

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 24, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Lehigh County Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 12:03 p.m. on Monday, March 24, 2025, Chairman Amir Famili 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. Amir Famili, Jeff Morgan, Ted Lyons, Linda Rosenfeld, Norma Cusick and Peter Dent were present for Roll Call and remained for the duration of the meeting. Kevin Baker entered the meeting at 12:29 p.m. and was present for the duration of the meeting. Sean Ziller entered the meeting at 12:34 p.m. and was present for the duration of the meeting.

Attorney Kevin Reid, the Authority's Solicitor, was present along with Authority Staff, Liesel Gross, Ed Klein, Chris Moughan, Andrew Moore, AJ Capuzzi, Phil DePoe and Susan Sampson.

Chairman Famili announced that the Board received their electronic and hard copies of the Board packet in advance. A copy of the packet is also available online.

Chairman Famili introduced a new member of the Board, Peter Dent, and invited him to provide a brief summary of his background and experience.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Liesel Gross stated there were no changes or additions to the agenda and no executive sessions planned. She noted that the February 2025 financial report will be provided in April, and the Executive Committee would be meeting later in the afternoon after the regular meeting concludes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Linda Rosenfeld, seconded by Norma Cusick, the Board approved the minutes from the February 24, 2025 meeting as presented (6-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

Lehigh River Pump Station Upgrades

Chuck Volk provided a brief overview of the project, which includes several upgrades to the Lehigh River Pump Station that was constructed in 1988. Amy Rohrbach provided additional details about the project including a review of the new powder activated carbon (PAC) chemical feed system to address taste and odor concerns related to the Lehigh River source water. She noted that the existing pumps would remain in place, but new motor-operated discharge valves would be installed, along with new level sensors and other upgrades to the pump station. In addition, additional modifications would be made to the intake structures to improve screening of the raw water to prevent debris from the river entering the intake structures.

Ms. Rohrbach reviewed the consultant selection process, noting that Verdantas is the preferred consultant selected for this project. In their proposal, Verdantas included additional services as requested by the Authority for jar testing work to identify the ideal type of PAC and dosing rate, and

a transient study that would evaluate any additional impacts of pumping changes on the pipeline that runs from the pump station to the water filtration plant.

There was some discussion about the taste and odor concerns with the Lehigh River source of water, and the chemical dosage rate that may be required under different operating conditions or weather conditions. Peter Dent inquired about the pumps that have been in place since 1988 and whether their condition was evaluated. Ms. Rohrbach explained that the pump station is currently used intermittently for brief periods of time, so the pumps have not been in continuous service since 1988 and are in good condition. There was some additional discussion about the intended future use of the Lehigh River as a water source. Andrew Moore explained that the current pump station configuration and taste and odor concerns prevent the Authority from using the Lehigh River source on a regular basis. Following the upgrades described in this project, the Lehigh River would be able to be used as primary water source more frequently, which will provide a more flexible back-up water supply in the event that other sources such as the Little Lehigh Creek need to be taken offline for maintenance.

On a motion by Linda Rosenfeld, seconded by Norma Cusick, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization for the Lehigh River Pump Station Upgrades, Design and Bid Phase, in the amount of \$319,372.60 which includes the Professional Services Authorization to Verdantas in the amount of \$279,372.60 (6-0).

MONTHLY SYSTEM OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

Andrew Moore reviewed the February 2025 report, noting there were two safety incidents during the month. There was some discussion about the root causes of each incident. He noted a correction on the report regarding the 2025 total for water production in the Central Lehigh Division, which should have been listed as 10.83 million gallons per day. Mr. Moore commented that the region remains in a Drought Watch status due to continued low precipitation. He also reviewed the permit exceedances that occurred in February and reviewed the Notice of Violation (NOV) received for the Kline's Island Wastewater Treatment Plant. A copy of the NOV and the Authority's responses was attached to the report. There was some discussion about the drivers for the NOV and corrective actions taken by the Authority.

STAFF COMMENTS

Liesel Gross noted that an internal drought task force would be assembled in early April to discuss declining water levels in the Authority's sources. She also noted that she will be participating in the American Water Works Association Water Matters Fly-In event in early April, along with Andrew Moore, and Chris Moughan, to represent Pennsylvania in water policy discussions with members of Congress in Washington D.C. There was some Board discussion about notification and approval process for staff participation in such events.

SOLICITOR'S COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS / OTHER COMMENTS

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Chairman Famili stated that each Board member would be receiving a phone call from himself or Vice Chair Jeff Morgan in the days ahead as they are seeking feedback on the Board's effectiveness and any improvements that may be needed. This feedback will be compiled for additional Board discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

Linda A. Rosenfeld
Secretary