



## NEW JERSEY WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

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

July 12, 2021

A regular meeting of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority was convened on July 12, 2021 at 2:00 P.M. by teleconference.

As designated by Shawn M. LaTourette, Acting 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  
Oleg Kostin, New Jersey American Water  
David Shope, Resident

#### 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  
Heather Desko, Senior Watershed Protection Specialist  
Rita Shaw, Controller  
Dorota Neulinger, Principal Accountant  
Michelle Rollman, Finance and Accounting Analyst  
Kathrine Hunt, Deputy Attorney General  
Jeffry Nielsen, Associate Counsel, Authorities Unit

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Acting Chair Hoffman opened the meeting by asking for the approval of the minutes of the June 7, 2021 meeting. Mr. Havens moved for the approval of the minutes as prepared and this motion was seconded by Mr. Picco. The minutes of the June 7, 2021 meeting were approved by the Board.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Brooks stated that everyone has a copy of his report. Mr. Brooks stated that the Authority continues to follow all COVID-19 guidance from the Governor's office. As of July 6, all remaining staff that was still working from home has now returned to the office at least three days per week. The Authority anticipates having full staff back in the office after Labor Day.

Mr. Brooks stated that rainfall recorded at Spruce Run gage for June was 2.67 inches, which was 1.42 inches below average. The annual rainfall at Spruce Run is 2.03 inches below average through the end of June. Mr. Brooks stated that rainfall recorded at the Manasquan Reservoir in June was 2.61 inches. The annual rainfall at Manasquan is 0.18 inches above average through the end of June.

## 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 his report. Mr. McKeon stated that operations are normal in the Manasquan system. Mr. McKeon stated that there have been sporadic heavy rains in both June and July which caused the treatment plant to have to go on 100 percent reservoir water because the river water quality was so poor that it was untreatable by the water treatment plant. The Manasquan Reservoir is at 96 percent of capacity which is above normal for this time of year. Mr. McKeon also noted that the algae levels in the reservoir are low for this time of year.

Mr. Shaffer reported on the Raritan Basin System. Mr. Shaffer stated that everyone has a copy of his report. Mr. Shaffer noted that the Spruce Run Reservoir is currently at elevation 272.38 which is 97.6 percent of capacity. Round Valley is drawn down for the rehabilitation project and will remain at or below elevation 360.8 for the project duration. At the date of this meeting, it is at elevation 360.35 or 66.3 percent. The combined reservoir capacity is now at 71.5 percent while the typical combined level for this date is 94.1 percent.

Mr. Shaffer reported on Canal operations. Mr. Shaffer stated that Canal operations are normal for this time of year. Mr. Shaffer stated that efforts are continuing to restore the sluice gate at the South Bound Brook Lock. The contractor which the Authority retained to replace the stuck gate completed an underwater inspection of the gate which was stuck in the partially open position. Debris lodged under the gate was removed, allowing the gate to be closed. The frame of the gate remains detached from the wall of the lock, so the gate replacement will move forward. The contractor is continuing to work with gate manufacturers to establish the best gate configuration considering price and schedule. The gate manufacturers have quoted a long lead time for most configurations, but with the gate in a closed position, the Authority has more flexibility regarding the schedule.

Mr. Shaffer reviewed the status of the Canal Dredging Project. Mr. Shaffer stated that the dredging project is substantially complete. Some minor project aspects remain which are expected to be completed within the next month or two.

Mr. Shaffer reported on the Round Valley Reservoir Dams Rehabilitation and Resource Preservation Project. Mr. Shaffer stated that Thalle Construction continues to place filter drain materials and earthfill on the lower portion of the Dike. Simultaneously, the contractor has excavated the upper portion of the Dike, which is considered the start of Phase 2 of the Dike rehabilitation. Thalle's subcontractor recently completed decommissioning the Dike dewatering wells.

Mr. Shaffer stated that KC Construction continues major earthwork on the North Dam. The toe excavation was completed and the rock subgrade was cleaned. The rock was then mapped by a geologist from Schnabel, the Authority's consultant. Most of the toe drain system has been installed, including filter drain material, drainage pipes and manholes. Mr. Shaffer noted that the toe excavation also revealed a segment of the release pipeline. The concrete encasement was in good shape and visual observation of the interface between the encasement and the rock indicated that original construction practices for the pipe installation were appropriate. Work is currently focusing on advancing the filter drain system on the embankment slope and the groin areas.

Mr. Shaffer discussed preparations for the start of major earth work at the South Dam which is anticipated to commence later this year.

Mr. Shaffer noted that the retrofit of the Franklin Township Dellwood Stormwater Basin, to improve water quality, is substantially complete.

Mr. Shaffer stated that the engineering consultant has begun testing the four existing pumps which are to be rehabilitated as part

of the initial phase of the South Branch Pump Station Pump Rehabilitation and Equipment Upgrade project. The analysis has included some electrical testing and vibration testing. Laser scanning of the pump room has also been completed.

Mr. Shaffer stated that there are no change orders to report and offered to answer any questions.

Ms. Desko reported on the Watershed Management Program. Ms. Desko stated that everyone has a copy of the written Watershed Management Program report. Ms. Desko provided an update on the Mulhockaway Creek biochar project. The biochar was installed on June 28 and June 29 in the Mulhockaway Creek. The biochar will remain installed through at least early 2023, with scheduled replacement of the biochar bags approximately every three months. The project has a Quality Assurance Project Plan, approved by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, to monitor the biochar's effectiveness during baseflow and stormflow across all seasons. Rain in late June and early July has allowed the Authority to collect several samples to date. Ms. Desko noted that this is an innovative project, as biochar has not previously been used in an in-stream application.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. McKeon provided the background information on the resolution authorizing the Executive Director to enter into contract WSA C21038M: Sediment Removal, Manasquan Reservoir Water Supply Intake Pump Station, Wall Township, Monmouth County. Mr. McKeon stated that heavy rainfall events deposit sediment that gradually accumulates in the underwater sections of the Manasquan Intake Pump Station Facility. This is anticipated and is monitored by staff. If not removed periodically, the sediment, leaves, and other plant material could inhibit the traveling water screen operation and cause suction lift problems for the intake pumps. The conditions are currently appropriate for the sediment to be removed at this time.

Mr. McKeon stated that the Authority advertised for bids in the Star-Ledger, the Trenton Times and the Asbury Park Press, and on the New Jersey Business Opportunities and the Authority's websites on June 2, 2021. Three valid proposals were received and staff reviewed the bids for content, adherence to the bid documents, and completeness. The lowest bid from Underwater Screening Services Inc., who performed this work two years ago, was found to be in compliance with the requirements of the technical specifications.

Mr. Havens moved the resolution authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Underwater Screening Services, Inc. of Forty Fort, Pennsylvania, for removal of underwater sediment accumulated at the Manasquan Water System Manasquan River Intake Facility, Wall Township, New Jersey, for a lump sum cost of \$60,800.00. Mr. Picco 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.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Iacullo moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Picco seconded the motion. All Authority members approved of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 P.M.

I hereby certify this to be a true and original copy of the July 12, 2021 New Jersey Water Supply Authority meeting minutes.

Michelle Rollman  
Michelle Rollman  
Finance and Accounting Analyst