



## NEW JERSEY WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

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### Minutes of the Meeting of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority

August 7, 2023

A regular meeting of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority was convened on August 7, 2023, at 2:00 P.M. via teleconference and in the Conference Room of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority's Clinton Administration Building, located at 1851 Route 31, Clinton, New Jersey.

As designated by Shawn M. LaTourette, Commissioner New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Chair New Jersey Water Supply Authority, Patricia Ingelido, Director, Division of Water Supply and Geoscience, served as Acting Chair of the meeting and called the meeting to order.

Deputy Attorney General Kathrine Hunt read the statement required by the "Open Public Meetings Act".

Executive Director Marc Brooks took the roll call of the Authority members.

Present: Patricia Ingelido, Acting Chair  
Susan Blew  
Ellsworth Havens  
Robert Iacullo  
Steven Picco

A quorum existed for the transaction of Authority business.

#### Interested Parties Present:

David Brogle, Middlesex Water

#### Authority Staff Present:

Marc Brooks, Executive Director  
Susan Buckley, Director Finance & Administration  
Darin Shaffer, Chief Engineer  
Kenneth Klipstein, Director Watershed Protection Programs  
Rita Shaw, Controller  
Dorota Neulinger, Principal Accountant  
Heather Desko, Senior Watershed Protection Specialist

Jared Berger, Geospatial Analyst  
Michelle Rollman, Finance and Accounting Analyst  
Kathrine Hunt, Deputy Attorney General  
Laura Wilton, Associate Counsel, Authorities Unit

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Acting Chair Ingelido opened the meeting by asking for the approval of the minutes of the June 5, 2023, meeting. Mr. Picco moved for the approval of the minutes as prepared, and this motion was seconded by Ms. Blew. The minutes of the June 5, 2023, meeting were approved by the Board.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Brooks noted that everyone has a copy of his report. Mr. Brooks stated that precipitation at the Spruce Run rain gage was 7.24 inches in June, which is 3.32 inches above average. Mr. Brooks noted that July precipitation was 5.93 inches, which is 1.94 inches above average. Mr. Brooks stated that the Authority started releases early, on May 30, and since that time the above average and well-spaced rainfall has kept the reservoirs at a favorable capacity. Mr. Brooks stated that as of today, Spruce Run is at 99.7 percent capacity and Round Valley is at 66.1 percent capacity, resulting in a combined capacity of 71.7 percent. Normal combined capacity for this date is 92.6 percent.

Mr. Brooks stated that the operational change to the release location from the Canal to the Millstone River, just downstream of Carnegie Lake, has been successful to date with no known negative consequences. This operation is an attempt to reduce the likelihood of a repeat of last year's harmful algae bloom by increasing the flow and velocity in the area of the Millstone River where the bloom formed last year. The effectiveness of the change can only be fully assessed upon repetition of the prolonged low flow conditions, which Mr. Brooks was not disappointed to report, have not occurred this year to date.

Mr. Brooks stated that rainfall in Manasquan for June was 1.23 inches which was 2.67 inches below average. Rainfall for July at Manasquan was 6.69 inches, which was 1.89 inches above average. Manasquan Reservoir is at 86 percent capacity as of this morning.

#### COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Brooks stated that there were no communications or correspondence received.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Brooks provided a report on the Water Treatment Plant and the Manasquan Reservoir System in the absence of Mr. McKeon. Mr. Brooks stated that everyone has a copy of the Manasquan reports. Mr. Brooks stated that operations have been normal.

Mr. Shaffer reported on the Raritan Basin System. Mr. Shaffer stated that everyone has a copy of his report. Mr. Shaffer noted that after a dryer than normal spring, conditions improved to a more normal summer season with respect to rainfall. Spruce Run is near full and Round Valley is near the allowable construction pool. Releases are currently minimal.

Mr. Shaffer stated that Canal operations are currently normal with some exceptions. Previous adjustments to keep the Canal lowered in the vicinity of Landing Lane for construction purposes are no longer needed since that project was recently completed. Adjustments to combat potential harmful algae blooms in the Millstone River are continuing without any adverse impacts or unintended consequences. The Delaware River is above typical mid-summer levels.

Mr. Shaffer stated that Authority staff sought and received approval from the Capital Projects Committee to proceed with emergency procurement of design and construction services to repair a defect in the historic stone masonry culvert in Franklin Township, referred to as the Ukrainian Church Culvert. Staff continues to monitor the condition and it has remained stable. The Authority has procured an engineer to complete the design and staff expects to seek at least three quotes for the construction contract when the designs are received.

Mr. Shaffer reported on the Round Valley Reservoir Dams-Rehabilitation and Resource Preservation Project. Major earthwork at the Round Valley South Dam has continued to progress well this season. Mr. Shaffer discussed the contractor's shift schedules. Mr. Shaffer described the chimney drain and earthfill elevations relative to the change order to be presented under New Business. Mr. Shaffer noted that the contractor is currently meeting or exceeding their proposed schedule for this season, which indicates that the major earthwork at the South Dam will be completed before the end of this year. Mr. Shaffer reviewed the slower progress of project components on the North Dam.

