



NEW JERSEY WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

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Minutes of the Meeting of the
New Jersey Water Supply Authority
August 5, 2024

A regular meeting of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority was convened on August 5, 2024 at 2:00 P.M. via teleconference.

As designated by Shawn M. LaTourette, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Chair, New Jersey Water Supply Authority, Linda Ofori, Assistant 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: Linda Ofori, Acting Chair
Susan Blew
Ellsworth Havens
Robert Iacullo

Absent: Steven Picco

A quorum existed for the transaction of Authority business.

Interested Parties Present:

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

Marc Brooks, Executive Director
Susan Buckley, Director Finance and Administration
Stephen Gates, Chief Engineer
Paul McKeon, Director Manasquan Water Supply System/D&R Canal
Kenneth Klipstein, Director Watershed Protection Programs
Julie Shelley, Manager, Contracts and Risk Management
Rita Shaw, Controller
Dorota Neulinger, Supervisor, Financial Services
Robin Greg, Finance & Accounting Analyst
Jared Berger, Geospatial Analyst
Kathrine Hunt, Deputy Attorney General
Laura Wilton, Associate Counsel, Authorities Unit

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Acting Chair Ofori opened the meeting by asking for the approval of the minutes of the June 3, 2024 meeting. Mr. Iacullo moved for the approval of the minutes as prepared, and this motion was seconded by Mr. Havens. The minutes of the June 3, 2024 meeting were approved by the Board.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Brooks stated that everybody has a copy of his report. Mr. Brooks stated that in Clinton, June precipitation was 3.67 inches, which was 0.39 inches below average. Mr. Brooks stated that in July, precipitation was 2.65 inches, which was 1.81 inches below average.

Mr. Brooks stated that as of today, the combined storage for Round Valley and Spruce Run was at 93.2 percent of capacity, compared to a combined historic average storage of 92.7 percent for that date. Mr. Brooks noted that June rainfall in Manasquan was 3.70 inches, which was 0.18 inches below average. Mr. Brooks added that in July in Manasquan, rainfall was only 0.99 inches, which was 3.90 inches below average. The Manasquan Reservoir storage level as of this morning is 81.4 percent of capacity.

Mr. Brooks discussed that the harmful algae bloom has returned to the Millstone River and that thus far this bloom has been far more manageable than the first bloom of 2022. Mr. Brooks explained that in 2022, the bloom appeared to manifest in the river between Carnegie Lake and the Millstone's confluence with the Raritan River and that this year, the bloom seems to be central to Carnegie Lake. Mr. Brooks stated that Carnegie Lake is impounded by a run of the river dam on the Millstone River.

Mr. Brooks stated that from a water supply standpoint, this year's HAB only becomes problematic when it rains and the existing HAB is flushed out of the lake toward the water intakes downstream. Mr. Brooks noted that the situation is being monitored as a result of the weekend rains, and as of this morning, the situation was okay at the intakes. Mr. Brooks explained that the extra water releases specific to managing the HAB have been far less than those in 2022 and that with Round Valley Reservoir near full at the beginning of the year, the relative impact to total storage is also far less.

Mr. Brooks noted that coordination is occurring with regular discussions that include the Authority, NJDEP, all downstream water users, Stonybrook Regional Sewage Authority, Somerset Raritan Sewer Authority, and now Princeton University, the owners of Carnegie Lake. Mr. Brooks offered to answer any questions.

COMMUNICATION/CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Brooks stated that there was one item of communication and correspondence included in the agenda package, which was an article published by the I-Bank that highlighted the Round Valley Project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. McKeon reported on the Manasquan Reservoir System and the Manasquan Water Treatment Plant/Transmission System. He noted that July was a good month at the plant, with a high volume of water pumped to satisfy a system customer's request for extra water to get them through the dry period. The plant ran very well and the reservoir is at 81 percent of storage capacity which is normal for this time of year. Mr. McKeon noted that with low rain and windstorms, the algae in the reservoir has been remarkably low and the water quality in the reservoir has been unseasonably clear. The water treatment plant has not had to rely on the reservoir except for a few days in July. Mr. McKeon stated that it has been a normal month. Mr. McKeon explained that the heat and excessive power usage by customers in the area has resulted in the issue of low voltage from Jersey Central Power and Light which caused tripping of some of the equipment and that the issue is in the process of being resolved with Jersey Central Power and Light at this time.

Mr. Gates reported on the Raritan Basin System. Mr. Gates stated that everyone has a copy of his report. Mr. Gates noted that in the Raritan Basin, Spruce Run Reservoir is down just over eight feet from full pool to elevation 264.7 feet and is at 72 percent of storage capacity. Mr. Gates stated that Round Valley Reservoir is currently down about 1.7 feet to elevation 383.3 feet and is at 97.5 percent of storage capacity. Currently, Spruce Run is releasing at a rate of 60 MGD to support water supply customer demand and the HAB that Mr. Brooks discussed in his report. Releases will continue to be monitored and adjusted in anticipation of upcoming rain events.

