



NEW JERSEY WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

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Minutes of the Meeting of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority

October 2, 2023

A regular meeting of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority was convened on October 2, 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, Jeffrey Hoffman, State Geologist, 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: Jeffrey Hoffman, Acting Chair
Ellsworth Havens
Robert Iacullo
Steven Picco

Absent: Susan Blew

A quorum existed for the transaction of Authority business.

Interested Parties Present:

Robert Barth, D&R Canal Watch
Frank Marascia, New Jersey American Water

Authority Staff Present:

Marc Brooks, Executive Director
Susan Buckley, Director Finance & Administration
Darin Shaffer, Chief Engineer
Paul McKeon, Director Manasquan Water Supply System/D&R Canal
Kenneth Klipstein, Director Watershed Protection Programs

Rita Shaw, Controller
Dorota Neulinger, Principal Accountant
Kathy Hale, Principal Watershed Protection Specialist
Michelle Rollman, Finance and Accounting Analyst
Kathrine Hunt, Deputy Attorney General
Laura Wilton, Associate Counsel, Authorities Unit

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Acting Chair Hoffman opened the meeting by asking for the approval of the minutes of the August 7, 2023, meeting. Mr. Iacullo moved for the approval of the minutes as prepared, and this motion was seconded by Mr. Picco. The minutes of the August 7, 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 5.93 inches in July, 5.32 in August, and 6.05 in September. The combined three-month total is 4.44 inches above average. Round Valley remains at full construction pool. Spruce Run is at 98.5 percent capacity. The combined capacity is at 71.8 percent and the historic average for this date is 88.7 percent.

Mr. Brooks stated that rainfall in Manasquan was 6.69 inches in July, 5.20 inches in August, and 11.44 inches in September. The combined three-month total is 9.85 inches above average. Manasquan Reservoir is at 3.8 billion gallons or 81.4 percent capacity.

Mr. Brooks noted that Acting Chair Hoffman will be retiring at the end of November and that this will be his final Authority Board meeting. Mr. Brooks invited the Commissioners to join him in wishing Mr. Hoffman great happiness in his retirement and the Commissioners congratulated Mr. Hoffman.

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. McKeon provided a report on the Water Treatment Plant and the Manasquan Reservoir System. Mr. McKeon stated that everyone has a copy of the Manasquan reports. Mr. McKeon discussed rainfall and water quality in Manasquan. Mr. McKeon stated that there have been no major issues and operations have been normal. In response to a question from Mr. Hoffman, Mr. McKeon stated that there have been no

harmful algal blooms ("HABs") fitting the strict definition and that there has been no need to treat the Manasquan Reservoir for HAB prevention this season.

Mr. Shaffer reported on the Raritan Basin System. Mr. Shaffer stated that everyone has a copy of his report. Mr. Shaffer discussed rainfall and reservoir storage.

Mr. Shaffer stated that Canal operations are currently normal. The Delaware River flow is above typical levels for this time of year. Summer adjustments to Canal releases intended to combat potential harmful algae blooms ("HABs") in the Millstone River are still in place. The adjustments will be discontinued for this season on or before November 1, assuming the river conditions remain uncondusive to HAB development.

Mr. Shaffer stated that Authority staff sought and received approval from the Capital Projects Committee to proceed with an emergency procurement for 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 continue to monitor the condition of the culvert and it has remained stable. After receiving final design plans and required permits, the Authority sought bids from four construction contractors and received two bids. The Authority expects to execute a contract with the low bidder for approximately \$85,000 and will seek Board ratification of the Executive Director's actions in a subsequent Board meeting.

Mr. Shaffer reported on the Round Valley Reservoir Dams-Rehabilitation and Resource Preservation Project. Completion of major earthwork on the three Round Valley dam embankments was accomplished in August. Extensive work to restore the embankments and associated staging and stockpile areas is expected to continue until mid-2024. This work includes regrading, topsoiling, seeding, paving, reforestation, and instrumentation work as well as some ancillary tower and vault work.

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. The four motors and top half of each pump have been disassembled and moved to the contractor's shop for refurbishment. The Authority has given the contractor a deadline of October 20 to remove the remaining pump components in order to prepare the station for pumping to Round Valley. Even with the four pumps and motors being rehabilitated, the Authority has use of six other pumps and motors. Pump station staff recently restored operation of a traveling water screen that had failed during the spring pumping season. As part of the Pump

Station upgrades, the consulting engineer is currently developing plans to replace the traveling water screens. This work will be bid as a separate construction contract and is expected to take place next summer.

Mr. Shaffer stated that the rehabilitation of the 6-Mile Run culvert in Franklin Township began in August. The contractor installed a cofferdam around two of the three culvert barrels. Upon dewatering the two barrels, it was determined that all three barrels will need to be dewatered simultaneously due to the poor condition of the stone masonry which is allowing water from the unprotected barrel to flow into the adjacent dewatered barrel, making mortar pointing impossible. A change order to address this unexpected condition is being presented under New Business. Periodic closures of both the Canal Road and the towpath will continue during certain components of the work and are being coordinated with the municipality and with the State Park.

