



Stamford Water Pollution Control Authority Board Meeting
Monday, May 12, 2014 – 5:30 PM
Stamford Government Center
10th Floor Operations Conference Room
888 Washington Blvd, Stamford, CT
Full Meeting Minutes
(The meeting was videotaped.)

Attendees

Michael Handler	Chairman, WPCA Board
Ernie Orgera	WPCA Board Member/Director of Operations
Cristina Andreana	WPCA Board Member
Gerald Bosak	WPCA Board Member
Daniel Capano	WPCA Board Member
James Fountain	WPCA Board Member
Donald Huppert(absent)	WPCA Board Member
Dan Schwartz	WPCA Board Member
William Brink	Executive Director, WPCA
Rhudean Bull	Administration Manager, WPCA
Prakash Chakravarti	Supervising Engineer, WPCA
Marie Sabo	Laboratory Director, WPCA
Mark Turndahl	Accountant, WPCA
William Degnan	Plant Supervisor, WPCA
Crystal Blair	Admin Account Clerk, WPCA
David Yanik	City Controller
Lynda Roca (absent)	CompUtil
Tom Banas	Ackerly & Ward

Call to Order, Pledge and Roll Call

M. Handler called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM with a Board Member roll call. A quorum was present (6 Board Members). The Pledge of Allegiance was not made.

Public Participation

No members of the public were present at that time.

Minutes Approval

J. Fountain motioned to approve the April 14, 2014 SWPCA Full Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by D. Capano. There was no discussion. **Vote: 5-0-1** (Abstention: C. Andreana)

Update: WPCF Discharge and Permit Exceedances on April 30 and May 1

B. Brink described the impact of the April 30-May 1 rain storm on the WPCA Plant: over 4 inches of rain caused flows that rose dramatically to an instantaneous peak of 73 MGD and sustained flows in the 60's, exceeding peak design flow of 58 MGD; this resulted in solids loss from the Plant and inadequate disinfection for an ~ 11 hr period of Permit exceedances or a volume of ~29 MG. He added that other WWTPs throughout CT also

experienced similar issues. The DEEP visited the SWPCA on Friday, May 2, to investigate and found that there was neither operator error nor loss of equipment during the storm. The DEEP will be issuing an NOV for the event.

Discussion: Corrective Action Plan Submitted to CT DEEP

B. Brink reviewed and discussed the storm impact Corrective Action Plan distributed to Board Members. The WPCA intends to conduct a study of "I&I": *Inflow*, which is water entering the sanitary sewer system from roof leaders, basement drains, and cross-connections, etc, and *Infiltration*, which is water entering the system from cracks in pavement and defective manholes, joints, or connections. The flow monitoring would be done during high groundwater events, likely next spring. Funding will be supplemented from a 55% planning grant available through the DEEP. B. Brink stated that the Corrective Action Plan also includes preparation of a written SOP for Plant Staff to follow during high flow events. The work will be done by the same engineering firm who did the SOP for operating the secondary clarifiers, Woodard & Curran, and will be completed by August 1st.

Note: D. Schwartz arrived @ 5:40 PM (7 Board members present).

During Board discussion, J. Fountain questioned the stated goal of performing a system study; B. Brink answered that the goal is to eliminate the I&I, not just gather info on it.

M. Handler asked Mr. Brink to also explain the 11 minute event on the evening of May 1. B. Brink stated that although the SCADA record indicated an 11 minute period of zero UV dose and the City email notification was sent-out, interviews with the Operators on duty at the time confirmed that there was not an actual Permit exceedance but instead a PLC communication error.

Update: UV System

D. Capano stated that Xylem has been retained to fix various problems with the UV system:

- Original problem was with the way the high level alarm was recorded
- Replaced all bulbs in all banks
- Intensity sensors are still to be replaced
- Programming to be done to almost remove the possibility that banks can shut down – not tested yet
- Will be finalizing repairs and modifications and begin testing soon.

He stated that he was not pleased with Xylem's performance thus far.

B. Brink discussed that the goal is make this UV system more reliable but felt it would be prudent to look at other options. He plans to have an engineering study performed on the feasibility of system replacement to determine actual costs for equipment, installation, and other considerations such as electrical upgrades and structural and configuration changes to the channel that may be required. He is recommending to the Technical Committee that Hazen & Sawyer be used as they are already tasked with looking at the hydraulics profile through the secondary clarifiers and the UV; he feels it is appropriate to include this as an addendum to their study.

Safety Report

M. Sabo stated that the report to the Board was included in their packet; she would be happy to answer any questions. She highlighted that the RFQ to solicit experienced professional engineers to develop an Arc Flash Safety Program was essentially prepared and would be forwarded to Purchasing by the end of the week by B. Brink.