Mr. Gates stated that canal operations are currently normal, with staff focusing mainly on mowing, water supply operations and routine maintenance.

Mr. Gates stated that the emergency procurement project for seepage control on the canal near the Workhouse Spillway was completed early in the year. The Authority had been waiting for low river conditions for the design consultant to inspect and evaluate the effectiveness of the repair. This evaluation was completed by inspection in late July, with the consultant and Authority staff witnessing essentially zero seepage through the river side slope, indicating a successful repair. Today a report was received from the

consultant indicating that no further action is required at that location.

Mr. Gates reported on the Round Valley Project. Mr. Gates stated that at Round Valley the contractor continues to restore areas affected by construction activities and work through ancillary and outstanding contract items.

Mr. Gates reported on the Spruce Run Dam Foundation Grouting Project, stating that the Authority recently received the New Jersey Dam Safety Permit, which was the last outside agency permit needed in order to submit a complete and compliant response to the NJDEP I-Bank technical review, which was done last Friday. The next step is a review of those responses along with an SED utilization review prior to issuing an Authorization to Advertise.

Mr. Gates reported on the South Branch Pump Station Pump Rehabilitation and Equipment Upgrades. Mr. Gates stated that the South Branch Pump Station contractors are moving forward on the pump and motor rehabilitation and are preparing to mobilize for the traveling water screen replacement projects.

Mr. Gates reported on the Six Mile Run Culvert Rehabilitation Project. Mr. Gates stated that the contractor is working on the outlet headwall and making good progress. It is anticipated that construction will be completed in August.

Mr. Gates reported on the Prallsville Culvert Pit Repairs Project. Mr. Gates stated that there were mitigative conditions included in the resolution of approval from the Historic Sites Council, resulting in additional scope beyond that which was originally included in the contract and a resolution seeking approval for this change order has been prepared and will be discussed later in the meeting.

Mr. Gates reported on the Reconstruction of Various Sections of the Upper Canal Embankment, Raven Rock Lock to Prallsville Lock Project. Mr. Gates stated that the Authority is in the design phase of the project where the Authority will be reconstructing various sections of the Upper Canal embankment, which is the beginning section of the feeder canal starting at Raven Rock Lock, extending three miles down canal to Prallsville Lock. During the design process, the project scope has increased beyond the original contract and a resolution seeking approval for a change order to the cultural resources consulting contract has been prepared and will be discussed later in the meeting.

Mr. Gates stated that there is a change order presented in his report for Thalle Construction for the Round Valley Earthen Dam

Rehabilitation Project for modified paving scope at the South Dam access roads. Mr. Gates noted that this change order was approved by the Capital Projects Committee on July 12, 2024. Mr. Gates offered to answer any questions.

Mr. Klipstein reported on the Watershed Management Program. Mr. Klipstein stated that he did not have anything to add to his report except that he wanted to reiterate what Mr. Brooks stated regarding the management of the HAB. Mr. Klipstein noted that compared to 2022, the enhanced coordination between the parties, with weekly "check ins" with New Jersey American Water and status reports and monthly meetings, the Authority is doing a much better job at being able to manage the HAB through the hotter weather and below average rainfall. Having the sewage treatment plants and the recent addition of Princeton University included in the coordination efforts contributes to better mitigation of HAB impacts.

Mr. Klipstein stated that as Mr. McKeon noted, water quality conditions in the Manasquan system have been comparatively good this year and that all indicators have remained favorable. The Authority continues to monitor conditions carefully in line with the updated cyanobacteria management plan that the Authority submitted to the NJDEP in May. Mr. Klipstein offered to answer any questions.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Gates provided the background information on the resolution authorizing Amendment No. 1 to contract WSA-C22031 for Professional Engineering Services Required for the Rehabilitation of the Prallsville Culvert Pit and Miscellaneous Components on the Delaware and Raritan Canal, Stockton Borough, Hunterdon County. Mr. Gates stated that the primary portion of the project involves making repairs within a large open channel conveyance pit located adjacent to the historic Prallsville Mill Complex, that connects two historic stone culverts.

Mr. Gates explained that the repairs are necessary as a result of a collapsed stone retaining wall within the pit that failed due to flooding during the remnants of Hurricane Ida. The proposed repair method is to use a precast concrete structure to connect the two culverts and then to backfill the pit to match the surrounding grade. This design would fill the existing culvert pit and hide existing historical features. Mr. Gates stated that as is typical for nearly all canal projects, the design was reviewed by the New Jersey State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), who determined that the project represented an "encroachment on the historic property" and recommended that the project be presented to the New Jersey Historic Sites Council (HSC) for approval. This additional step to present before the HSC is not typical for canal projects and was not included

in the original contract scope. Mr. Gates noted that the project was approved by the HSC with specific mitigative conditions requiring additional scope by T&M Engineers, the design consultant, and Richard Grubb Associates (RGA), their cultural resources subconsultant.

