



## NEW JERSEY WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

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P.O. BOX 5196 · CLINTON, N.J. 08809 · (908) 638-6121 · (908) 638-5241 (FAX)

### Minutes of the Meeting of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority September 9, 2019

A regular meeting of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority was convened on September 9, 2019 at 2:00 P.M. 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 Catherine R. McCabe, 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 Meeting Act".

Executive Director, Beth Gates, took the roll call of the Authority members.

Present: Jeffrey Hoffman, Acting Chair  
Ellsworth Havens  
Robert Iacullo - by phone  
Steven Picco - by phone  
Susan Blew - by phone  
Shing-Fu Hsueh - by phone

A quorum existed for the transaction of Authority business.

#### Interested Parties Present:

Oleg Kostin, New Jersey American Water  
Robert Barth, D&R Canal Watch  
Gordon Sell, Hunterdon Sailing Club  
Angelo Lovisa, Hunterdon Sailing Club

#### Authority Staff Present:

Beth Gates, Executive Director  
Susan Buckley, Director Finance & Administration  
Marc Brooks, Chief Engineer  
Paul McKeon, Director Manasquan Water Supply System/D&R Canal  
Kenneth Klipstein, Director Watershed Protection Programs  
Rita Shaw, Controller  
Michelle Rollman, Finance and Accounting Analyst

Kathrine Hunt, Deputy Attorney General  
Craig Ambrose, Associate Counsel, Authorities Unit - by phone

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Acting Chair Hoffman asked for the approval of the minutes of the August 5, 2019 meeting. Mr. Havens moved the motion approving the minutes as prepared and the motion was seconded by Ms. Blew. The minutes of the August 5, 2019 meeting were approved by the Board.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Gates stated that everyone has a copy of her report and that she had nothing to add.

#### COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Gates stated that there were no items of communications or correspondence received.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. McKeon provided a report on the Manasquan Reservoir System and Water Treatment Plant/Transmission System. Mr. McKeon stated that everyone has a copy of his report. Mr. McKeon stated that he had nothing to add to his written report except that rainfall and Reservoir levels have been normal and that Manasquan operations are normal. In response to a question by Mr. Hoffman, Mr. McKeon stated that Sea Girt is the only customer that does not elect to invoke an optional water use schedule because they draw very little water and do not require seasonal increases as do the other customers.

Mr. Brooks provided a report on the Raritan Basin System. Mr. Brooks stated that everyone has a copy of his report. Mr. Brooks stated that Spruce Run elevation was at 270.13 feet or 89.1 percent full. Round Valley Reservoir was at elevation 371.12 feet which is 80.9 percent of capacity. The combined capacity is 82.3 percent while the average for this time of year is 90.3 percent.

Mr. Brooks stated that Canal operations are normal. On July 25 seepage was identified on the Canal by a member of the public at the location of a high pressure gas line crossing in Ewing Township near the Scudders Falls Bridge. A similar seepage incident occurred at the same location in 2014. The owners of the gas line have been contacted and the Authority is awaiting their response as to how they are considering strengthening the embankment at that location.

Mr. Brooks reported on the Canal Dredging Project. Dredging has been completed in reaches one through four and two dredges are currently active in reach five. The contractor is now targeting approximately 75 percent completion of Reach five, from Griggstown Causeway to Blackwells Mills Causeway, this season, which will end on October 31.

Mr. Brooks reported on the Round Valley Reservoir Dams Rehabilitation and Resource Preservation Project. Grouting is well underway. Significant progress is being made at the South Dam and it is anticipated that grouting work there will be completed in two weeks. It is anticipated that the Round Valley dredging contractor will mobilize by the end of the month.

Mr. Brooks stated that the Authority is still planning to go out to bid within a few weeks for the large scale embankment work, with a notice to proceed in early 2020. Mr. Brooks stated that the major excavation work is expected to take place starting next spring at the Dike.

Mr. Brooks noted that he provided information regarding two change orders in his report and offered to answer any questions of which there were none.

Mr. Klipstein provided a report on the Watershed Management Program. Mr. Klipstein stated that everyone has a copy of his report. Mr. Klipstein discussed a no-cost change order for a contract modification for work related to the 2019 Manasquan Reservoir Pilot Hydrilla Treatment and Monitoring Project. Mr. Klipstein stated that the original contract called for the option of an application of Komeen Crystal which will not be exercised in favor of additional herbicide application and monitoring. Mr. Klipstein stated that the cost of additional monitoring efforts is \$11,009.50 and that the cost of the Komeen Crystal application would have totaled \$11,776.00. Therefore the change order will reduce the contract amount from \$76,798.22 to \$76,031.72, a reduction of \$766.50. Mr. Klipstein stated that the change order was approved by the Chair of the Capital Projects Committee.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Klipstein provided background information on the resolution consenting to the proposed Upper Raritan Water Quality Management ("WQM") Plan Amendment concerning Rocky Hill Borough and Montgomery Township. Mr. Klipstein distributed maps of the relevant area. Mr. Klipstein stated that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection received an application for an amendment to the Upper Raritan Water Quality Management Plan to update the Montgomery Township and Rocky Hill Borough components of the Somerset County Wastewater Management Plan which requires Authority approval. Mr. Klipstein noted that the amendment does not add additional sewer service area. All of the sewer service area previously assigned to the Riverside Farms Waste Water Treatment Plant and the majority of the sewer service area previously assigned to the Oxbridge Waste Water Treatment Plant have been reassigned to the recently upgraded Pike Brook Waste Water Treatment Plant. The remaining portion of the Oxbridge sewer service area has been consolidated into the recently updated Skillman Village Waste Water Treatment Plant sewer service area.

