

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 14, 2022**

*Notice of Preparation of Authority Meeting Minutes: Authority staff who are in attendance at each Authority Board meeting prepare a draft of the Minutes, which are subsequently distributed to all Board members for review. Board members may offer corrections prior to a vote of the full Board of Directors to approve the Minutes.*

The Regular Meeting of the Lehigh County Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 12:01 p.m. on Monday, November 14, 2022, Vice Chairman Scott Bieber 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. Scott Bieber, Richard Bohner, Norma Cusick, Linda Rosenfeld, Jeff Morgan, Amir Famili, and Kevin Baker were present for the duration of the meeting. Brian Nagle and Ted Lyons entered the meeting after it started, at the times noted below, and were present for the subsequent duration of the meeting.

Solicitor Michael Gaul of KingSpry was present along with Authority Staff, Liesel Gross, Ed Klein, Chris Moughan, Chuck Volk, Andrew Moore, Phil DePoe, Susan Sampson, Albert Capuzzi, and Lisa Miller.

Vice Chairman Bieber announced that the Board received their electronic and hard copies of the Board packet in advance and asked if anyone did not receive their copy of the packet. A copy of the packet is also available online.

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Liesel Gross announced that there are no changes or additions to the agenda; however, there will be an Executive Session at the close of the regular meeting to discuss personnel.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**October 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

On a motion by Richard Bohner, seconded by Linda Rosenfeld, the Board approved the minutes of the October 24, 2022, Board meeting as written (5-0). Kevin Baker and Amir Famili abstained.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**2023 Water & Wastewater Rate Schedules**

Liesel Gross explained the schedule of rates with changes shown from the 2022 rate to the 2023 rate, including an explanation of the process to determine those rates. She noted that prior meetings and presentations covered factors that are used to determine the new rates, such as the Water Rate Study presented by David Busch from Keystone Alliance Consulting and the Western Lehigh Interceptor (WLI) User Charge Report from Jennifer Montero. The Allentown Division water and sewer rates are determined by formulas included in the Allentown Water & Sewer Lease Agreement. Ms. Gross noted the section for Line Inspection and Cleaning Services is recommended to be removed from the schedule, since any service of this type is charged at the actual cost.

On a motion by Linda Rosenfeld, seconded by Richard Bohner, the Board adopted the 2023 Water & Wastewater Rate Schedules as proposed (7-0).

**Kline's Island WWTP – High-Rate Wet-Weather Treatment Pilot Study**

Phil DePoe gave an overview of the wet-weather issues at Kline's Island Wastewater Treatment Plant (KIWWTP) and gave a presentation of the proposed BioActiflo pilot study. He also reviewed Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the peak wet-weather projects. Preliminary design of Phase 1 is under way with Phase 2 to be included in the Act 537 Plan for construction by 2028. Chris Curran from AECOM was also present and provided additional details. Mr. DePoe said that the two main goals of Act 537 Plan development process is to develop solutions to eliminate the use of Outfall 003 and to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows in the collection system. The most recent modeling work completed by Arcadis indicates the future peak flows are likely in the range of 160 to 180 million gallons per day (MGD). The Phase 1 and Phase 2 work will be designed to allow the KIWWTP to treat up to 120 MGD. Therefore, strategies to handle peak flows beyond the 120 MGD must be developed. One potential strategy that needs further vetting is a high-rate treatment system developed by Veolia Water Technologies known as "BioActiflo." A full-scale pilot is needed before this option can be included in the Act 537 Plan. If this option is proven to be viable and cost-effective, the BioActiflo system would only be utilized for peak wet-weather flows in excess of 120 MGD to KIWWTP.

*Board members Brian Nagle and Ted Lyons entered the meeting during Mr. DePoe's presentation.*

There was some Board discussion regarding the KIWWTP's trickling filter system and the ability to treat up to 120 MGD under the work planned for Phase 1 and Phase 2. The Board asked about the risks of getting to 120 MGD and how the trickling filter system will handle peak flows.