Sub-Committee Reports

a. Finance Committee

C. Andreana reported:

- that the Committee met on May 7th where they
 - reviewed financials
 - discussed the Stamford Housing Authority request and proposals
 - reviewed reallocation of Revenue Bonds

- reviewed the Windermere Project and collection of fees (still on-going)

b. Technical Committee

D. Capano reported:

- that the Committee met twice since the last Board Meeting, April 16th and May 7th
 - discussed odor control; B. Brink added that the preliminary design report is due next week; D. Capano stated that the rubber mats have been installed over the filtrate wells
- that the WPCA will receive \$1,038,159 in nitrogen credit funds for 2013, to be received in August; 12.5% of that will be given to Darien
- a presentation was given by Rosemont at the April 16th meeting

Billing Update

a. Receivables & Arrears

M. Turndahl reported on the monthly receivable and arrears; sewer user fees acct receivables as of 4/30/14 \$11.10 million, over 120 days - \$3.224 million, AW sewer use fees 3.864 million

b. October 2013 Billing Cycle Collection to date

Current collection rate: October cycle collection rate to date: 95.09% and the recently billed April cycle is at 43.91%; April '11 98.29%.

c. March Financials

M. Turndahl provided a brief over view of the March financials concluding that \$5.65 million from the August 20th Bond Proceeds was paid back the City's General Fund in repayment of advances made to the SWPCA.

d. A&W Collections Report & Update

T. Banas reported:

- \$140,000 had been collected since the last Board Meeting
- 81 of the 200 foreclosure accounts sent to A&W by the Computil now have been paid in full
- \$2.966 million collected to date
- From Jan '14 thru today, \$515,544.37 disbursed to SWPCA with another \$73,736.99 to be disbursed upon availability from a trustee account.

At 6:06 PM, M. Handler called for a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting for the Public Hearing on the Proposed WPCA Connection Rate Increase; motion made by E. Orgera and seconded by D. Capano. There was no discussion. **Vote: 7-0-0**

Motion made to convene the Public Hearing on the Proposed WPCA Connection Rate Increase by E. Orgera, seconded by G. Bosak. There was no discussion. **Vote: 7-0-0**

M. Handler asked if any members of the public were present for the Hearing. There were none. B. Brink stated that the current rate is \$3600 and the proposed new rate is \$4250. There was no discussion by the Board. It was discovered that the published time for the Public Hearing was 6:30 PM and so M. Handler stated that the remainder of the item would be tabled until 6:30.

At 6:09, a motion to reconvene the Board Meeting was made by J. Fountain, seconded by E. Orgera. There was no discussion. **Vote: 7-0-0**

Executive Director's Top Issues Report

B. Brink briefly reviewed the items in his monthly report (attached here).

Discussion: FY14/15 Operating Budget

M. Handler stated that the City Board of Finance cut \$310,000 from the WPCA Operating Budget and the reduction failed to be overturned by the Board of Representatives by one vote. After some discussion, the Board agreed that the Finance Committee will review and make a recommendation to the full Board. The Board can

resubmit the budget as agreed to the Board of Reps; a straight majority vote would be required to accept the submitted budget. J. Fountain urged the SWPCA to get this item onto the agenda for the late June BOR Meeting.

Transfer of Contingency \$400,000

R. Bull requested \$400,000 transfer from Contingency to the Process Control Electrical account. She stated that the WPCA is over-budget on the electrical account by ~\$307,000 for Noble and ~\$90,000 for CL&P, projected through the end of the FY. During Board discussion, G. Bosak requested a chart to illustrate the last 3 years of data, including projections and cost drivers, and J. Fountain asked to see rates and usage. (R. Bull to forward information early during the week of May 19th).

J. Fountain made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by C. Andreana. There was no further discussion.

Vote: 6-1-0. G. Bosak was the dissenting vote.

Discussion & Vote: Stamford Housing Authority

C. Andreana stated that this topic has been visited many times; the Stamford Housing Authority has requested some type of relief on their indebtedness to the WPCA and has proposed 3 options:

1. Waive all accrued interest charges on the fees
2. Change the payment plan from 15 to 20 years to spread out the payment burden
3. Request that the 15 year payment clock begin now in 2014, as opposed to the original date.

She said that the Finance Committee has looked at the suggestions and also investigated whether there were errors in the Tax Office or on our side. The Housing Authority has acknowledged that no error was made by the WPCA with regards to their issue. The Finance Committee recommends to the Board that no change to policies be made now and that no relief be provided to the Housing Authority. During Board discussion:

- G. Bosak stated that there are no others who do what the Housing Authority do and questioned how a precedent would be created
- C. Andreana stated the concern that other non-profits could present similar arguments
- J. Fountain also argued that the Housing Authority is unique, this would not be setting a precedent
- M. Handler stated that providing relief to the Housing Authority creates a burden on other rate payers to make-up for this special consideration; he said that the Housing Authority acknowledged they did not account for this charge in their budgets.

