

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Lehigh County Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, June 10, 2024, 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. Brian Nagle, Amir Famili, Ted Lyons, Norma Cusick, Kevin Baker, Linda Rosenfeld, Sean Ziller, and Marc Grammes were present for Roll Call, and remained for the duration of the meeting. Jeff Morgan joined the meeting at 12:48 p.m.

Attorney Kevin Reid, the Authority’s Solicitor, was present along with Authority Staff, Liesel Gross, Ed Klein, Chris Moughan, AJ Capuzzi, Phil DePoe, Chuck Volk, Susan Sampson, and Lisa Miller.

Chairman Nagle announced that the Board received their electronic and hard copies of the Board packet in advance. He then 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 to the agenda but there will be an Executive Session after the close of the regular session to discuss a personnel matter.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Linda Rosenfeld, seconded by Amir Famili, the Board approved the minutes from the May 20, 2024 meeting as written (7-0). Ted Lyons abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

Disposition of Real Property

Chuck Volk provided an overview of the request of sale of Authority property at 4475 Far View Court, the prior location of an Authority groundwater supply well and pump station that was abandoned following the 2021 construction of a new pump station in the vicinity. The abandoned pump station building, underground storage tanks, and piping were demolished and removed, along with the abandonment of the wellheads. The property has been restored, served no other Authority purpose, and is ready for sale. Amir Famili asked if soil remediation is required for this site. Mr. Volk said that remediation is not required.

On a motion by Amir Famili, seconded by Linda Rosenfeld, the Board authorized the CEO to take all steps necessary and convenient to sell, transfer, and dispose of real property owned by the Authority located at 4475 Far View Ct., Emmaus, PA 18049, Parcel ID #548396196984-1, including a listing agreement with a licensed realtor, entering an Agreement of Sale, and executing a deed conveying the property (8-0).

Sanitary Sewer Collection System: City of Allentown Interceptor Inspections

Phil DePoe gave an overview of the Allentown Division 2024 Interceptor Inspection project, which is the next major data collection effort to continue the assessment of the condition of the existing interceptors. The proposed 2024 inspection will focus on four of the Allentown Division's main sewer interceptors, approximately 32,000 feet, all located on the eastern side of the Allentown sewer system. The inspections will utilize multi-sensor inspection (MSI) platforms, using closed-circuit television (CCTV), sound navigation and ranging (SONAR), and light detection and ranging (LiDAR) to detect interceptor size, geometry, and defects. A report of the interceptor condition assessment will be provided using various post-processing data techniques. The project is necessary to find the sources of groundwater infiltration into the sewer system and also to understand the overall condition and remaining useful life of the interceptors.

There was some discussion regarding alternative bids. There was also some discussion on the different approaches proposed by the two consulting firms that proposed on the project.

On a motion by Sean Ziller, seconded by Marc Grammes, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization – Allentown Division – City of Allentown 2024 Interceptor Inspections in the amount of \$615,400.00 which includes the Professional Services Authorization to AECOM for the 2024 Interceptor Inspections in the amount of \$535,400.00 (8-0).

KISS Act 537 Planning: Financial & Institutional Evaluation Phase 3

Liesel Gross provided an overview and background of the Kline's Island Sewer System (KISS) Act 537 Financial & Institutional Planning and explained the phased approach to developing the financial analysis. The Act 537 Plan will be comprehensive, covering future service needs for all 15 KISS municipalities. The total cost of the projects included in the plan is currently estimated to be \$600 million, and this requires careful review of how the municipalities will share these costs and how sewer rates in each community will be affected. Phases 1 and 2 of the financial analysis have been completed; however, the KISS municipalities have not reached agreement on the future cost-sharing approach that would be acceptable to all parties. Therefore, the financial analysis work was paused in January 2024 to allow for additional discussion and exploration.

Raftelis has been engaged since 2022 to develop the financial model and work with the KISS municipalities on the cost-sharing alternatives analysis. The Authority is recommending the engagement with Raftelis be extended to Phase 3 work. The tasks in Phase 3 of the project include: refresh of the financial model with most current data; update cost allocation alternative results with a revised capital plan; additional analysis to support negotiations of the cost sharing approach; develop Act 537 long-term financial and financing plan; develop annual KISS system revenue requirements for KISS municipalities; other implementation considerations and analysis; and prepare financial sections of the Act 537 Plan.

There was some Board discussion regarding the municipal agreements and cost-sharing, and flow and rate projections. There was also some discussion regarding the pretreatment plant upgrade costs. Liesel Gross explained that the pretreatment plant has been at the center of some of the KISS discussions since January 2024, due to the high cost of that project and the uncertainty around how those costs will be shared with users. More work has been done since January to analyze cost-sharing options with the industrial customers of the pretreatment plant, which will be incorporated into this next phase of financial analysis.