Mr. Gates stated that T&M submitted a proposal in the amount of \$47,149.00 to address additional required scope for themselves and RGA, related to the project's proposed encroachment on historically significant features. Staff reviewed the proposal and found it to be fair and reasonable and respectfully request approval of the proposed change order.

Mr. Havens moved the resolution authorizing the Executive Director to amend the contract WSA-C22031 with T&M Associates of Middletown, New Jersey, for Professional Engineering Services necessary for the Prallsville Culvert and Miscellaneous Components on the Delaware and Raritan Canal, Stockton Borough, Hunterdon County, by a reimbursable cost not to exceed \$47,149.00, bringing the new contract total to a reimbursable cost not to exceed \$390,324.00 Ms. Blew seconded the motion. All Authority members approved the resolution.

Mr. Gates provided the background information on the Resolution Authorizing Amendment No. 1 to the contract WSA-C13014 for Cultural Resource Services Required for the Reconstruction of Various Sections of the Embankment on the Delaware and Raritan Canal between Raven Rock Lock and Prallsville Lock, Delaware Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey. Mr. Gates stated that in 2013, under two separate resolutions, the Authority contracted with GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. (GZA) for engineering design services and Paulus Sokolowski & Sartor (PS&S) for cultural resources services associated with the subject project.

Mr. Gates explained that the length of the right embankment of the canal, from Raven Rock Lock to Prallsville Lock is a narrow embankment that separates the canal from the Delaware river. It is a historic, engineered embankment with stone armoring along both slopes and the crest. Originally, the project scope included the repair of eight breached or near-breached embankment locations, which had been temporarily repaired by Authority staff after regular overtopping related to storm events. After procuring the consultants, field investigations identified additional locations that were vulnerable to breach and in need of repair. It was determined that these areas were caused by erosion due to flow concentration in low areas created by displaced root balls from fallen trees. Interagency review and discussion concluded that, since these trees were not originally part of the historic embankment, the trees should be removed to prevent continued breaches. Mr. Gates stated that the project scope was

expanded to include tree removal from the entire stretch of embankment and repair to a total of 17 identified work areas.

Mr. Gates noted that at the request of Authority staff, PS&S submitted an amendment proposal for additional work associated with the nine additional repair locations and the expanded tree removal approach and that Paulus, Sokolowski and Sartor, the Cultural Resource Consultant on the subject project is requesting a contract amendment in the amount of \$46,834.00 to perform additional work which was not included in their contract. Authority staff reviewed the proposal and found it to be fair and reasonable and request approval of the proposed change order.

Mr. Havens moved the resolution authorizing the Executive Director to amend the contract WSA-C13014 with Paulus, Sokolowski & Sartor, LLC (PS&S) of Warren, New Jersey, for Cultural Resources Services necessary for Reconstruction of Various Sections of the Embankment on the Delaware and Raritan Canal between Raven Rock Lock and Prallsville Lock, Delaware Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey by a reimbursable cost not to exceed an amount of \$46,834.00, bringing the new contract total to a reimbursable cost not to exceed amount of \$81,771.00. Mr. Iacullo 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 - no report

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Barth, representing D&R Canal Watch, stated that while in Rocky Hill a sign was posted downstream of Route 518 indicating that there were HABs in the area. Mr. Barth asked if he would be able to canoe in the river from below Kingston down or would he have to wait. Mr. Brooks responded that the HAB is variable. It is primarily in the lake but when it rains it is flushed out. When it is dry the algae levels are low in the river but are now increasing. Mr. Brooks stated that the Blackwells Mills USGS Guage would indicate if levels are high. Mr. Klipstein noted that NJDEP keeps track of data and issues advisories if levels reach a certain threshold. Mr. Brooks stated that NJDEP has a harmful algal bloom dashboard and advised Mr. Barth that it would be the best indicator of a HAB in a certain area.

Mr. Iacullo asked Mr. Brooks if there were any concerns regarding tropical storm Debby. Mr. Brooks responded that there are concerns regarding rain and wind, although it is still early regarding the data of how bad the storm will be. Mr. Brooks noted that preparations will be made as the storm gets closer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for an Executive Session.

ADJOURN

Mr. Havens moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Blew seconded the motion. All Authority members approved 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 5, 2024 New Jersey Water Supply Authority meeting minutes.



Robin Greg
Finance & Accounting Analyst