Mr. Shaffer noted that improvements to one mile of the Canal embankment in Stockton began in August and the contractor is making steady progress. To date, the contractor has removed all trees that were dead, dying, or impeding the pending repairs. As the Canal-side embankment slope repairs are completed, the slopes will be restored with native grasses and wildflowers.

Mr. Klipstein reported on the Watershed Management Program. Mr. Klipstein stated that everyone has a copy of his report. Mr. Klipstein highlighted successful Authority partnerships.

Mr. Klipstein discussed the success of the Boat Steward Program partnerships with the Monmouth County Parks and the NJ State Parks System at Spruce Run.

Mr. Klipstein noted that there is a new Director at the New Jersey Science Center, Timothy Oden, who recently met with Authority staff. The United States Geological Survey Joint Funding Agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection was discussed, including the addition of a new water quality buoy on Spruce Run Reservoir.

Mr. Klipstein also highlighted continued coordination between the Authority, water users, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection regarding the response to the harmful algal bloom that occurred last year on the Millstone River.

Mr. Klipstein also discussed the coordinated partnership between water purveyors, notably Middlesex Water, the Authority, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection regarding source tracking of Polyflouroalkyl Substances ("PFAS") in the Canal.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Hale provided the background information on the resolution authorizing the Executive Director to amend the programmatic partnership agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service ("NRCS") for the project "Protecting Source Water in the Raritan Basin". Ms. Hale stated that in 2021 the Authority entered into a Regional Conservation Partnership Program project partnership agreement with the NRCS. This project supports the Authority's agricultural cost-share program and focuses on the Authority's source water area, particularly the area of interest for the Authority's and NJ American Water's cryptosporidium plan. Ms. Hale noted that the original project included conservation practice implementation and acquisition of farmland preservation easements.

Ms. Hale stated that earlier this year, following discussions with Hunterdon Land Trust and NRCS, the funds that were allocated to easements were rescoped to the conservation practice task. This increased the NRCS financial assistance for practice implementation to a total of \$468,600. The Authority originally committed \$100,000 in cost-share funds to match the NRCS financial assistance. This resolution provides for an additional \$75,000 from the Source Water Protection Fund to match the increased NRCS financial assistance, for a total of \$175,000 in Authority cost-share funding.

Mr. Iacullo moved the resolution to authorize the Executive Director to amend the programmatic partnership agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service for the Authority's participation in the project "Raritan Basin Partners for Source Water Protection". Mr. Picco seconded the motion. All Authority members approved the resolution.

Mr. Shaffer provided the background information on the resolution authorizing Change Order No. 001 to the construction contract WSA-C23011 for the rehabilitation of the Six Mile Run Culvert at Station 2298+17 of the Delaware and Raritan Canal, Franklin Township, Somerset County, New Jersey. Mr. Shaffer stated that the project involves the restoration of the historic stone masonry culverts that pass under Canal Road and the Canal. The contractor initiated work and successfully installed a cofferdam that isolated flow of the stream into the left barrel, allowing the center and right barrels to be dewatered.

After dewatering the two barrels, significant leakage was observed flowing heavily from the left culvert barrel into the center culvert barrel, making mortar pointing impossible. This

leakage could not have been observed without dewatering and constitutes an unanticipated condition.

The contractor proposed to modify the cofferdam design to span and block all three barrels simultaneously and utilize a pump and pipe system to bypass the entire stream flow. This will allow the contractor to perform their work with dry access to the interior of all culvert barrels and maintain stream flows in Six Mile Run. This dry condition will also allow Authority staff and the consulting engineer access to the barrels for inspection.

Mr. Shaffer stated that the contractor provided a change order proposal with a lump sum cost of \$61,345.81. Authority staff and the engineering consultant reviewed the proposal and believe it to be fair and representative of the extra work required. The proposed change order includes a 38-day time extension to account for environmental timing constraints that limited in-water work at the start of the contract. In response to questions from Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Shaffer stated that while there is not yet an amended schedule, the Authority anticipates the pump and pipe bypass system to be in place for approximately one month and that in the event of a flood event, water would overflow the cofferdam.

Mr. Havens moved the resolution to authorize the Executive Director to execute Change Order No. 001 with Sparwick Contracting, Inc. of Lafayette, New Jersey, for construction services necessary for the rehabilitation of the Six Mile Run Culvert, by the lump sum cost of \$61,345.81, increasing the total value of the contract to \$1,156,794.81, and extending the contract period of performance by 38 calendar days. Mr. Picco seconded the motion. All Authority members approved the resolution.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Personnel - no report

(b) Finance - Mr. Brooks stated that a Finance Committee meeting was held earlier in the day to discuss rates for the next fiscal year.

(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. Iacullo moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Havens seconded the motion. All Authority members approved of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 P.M.

I hereby certify this to be a true and original copy of the October 2, 2023 New Jersey Water Supply Authority meeting minutes.

Michelle Rollman
Michelle Rollman
Finance and Accounting Analyst