary treatment alternatives, including a review of the pretreatment plant upgrade option. The preliminary study is due to be completed in September 2021. Another important next step includes the Trexlertown Interceptor evaluation, which will require a Special Study that will begin later this

summer after consultation with DEP. The final regional Act 537 Plan is due in March of 2025. While these studies are occurring, a flow characterization study and hydraulic model calibration effort are under way. Sewage flow meters and rain gauges are in place throughout the system and Arcadis is building the model which will be completed in June 2022. After the model is developed, the final alternatives analysis work can begin. The final alternatives analysis will continue from 2022 to 2024, prior to finalizing the plan in 2025. Municipalities will be continuing their individual inflow and infiltration (I&I) source reduction projects, providing quarterly reports to DEP during the planning period.

Scott Bieber asked how the collaboration is with the municipalities, especially with the work that needs to be done on the agreements. Mr. DePoe replied that the municipalities understand that collaboration is necessary for DEP approval. Liesel Gross added that the discussion about agreements will be focused primarily on costs, and the upfront collaboration has been helpful to build an understanding of the alternatives and each municipalities needs. There was some discussion regarding I&I reduction.

Mr. DePoe then reviewed the alternatives being analyzed to address the interceptor “bottleneck” issue in the Trexlertown area, which causes sanitary sewer overflows in that area during peak flow periods. Three options have been studied. Option 1 consists of constructing a parallel interceptor that would extend from the affected area to the Spring Creek Pump Station to eliminate dry day overflows. It would require an increase of pumping capacity at the pump station and would increase the flows in downstream interceptors. This would require additional study of downstream conditions and add considerable time and cost to the project. This option is estimated to cost \$25-30 million. A second option was studied to construct an underground storage tank or storage pipeline to hold back excess flows during peak flow periods. This option was found to be infeasible because the stored wastewater would not be able to be released back into the system on a timely basis due to the bottleneck conditions in the interceptor. Option 3 would be to re-evaluate the Iron Run Pump Station concept that was studied and designed in 2010 but not constructed. Through additional evaluation and hydraulic modeling, a hybrid alternative has been developed to construct an interim 2.5 million gallon per day pump station at the Pretreatment Plant in Fogelsville, and pump the sewage through a 1.5-mile force main to a connection point in the Upper Macungie Township interceptor that has available capacity to accept the flows. The Township’s interceptor flows to the Spring Creek Pump Station, and therefore bypasses the Trexlertown bottleneck area. This alternative is considered to be an interim solution that would alleviate 94.5 percent of the dry-day overflows in the Trexlertown area. The regional Act 537 Plan would then detail the long-term solution to address both dry- and wet-weather flows for this area. The interim solution would cost \$3-5 million.

The next steps in the process are to review the project concept with DEP, determine the requirements for a Special Study, and move to permitting and preliminary design phase.

Some Board discussion followed regarding the options. Mr. DePoe explained that additional details would be provided during the design and permitting phase, subsequent to conducting additional study.

### **MONTHLY FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Ed Klein reviewed the May 2021 financial statement presentation, highlighting the variances between actual expenses and budgeted or forecasted expenses.

### **MONTHLY SYSTEMS OPERATIONS OVERVIEW**

John Parsons reviewed the May 2021 Monthly Systems Overview report, noting the sodium hypochlorite generation system upgrade at Schantz Spring.

### **STAFF COMMENTS**

Ed Klein reported that on June 30<sup>th</sup> the Authority will close on the Suburban Water Bond refinancing. The bond sale was highly successful and the interest rate was set at 0.94%.

### **SOLICITOR'S COMMENTS**

Solicitor Gaul stated that he will not be in attendance at the July 12th Board meeting and will have Kevin Reid attend instead.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS / OTHER COMMENTS**

Jennifer McKenna, City of Allentown Office of Compliance, thanked the Board for having the hybrid meeting and allowing their office to participate remotely. She commented that the meeting was difficult to hear at times. Liesel Gross described the placement of the microphones, which may be the cause of the sound difficulties, and also pointed out the position of the camera that is in the back of the room. She noted that additional adjustments will be made over the next month to improve sound quality for the continued hybrid meeting format.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

An executive session will be held after the regular meeting to discuss matters of potential litigation and personnel.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:42 p.m.

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Richard Bohner  
Secretary