There was some additional discussion about the BioActiflo technology and Veolia's on-site pilot study approach. Mr. DePoe explained the pilot test will also provide data to support the overall evaluation of capital costs, operating and maintenance costs, and operational risks associated with this option. AECOM has provided an in-depth proposal outlining the scope of services for the engineering and pilot testing services. The proposal from Veolia describes the operation and sampling for the pilot study.

On a motion by Amir Famili, seconded by Linda Rosenfeld, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization for the Regional Act 537 Plan Alternatives Analysis – KIWWTP BioActiflo Pilot Test Phase in the amount of \$264,750.00 which includes a Professional Services Authorization (AECOM) BioActiflo Pilot Test Phase – Engineering & Data Analysis in the amount of \$141,750.00 and a Professional Services Authorization (Veolia) BioActiflo Pilot Test Phase – Pilot Equipment Supplier & Operator in the amount of \$98,000.00 (9-0).

**Suburban Division – Western Lehigh Manhole Rehabilitation Project**

Chuck Volk reviewed the third annual manhole rehabilitation project to reduce infiltration and inflow in the Western Lehigh Interceptor and eliminate sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). The scope of the project is to raise the manhole tops at or above the floodplain elevation and install new water-tight frames and covers. Jason Peters commented on the condition assessment and noted that flood waters and debris are the most damaging to the manholes. By using the USGS creek elevation gauges, it has enabled the Authority to see which manholes are most affected and be able to prioritize repairs. The new composite frame and cover system is bolted to the lid and frame, making them a much more secure fit than the previous lids and frames.

The Board asked about the wide range of bids that were received. Jason Peters explained that the bidders may specialize in performing different types of construction and installation work, and the lowest bidder may have some additional expertise or equipment that allows for greater efficiency. He noted that Scheuermann Excavating is very capable and has completed similar work for the Authority in the past.

On a motion by Linda Rosenfeld, seconded by Jeff Morgan, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization for the Construction Phase in the amount of \$197,975.00 which includes the contract award for General Construction to Scheuermann Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$157,475.00 and the Professional Services Authorization for the Construction inspection to Keystone Consulting Engineers in the amount of \$22,500.00 (9-0).

**Allentown Division – Kline’s Island WWTP – Substation No. 1 and Switchgear Replacement**

Chuck Volk gave an overview of the project noting that the switchgear and substation number 1 have reached the end of their service life and were highlighted in the Kline’s Island Wastewater Treatment Plant as a high priority capital improvement. In addition, the aged electrical components are not adequate to accommodate the future increase in pumping that will be installed as part of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 wet-weather improvements at the plant, as described earlier in the meeting. In a report from Keystone Engineering, it was recommended to replace the old breaker system with modern vacuum breaker with automatic transfer capabilities.

The City of Allentown Office of Compliance has reviewed and approved the project as a Major Capital Improvement, allowing the cost to be recovered via a capital cost recovery charge in the Allentown Division.

On a motion by Jeff Morgan, seconded by Linda Rosenfeld, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization for the Design Phase in the amount of \$181,275.00 which includes the Professional Services Authorization to Keystone Engineering Group in the amount of \$151,275.00 (9-0).

**MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATES / INFORMATION ITEMS**

Liesel Gross noted that there are no agenda items for the November 28<sup>th</sup> Board meeting and most likely the meeting will be canceled. She highlighted a few items that will be on the agenda for the next meeting on December 12<sup>th</sup>. The monthly financial and operations reports will be sent out separately.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

None.

**SOLICITOR’S COMMENTS**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS / OTHER COMMENTS**

None.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Scott Bieber asked about the monthly financial reports and asked if the reports could be shortened with less detail. Chairman Nagle said that this will be discussed in more detail at the upcoming Board retreat.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There will be an Executive Session after the regular meeting to discuss matters of personnel. No action is expected.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

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Richard Bohner  
Secretary