



NEW JERSEY WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

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

A regular meeting of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority was convened on February 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, 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
David Brogle, Middlesex Water

Authority Staff Present:

Marc Brooks, Executive Director
Susan Buckley, Director Finance and 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
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 January 8, 2024 meeting. Mr. Havens moved for the approval of the minutes as prepared, and this motion was seconded by Mr. Iacullo. The minutes of the January 8, 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 rainfall recorded at the Spruce Run gage for January was 6.37 inches which was more than 3.2 inches above average.

Mr. Brooks stated that pumping to Round Valley was initiated in mid-November. After a slow start, there has been well above average rain in December and January which has facilitated efficient pumping operations. As of this morning, a total of 4.3 billion gallons have been pumped to Round Valley and the pool has increased by over eight feet.

Mr. Brooks noted that the total increase in storage at Round Valley has gone from 36 billion gallons to just under 42.5 billion gallons, with 55 billion gallons being full capacity. As of this morning, the Spruce Run Reservoir storage level continues to spill, with a capacity of 100.6 percent and the combined storage (Round Valley and Spruce Run) was 77.4 percent of capacity compared to a combined historic average storage of 89.9 percent for this date. The Manasquan Reservoir storage level as of this morning is 88.25 percent of capacity.

COMMUNICATION/CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Brooks stated that there were no items of communication or correspondence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. McKeon reported on the Manasquan Reservoir System and the Manasquan Water Treatment Plant/Transmission System. Mr. McKeon stated that the reservoir is at 88 percent capacity. Mr. McKeon noted that selective pumping has been initiated during times when the water quality in the river has been good. It is expected that the reservoir will be full in the next month and a half. The water treatment plant has been running well with no anomalies and scheduled winter maintenance is being performed.

Mr. Shaffer reported on the Raritan Basin System. Mr. Shaffer stated that everyone has a copy of his report. The Raritan Basin continues to be in good condition for this time of year. Spruce Run Reservoir is full, and releases are minimal. Round Valley has risen a little more than eight feet above the construction pool and pumping is ongoing. River conditions have remained favorable for pumping, allowing us to operate three or more pumps for most of the last month. The performance of the embankments and the new filter drain systems are being carefully monitored during the refilling operation in accordance with a refill monitoring plan approved by NJ Dam Safety.

Mr. Shaffer stated that Canal operations are currently normal and that staff continues working to address minor damages such as scour or shallow erosion from winter storm events.

Mr. Shaffer provided an update on the emergency repairs to the sinkhole and leak that developed in the Canal embankment near the Workhouse Spillway in Hopewell Twp., Mercer County. Authority staff continue to monitor the site at least once per day. The Authority has a contract with a construction firm that has been providing submittals and evaluating loads for the access bridge across the Canal. A preconstruction meeting is scheduled for early next week with construction expected to start shortly thereafter.

Mr. Shaffer reported that work at the Round Valley Reservoir Dams-Rehabilitation and Resource Preservation Project continues to be on hold due to winter weather conditions.

Mr. Shaffer reported on the South Branch Pump Station Pump Rehabilitation and Equipment Upgrades. Mr. Shaffer stated the contractor is continuing with the repair and refurbishment of the four pump and motor assemblies in their shop. Staff and the Authority's engineering consultant have visited the contractor's shop occasionally to review the progress and to evaluate the condition of the equipment as it is disassembled and reassembled. In another phase of this project, the engineering consultant recently completed plans and specifications to replace the traveling water screens at the pump station. That project will be advertised for bids this month.

Mr. Shaffer reported on the 6-Mile Run Culvert Rehabilitation on the D&R Canal. The rehabilitation of the 6-Mile Run culvert in Franklin Township has progressed somewhat slowly over the last month due to weather. Mr. Shaffer noted that Canal Road was re-opened last week. Some further short-term, intermittent road closures will occur this week as the contractor removes the culvert falsework and

upstream cofferdam from 6-Mile Run. Remaining work includes stone masonry repairs at the culvert outlet. This work will require some temporary closures of the multi-use trail in that area.

Mr. Shaffer reported on the Spruce Run Grouting project, stating that plans and specifications are near final and the Authority is working through the permitting and financing application processes. A bid package will be ready for advertisement as soon as these approvals are received. The approvals are expected in the second quarter of this year.

Mr. Klipstein reported on the Watershed Management Program. Mr. Klipstein stated that everyone has a copy of his report. Mr. Klipstein noted that at the direction of the new NJDEP Grant Manager, Watershed staff has requested a one-year extension on the grant project: Addressing Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution in Priority Watersheds of the Raritan Basin, which was scheduled to expire on February 1, 2024.