J. Fountain motioned to use Option 3 as described by C. Andreana, including accrued interest and penalties on the properties mentioned with today (May 12th) as the start date; seconded by G. Bosak. Discussion:

- E. Orgera clarified that the interest and penalties for past years would all be added-in and spread out over 15 years
- D. Capano expressed his concern that if this is done for one, more requests will come-in creating a burden for future Boards to sort-out
- J. Fountain answered that the Housing Authority is unique and we would be outlining the terms so that any relief given would not be precedent setting.
- C. Andreana questioned whether the Housing Authority has made any "good faith" payments at all since becoming aware of their balances due; M. Turndahl answered they had paid off one property but not any of the three we are considering for relief.

Vote: 2-2-3 (Abstentions: G. Bosak, M. Handler, D. Schwartz)

D. Capano motioned to deny any relief to the Stamford Housing Authority, seconded by C. Andreana. There was a brief discussion. **Vote: 2-3-2** (Abstentions: M. Handler, D. Schwartz) (Dissenting: E. Orgera, G. Bosak, J. Fountain).

J. Fountain motioned that the interest and penalty accrued by the Housing Authority be due immediately with the principal balance of \$610,000 to be due over 15 years, starting today (May 12th) solely on the basis of them being the designated housing authority for the City of Stamford; seconded by G. Bosak. There was no additional discussion. **Vote: 6-0-1** (Abstention: D. Schwartz).

At 6:42, C. Andreana motioned to adjourn the Board Meeting in order to return to the Public Hearing, seconded by E. Orgera. There was no discussion. **Vote: 7-0-0.**

Note: J. Fountain exited the meeting at 6:43 PM. (6 Board Members present.)

C. Andreana motioned to reconvene the Public Hearing on the Proposed WPCA Connection Rate Increase by, seconded by G. Bosak. There was no discussion. **Vote: 6-0-0.**

B. Brink read the advertised notice in its entirety. M. Handler commented that all posting requirements were met. No members of the public were present to speak.

G. Bosak motioned to close the Public Hearing on the Proposed WPCA Connection Rate Increase, seconded by D. Capano. There was no discussion. **Vote: 6-0-0**

At 6:45, E. Orgera motioned to reconvene the WPCA Board Meeting, seconded by C. Andreana. There was no discussion. **Vote: 6-0-0**

Staffing (Open Positions) Update

R. Bull explained the open positions and the plans for them:

- 2 open Maintenance Mechanic positions, one from a retirement and one from severing an employee, will be downgraded to Mechanic-in-Training positions which involve 1-year training periods
- 2 Shift Foremen positions have been vacant for many years. As of last Monday (May 5, 2014), Jonathan Boisfeuillet has been hired as Foreman. He is an SWPCA employee who recently passed his Class III Operators exam
- 2 Administrative Account Clerk positions – 1 position hired, the other to be delayed to a future time
- Plant Maintenance Control Clerk – position has been vacant for over a year with job duties being covered by multiple other staff members; in-process of testing – test prepared and to be administered ~May 22-23.

G. Bosak asked if all positions were occupied before last year. R. Bull replied and explained to the Board's satisfaction.

Update Discussion on Legal Strategy & Negotiations Regarding Harbor Point

Update Discussion on Legal Strategy & Negotiations Regarding Stright Matter

At 6:49 PM, M. Handler asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session for an Update Discussion on Legal Strategy & Negotiations Regarding Harbor Point and an Update Discussion on Legal Strategy and Negotiations Regarding the Stright Matter. D. Capano made the motion, seconded by C. Andreana. There was no discussion. **Vote: 6-0-0.**

At 6:54, C. Andreana motioned to reconvene the Board Meeting, seconded by D. Capano. There was no discussion. **Vote: 6-0-0.**

M. Handler stated that no action was taken while in Executive Session.

Old Business

None

New Business

M. Handler stated that a letter from a resident has been submitted to the Board via G. Bosak. He added that there is a strong desire from a few members of the public, who feel they are well-educated on the subject, to shut down the WPCA pelletizer. M. Handler asked B. Brink to answer the letter.

Note: C. Andreana exited the meeting at 7:00 PM. (5 Board Members present.)

B. Brink discussed a response handout given to the Board members, mentioning issues such as the cost of hauling sludge vs pelletizing it, odor issues associated with storing and hauling cake from the Plant over I-95 to the incinerator, and items related to risk of fire.

D. Capano added that he was stating, for the record, that he never worked at any dryer plant in the Bronx.

E. Orgera motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 PM, seconded by G. Bosak. There was no discussion.

Vote: 5-0-0.