Mr. Shaffer stated that reconstruction of the Landing Lane spillway was substantially completed last Friday, and the towpath has been reopened to the public for about a week. Initial feedback from the public has been positive.

Mr. Shaffer discussed the South Branch Pump Station Pump Rehabilitation and Equipment Upgrades. The contractor is in the process of dismantling the four pump and motor assemblies. Once dismantled, the assemblies will be moved to the contractor's facility for refurbishment. To date, all four motors and the top half of all four pumps have been removed from the site. The remaining pump components should be removed in August.

Mr. Shaffer stated that the rehabilitation of the 6-Mile Run culvert in Franklin Township is scheduled to begin in mid-August. This work will include repairs to the extrados and the intrados of the three-barrel historic stone arch culvert that runs under Canal Road and the Canal. The project also includes repairs to the culvert headwalls and the Canal's clay liner. The work will require closure of both Canal Road and the towpath during certain periods of the work. The closure durations will be minimized to the extent possible and coordinated with the municipality and the State Park.

Mr. Shaffer discussed improvements to a one-mile stretch of Canal embankment in Stockton which kicked off this morning. The work is intended to restore areas of the embankment that previously received emergency repairs following major storm events.

Mr. Shaffer stated that the project consultant has prepared a schematic design report for repairs to the Prallsville Culvert Pit in Stockton. A historic dry-laid stone masonry retaining wall was damaged during flooding from the remnants of Hurricane Ida. The approach recommended in the schematic design report is to connect the two existing culverts with a section of precast concrete box culvert and then fill the pit to surrounding grade. The consultant will proceed with design and permitting for the proposed approach. The project also includes removal of four sluice gates in the nearby spillway which were also damaged in the storm. A federal disaster was declared at the time of the flooding and FEMA funds are expected to cover most of the construction costs of both aspects of the project.

Mr. Klipstein reported on the Watershed Management Program. Mr. Klipstein stated that everyone has a copy of his report. Mr. Klipstein stated that he had nothing to add to his report except to note that conditions are much more favorable this year than last year for the control of aquatic invasive species and harmful algal blooms.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Shaffer provided the background information on the resolution authorizing Change Order No. 66 - Construction contract for Round Valley Reservoir Structures Refurbishment & Resource

Preservation Project - Earthen Dam Rehabilitation & Ancillary Work, Clinton Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, WSA-C19030. Mr. Shaffer stated that the earthwork at Round Valley was designed to be a balanced cut and fill, such that the earthfill excavated from the dam would be the same volume needed when reconstructing the South Dam. This summer, the contractor identified a shortfall of excavated earthfill to complete the backfill of the embankment to the lines and grades in the contract documents. It is thought that higher performance compaction, compared to the original construction, has resulted in denser fill which led to the shortfall. The contractor projects that approximately 79,000 additional cubic yards of loose fill are needed to complete the restoration of the dam. The contractor performed test pits within the staging and stockpile areas and determined that the required volume of fill is available by excavating below original grade in the South Dam Staging and Stockpiling Area #1. A change order request was submitted for the tasks necessary to prepare up to 12.9 acres of land to allow excavation of earthfill and then restore the area for subsequent reforestation.

Mr. Shaffer noted that Authority staff met with the contractor several times to discuss and evaluate the change order. After these negotiations, a lump sum and unit price change order totaling \$624,408.68 was submitted. The change order is structured to ensure that unit price items are limited to only that work that is necessary to obtain the needed fill to complete the dam. The change order also includes a 22-calendar day extension to substantial completion and a 37-calendar day extension to final completion. The change order has been reviewed by Schnabel Engineering and Authority staff and found to be fair and appropriate. The change order will raise the total contract amount to \$67,315,104.42.

Mr. Iacullo moved the resolution to authorize the Executive Director to execute Change Order No. 66 with Thalle Construction Company, Inc. of Hillsborough, North Carolina for construction services necessary for the Round Valley Reservoir Structures Rehabilitation & Resource Preservation Project - Earthen Dam Rehabilitation & Ancillary Work, Clinton Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, by a lump sum and unit cost not to exceed amount of \$624,408.68 and 22 calendar day increase to substantial completion, and a 37 calendar day increase to final completion. Mr. Havens seconded the motion. All Authority members approved the resolution.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- (a) Personnel - no report
- (b) Finance - no report
- (c) Audit - no report

- (d) Public Participation - no report
- (e) Capital Projects - no report
- (f) Insurance - no report
- (g) Watershed Lands Acquisition Committee - no report

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an executive session.

ADJOURN

Mr. Havens moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Iacullo seconded the motion. All Authority members approved of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 P.M.

I hereby certify this to be a true and original copy of the August 7, 2023 New Jersey Water Supply Authority meeting minutes.

Michelle Rollman  
Michelle Rollman  
Finance and Accounting Analyst