

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 11, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Lehigh County Authority was called to order at 12:11 p.m. on Monday, July 11, 2016, Chairman Brian Nagle presiding. Other Members present at the commencement of the meeting were: Linda Rosenfeld, Kevin Baker, Tom Muller, Richard Bohner, Norma Cusick, and Deana Zosky. Ted Lyons called in and was listening to the meeting on the conference phone, but did not remain connected for the entire meeting and therefore could not vote. Authority Staff present were Liesel Gross, Ed Klein, Pat Mandes, Frank Leist, Brad Landon, Chuck Volk, John Parsons, Robert Kerchusky and Lisa Miller.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Liesel Gross stated that there will be a discussion, under the Water section, regarding the water problems that occurred in the Mink Estates/Farm View Farms and Arcadia West water systems. There will also be an Executive Session to discuss potential litigation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 27, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

Richard Bohner noted that under the heading Organizational Goal #2 – Asset Management, *John Parsons* name is misspelled.

On a motion by Richard Bohner, seconded by Linda Rosenfeld, the Board approved the Minutes of the June 27, 2016 Regular meeting as corrected (5-0). Tom Muller and Deana Zosky abstained because they did not attend the June 27 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Chairman Nagle asked for an update on the 2015 Audit. Ed Klein reported that PMRS still has not provided the background information for the statements to the Auditors. An extension has been granted until July 31, 2016.

Organizational Goal #3 – Environmental & Regional Leadership

Liesel Gross explained that this discussion has two purposes. One is the focus of the goal raising LCA's leadership in planning a response to the Administrative Order (AO) and bringing the municipalities together to develop a comprehensive collaborative and integrated solution. And second, to share the status of plans that are being developed and presented to EPA/DEP and give an update on the technical information. No decisions regarding the project will be made today and the same presentation will be given at tonight's public meeting.

Pat Mandes introduced the project consultant, Jim Shelton from Arcadis. Mr. Shelton provided the Board with a PowerPoint presentation and an update on the full technical scope of the project. The objective is to reduce the wet weather flows and eliminate sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). In addition, the program is designed to ensure the system will be properly maintained and maintain the system capacity in the Western Lehigh Interceptor in the future so that this problem will not be repeated in the future. Mr. Shelton explained the process used to evaluate 12 different alternatives, utilizing a hydraulic system model for the Kline's Island Sewer System (KISS). He explained the municipalities in the Western Lehigh Sewerage Partnership have jointly selected the alternative that includes a phased approach whereby Phase 1 focuses on rehabilitating existing infrastructure to remove the source of the I & I within the municipal collector systems and the LCA interceptor system, and future phases would include larger infrastructure projects that would be sized after additional flow metering and modeling to account for leakage reductions achieved in Phase 1.

Deana Zosky asked how the Authority will monitor performance and quantify the success of the projects. Jim Shelton explained that flow meters will be used throughout the system. For specific projects that can be accurately metered, the control basin methodology will be used to determine wet-weather flows before and after a project is completed, as compared to other flow basins under similar conditions. He stated that with these methods, the Authority and its partners will know if the goals are being met well in advance of 2025, which is the end of Phase 1.

Scott Bieber arrived at 1:04 p.m.

Jim Shelton said that signatory meetings and communication will continue and the Capital Plan development process will be ongoing. The Authority Board will make decisions regarding memorandums of cooperation, WLI project authorizations and Authority bonding and rate analysis. The project will be branded as Rainstorm Ready.

Deana Zosky asked how the Authority could have prevented this. Jim Shelton said that all of the systems have benefited from very good engineering practices and very good financial advice in terms of reinvestment. The system has not been ignored and has not been leaking terribly. The system is suffering from old age and is also near the original wastewater carrying capacity so that there is limited room in the pipe for wet weather flows. In addition, sewer systems were previously designed to allow for SSOs and treatment plant bypasses as an accepted method to deal with wet-weather flows and system leakage that is normal for sewer systems. This practice is no longer acceptable and systems across the nation are all working toward addressing similar issues.

Deana Zosky asked if we have a system we know is overflowing and we know we don't have capacity, why do we have to keep accepting more development until we fix it? Jim Shelton explained that new connections to the sewer system are controlled by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the municipalities, not the Authority. Currently there is some system capacity remaining for dry-weather flows for new connections. The problem is related to wet-weather flows which can be four times greater than dry-day flows, or even greater in severe weather. Because the Western Lehigh Sewerage Partners and LCA have been taking a proactive and collaborative approach to addressing the problem, DEP has determined that new connections are acceptable using a system of calculating flow credits for improvements made to the system.

Ted Lyons left the meeting by disconnecting his phone at 1:32 p.m.

Chris Becker of Macungie Borough was present and commented that the Borough is wholeheartedly behind this project but cost is a factor as they do not want to place a burden on their residents. Mr. Becker asked if there is a plan for increased flow into the system. He also asked if the Authority has spoken to the County for financial assistance. Jim Shelton responded that the plan is designed to eliminate SSOs by reducing wet-weather flows and leakage into the system, as well as add 4 million gallons of new development flow by 2040, as projected in the 537 planning process that all the Western Lehigh County municipalities participated in. Liesel Gross said that cost-allocation methods for this work is still under review by the municipalities and the Authority. She explained that certain infrastructure improvement costs will be allocated and be recovered through tapping fees for new connections.

Deana Zosky asked if developers are helping to pay for all of this. Frank Leist explained that the municipalities are responsible for their own systems and portions of the tapping fees, as well as monitoring the quality and specifications of new infrastructure being constructed by developers. Liesel Gross added that as new connections are made, developers will be paying for their portion of costs to expand the system through a combination of tapping fees and ongoing user rates.

PROJECT UPDATES/INFORMATION ITEMS

Liesel Gross brought to the attention of the Board items listed in the report for upcoming meetings.

STAFF COMMENTS

John Parsons updated the Board on two water operational problems that recently occurred. The system at Mink Estates/Far View Farms had an estimated 50 gallon per minute leak that drained 40,000 gallons of water storage. A Boil Water notice was issued and potable water was brought in to fill the tanks and bottled water was distributed to the residents. The Authority did not receive a signal through its control system regarding the low level of the tank. Mr. Parsons said that LCA Staff are investigating software and hardware upgrades to improve the Telog system to avoid future reoccurrence of this communications issue.

The Arcadia West water system had a Do Not Consume notice issued due to a high pH alarm received on July 10th. He explained the operational issues that lead to this event and noted that additional standard operating procedures would be prepared to avoid future reoccurrence. In response to the incident, operational staff were on site on Sunday to isolate, drain and refill the storage tank that was impacted. Several local hydrants were checked and the pH level was within normal limits, confirming that the water with the high pH levels did not enter the distribution system.

SOLICITOR'S COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS / OTHER COMMENTS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Nagle called an Executive Session at 1:49 p.m. to discuss potential litigation.

The Executive Session ended at 2:00 p.m.

Chairman Nagle reminded the Board of Ms. Gross' upcoming performance evaluation. He will be sending an evaluation form to each of the Board members for their comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:01 p.m.

Richard H. Bohner
Secretary