On a motion by Sean Ziller, seconded by Norma Cusick, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization - KISS Act 537 Plan Financial & Institutional Evaluation – Phase 3 Consultant Services in the amount of \$238,000.00, which includes the Professional Services Authorization – Financial & Institutional Evaluation Services – Raftelis in the amount of \$193,000.00 (8-0)

Upper Western Lehigh Pump Station & Force Main

Chuck Volk provided an overview of the project that is part of the KISS Interim Act 537 plan to temporarily resolve the interceptor capacity deficiencies known as the “Trexlerstown bottleneck.” The project consists of a 2.5 million gallon per day capacity pump station located near the pretreatment plant and 1.52 miles of 18-inch diameter force main connecting to the Upper Macungie Trunk Line. The pump station and force main will divert dry day flow from the Western Lehigh Interceptor to a sanitary trunk line owned by Upper Macungie Township. The Township is in agreement with this approach and construction of the force main is already under way in accordance with prior Board authorization. The authorization requested today relates to the construction of the pump station, and Mr. Volk reviewed the bidding process and results.

On a motion by Ted Lyons, seconded by Linda Rosenfeld, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization for the Construction Phase in the amount of \$2,429,212.00 which includes the Construction Contract 1 – General/Process Mechanical to Blooming Glen Contractors Inc. in the amount of \$1,953,607.00, the Construction Contract 2 – Electrical to Ace Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$169,400.00, the Construction Contract 3 – Mechanical/HVAC to Johnston Construction Company in the amount of \$38,655.00, Professional Services Authorization – Construction Phase Engineering to Entech Engineering in the amount of \$109,000.00, and a Professional Services Authorization – Construction Phase Inspection Services to Cowan Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$38,550.00 (8-0).

Kline’s Island WWTP: Wet Weather Improvements – Phase 1

Chuck Volk provided the background information for the project noting that the goal for the project is to increase wet-weather treatment capacity from approximately 87 million gallons per day (mgd) to 100 mgd to reduce the frequency of plant bypasses using Outfall 003 during extreme wet-weather events. Amy Rohrbach gave a presentation and explained the three components of the project: the main and auxiliary pump stations, the intermediate pump stations, and the tertiary bypass. These three projects were previously listed as separate projects; however, upon review and also discussion with the City of Allentown, it was determined that the project would be constructed more efficiently if managed in a consolidated manner. The total project cost is estimated to be \$27 million.

Phil DePoe commented that Pa. Department of Environmental Protection does not require this project to be included in the regional Act 537 Plan that is under development and can move forward through a normal permitting process. Liesel Gross added that these projects were previously identified in the Master Plan for the Kline’s Island WWTP due to the age of the pumps. Due to the complexity of the project, a facility tour will be scheduled for interested Board members later in the design process.

Amir Famili asked about the impact of inflow and infiltration (I&I) on the need for this project and other future plant upgrades. Staff members reviewed the requirements for the municipalities to focus on removing I&I from their sewer collection systems. In addition, some projects are needed to remove bottlenecks in the interceptor system that prevent sewage flows from entering the treatment plant. Addressing those interceptor bottlenecks will also increase wet-weather flows at the plant. There are additional projects planned to further increase the wet-weather capacity at the treatment plant to 132 mgd, and those improvements will be included in the Act 537 Plan.

Marc Grammes asked about the pump configurations and impact to operations and maintenance. Amy Rohrbach reviewed the hydraulic modeling process that was completed in prior phases of conceptual design for this project. Additional improvements were added to the project scope to address issues identified through this modeling work. She also noted the recommendation for a

third-party QA/QC to be conducted on the electrical design work to ensure power loadings and safety were properly addressed within the final project design.

On a motion by Norma Cusick, seconded by Amir Famili, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization for Final Design and Bidding Phase in the amount of \$1,181,575.00 which includes the Professional Services Authorization to Kleinfelder, Inc. in the amount of \$994,450.00, and a Professional Services Authorization to Current Solutions in the amount of \$97,125.00 (9-0).

MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATES / INFORMATION ITEMS

Liesel Gross noted that there are numerous items for the June 24 meeting and also reminded the Board that there will be an additional discussion regarding staffing needs primarily related to addressing the Authority's expanding capital project load. Staff will also present the Suburban Water and Wastewater tapping fees for Board approval.

STAFF COMMENTS

Liesel Gross updated the Board on the June 5 stakeholder meeting held with regional representatives to discuss the Authority's Industrial Pretreatment Plant. The meeting was well attended and there was a healthy dialogue with the industries regarding upgrade options for the plant. The next meeting is June 26 to continue the conversations. Ted Lyons commented that it was a good session and he was impressed by the concern of everyone serving on the panel to work together to keep existing industries in the Lehigh Valley.

SOLICITOR'S COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS / OTHER COMMENTS

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Chairman Nagle announced that the Authority received the Area Wide Optimization Program (AWOP) award at the Water Filtration Plant for its 17th year in a row. The award is presented to participants that meet the stringent American Water Works Association Partnership program's water quality standards. The Authority also received the award for Excellence in Financial Reporting, presented to Lehigh County Authority and the Chief Financial Officer, Edward Klein, by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The Authority has received this award for its annual comprehensive financial report every year since 1984.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There will be an Executive Session after the regular meeting to discuss personnel matters.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:19 p.m.

Jeffrey J. Morgan
Secretary