Mr. Klipstein stated that the routine winter monitoring of Manasquan Reservoir has indicated a winter cyanobacterial bloom. Mr. Klipstein noted that Operations and Watershed staff are following the cyanobacteria management plan and that to date, toxin testing results have been below the NJDEP reporting limit. Mr. Klipstein added that as a result of the winter bloom, staff will be reviewing the management plan.

Mr. Klipstein stated that the public comment period for the draft New Jersey Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan closes on February 6, 2024 and that to date, comments have been positive and supportive. Mr. Klipstein discussed that at the end of last year's legislative session, the Governor vetoed a terrestrial invasive species bill that has no connection to the effort to adopt the New Jersey Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan later this year.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. McKeon provided the background information for the resolutions authorizing the Executive Director to enter into purchase agreements for sodium hypochlorite and polyaluminum chloride for the Manasquan Water Treatment Plant, Wall Township, Monmouth County. Mr. McKeon stated that each year, the Authority solicits bids for chemicals used in the treatment process at the Water Treatment Plant where the cost of which is expected to exceed \$44,000.00 or cannot be purchased under the state contract. This year's bid request was for two chemicals, polyaluminum chloride and sodium hypochlorite. Bids

were received on December 8, 2023. Three bids were received for polyaluminum chloride and two bids were received for sodium hypochlorite. The low bidder for each chemical has supplied the same chemical to the Authority in prior years with no issues. The cost for polyaluminum chloride has increased 3.7 percent over last year and the cost for sodium hypochlorite has decreased 13 percent.

Ms. Blew moved the resolution authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a 12-month purchase agreement with Miracle Chemical Co. Inc. of Farmingdale, New Jersey for sodium hypochlorite, for a unit cost of \$3.04 per gallon and a total cost not to exceed \$63,819.00. Mr. Iacullo seconded the motion for the resolution. All Authority members approved the resolution.

Mr. Havens moved the resolution authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a 12-month purchase agreement with USALCO, Inc. of Baltimore, Maryland, for polyaluminum chloride, for a unit cost of \$0.277 per pound and a total cost not to exceed \$60,940.00. Mr. Iacullo seconded the motion for the resolution. All Authority members approved the resolution.

Mr. McKeon provided the background information for the resolution authorizing the award of a contract WSA-C24014M for the electrical testing and maintenance program at the Manasquan Water Supply System facilities, Wall Township, Monmouth County.

Mr. McKeon stated that approximately every five years, the Authority solicits bids to clean, lubricate, test, and adjust the high and low voltage breakers, cables, transformers, and other protective devices that make up the electrical system at the Manasquan Reservoir System. The work was advertised in early December and eight testing companies were notified. Two bids were received on January 10, 2024. The low bid from Scott Testing met all requirements and was just above the estimated cost for the scope of work generated.

Ms. Blew moved the resolution authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Scott Testing, Inc. of Hamilton, New Jersey, to furnish all labor, equipment, and materials necessary to perform the electrical testing and maintenance program at the Manasquan Water Supply System facilities in Wall Township, Monmouth County, New Jersey for a lump sum of \$69,750.00. Mr. Iacullo seconded the motion for the resolution. All Authority members approved the resolution.

Mr. Shaffer provided the background information for the resolution ratifying the actions of the Executive Director in executing an emergency contract for the construction of a steel

sheeting cut-off wall in the Delaware & Raritan Canal embankment near Station 505+35, Hopewell Township, Mercer County, WSA-C24014.

Mr. Shaffer stated that a large leak and sinkhole in the Canal embankment in Hopewell Twp, Mercer County were first observed on October 4, 2023. The Executive Director certified that the situation represented an emergency condition and, with approval of the Capital Projects Committee, proceeded with modified procurement processes for both design and construction services for a steel sheeting cut-off wall. The actions of the Authority in executing a contract with the consulting firm that provided the lowest cost and also proposed the shortest schedule to prepare a design and develop a bid package for construction of a steel sheet pile cut-off wall were ratified by the Board at the January 8, 2024 Board meeting. Upon completion of design and receipt of necessary permits, the Authority solicited bids for construction from four construction contractors known to the Authority with expertise in steel sheet pile installation. Three bids were received. The low bid, \$598,001, was submitted by South State, Inc of Bridgeton, NJ. The bid was deemed responsive, and it compared favorably with the engineer's estimate of \$650,000.

Ms. Blew moved the resolution ratifying the actions of the Executive Director in executing an emergency contract with South State, Inc. of Bridgeton, New Jersey, in the lump sum and unit price of \$598,001.00 for emergency construction of a steel sheeting cut-off in Delaware & Raritan Canal embankment near Station 505+35, Hopewell Township, Mercer County. Mr. Havens seconded the motion for the resolution. 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

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

Mr. Iacullo moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Havens 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 February 5, 2024 New Jersey Water Supply Authority meeting minutes.



Robin Greg
Finance & Accounting Analyst