Mr. Klipstein stated that the Riverside Farms and Oxbridge Waste Water Treatment Plants have already been closed and the flow has been redirected. This plan serves to memorialize these closures and the redirected flow. Because the proposed amendment does not affect the safe yield of the Raritan System and has the net effect of improving water quality, Staff recommends approval of the resolution. In response to a question by Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Klipstein stated that it is anticipated that water quality will improve as older water treatment plants are taken off line and other plants are upgraded.

Mr. Havens moved the resolution consenting to the proposed amendment to the Northeast and Upper Raritan Water Quality Management Plan concerning Rocky Hill Borough and Montgomery Township. Ms. Blew seconded the motion. All Authority members approved of the resolution.

Mr. McKeon provided background information on the resolution authorizing the award of construction contract WSA Q20010M Sediment Removal Manasquan Reservoir Water Supply Intake Pump Station, Wall Township, Monmouth County. Mr. McKeon described the intake structure at the Manasquan River that houses the pumps and other pre-treatment mechanisms. Mr. McKeon stated that over time, an accumulation of sediment builds up in the underwater sections of this facility. Mr. McKeon distributed a photograph. Because of record annual rain falls, the current volume of sediment is very high.

The Authority advertised for bids on August 5, 2019 for the removal of the sediment. One bid was received from Underwater Screening Services, LLC, of Forty-Fort, Pennsylvania in the amount of \$59,654. Mr. McKeon stated that the proposed cost is within staff expectations because of the amount of material measured at the site. Mr. McKeon described the removal process through which a diver pumps the material out into geobags, which is then dried and used onsite.

Ms. Blew moved the resolution authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Underwater Screening Services, Inc., Forty-Fort, Pennsylvania for removal of underwater sediment accumulated at the Manasquan Water System, Manasquan River Intake Facility, for a lump sum cost of \$59,564.00. Dr. Hsueh seconded the motion. All Authority members approved of the resolution.

Mr. Brooks provided background information on the resolution authorizing the award of construction contract WSA-B20000 for Round Valley Reservoir Electrical Services Upgrades, Township of Clinton, Hunterdon County. Mr. Brooks stated that the contractors for the large scale work on the embankments will require more significant power sources for the dewatering systems and that currently, there is no power source at the dike. The Authority bid the project to upgrade and install electrical services at all embankments separately and ahead of the large scale work to be certain that the power sources are available prior to those operations. Plans to bring a power source to the dike and upgrading the services at the North and

South Dam vaults were prepared by French and Parrello, subconsultant to Schnabel, the engineer of record.

Mr. Brooks stated that advertisements for bids were published in the Hunterdon Democrat, the Star-Ledger, and the Asbury Park Press, and on the Authority's website and the New Jersey Business Opportunities website on August 1, 2019. Three bids were received on August 21. The low bidder was Nickel Electric at \$76,000. The engineer's estimate was \$235,000. The engineer indicated that their estimate was conservative based on other recent bids on similar scope projects. Staff spoke to the low bidder who was comfortable with their bid. Mr. Brooks stated that Authority staff recommends the award of a construction contract to the lowest responsive bidder, Nickel Electric, Inc. for a lump sum price of \$76,000.00.

In response to a question by Mr. Havens, Mr. Brooks stated that these power sources may be downgraded in the future, but that they will not just be temporary for the project purposes. In response to a question by Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Brooks stated that the Authority has not had prior contracts with Nickel Electric to his knowledge.

Mr. Havens moved the resolution authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a construction contract with Nickel Electric, Inc., of Fairfield, New Jersey, for Round Valley Reservoir electric services upgrades for a lump sum price of \$76,000.00. Mr. Picco seconded the motion. All Authority members approved of the resolution.

Ms. Buckley provided background information on the Resolution accepting the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the State of New Jersey and the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers ("IFPTE") for the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023. Ms. Buckley stated that the Authority, as a matter of policy and past practice has typically accepted negotiated and union ratified labor contracts by Board vote. The State of New Jersey recently negotiated a four-year contract with the IFPTE covering the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023. Ms. Buckley described the employees covered by the IFPTE contract which is the second of the three union contracts to be negotiated. Ms. Buckley reviewed the significant features of the union contract including four wage increases and changes to Health Care premiums. There are no changes in pensions.

Ms. Blew moved the resolution accepting the agreement between the State of New Jersey and the IFPTE and amending the Authority's compensation schedule in accordance with the terms of the agreement and New Jersey Water Supply Authority policy. Mr. Havens seconded the motion. All Authority members approved of the resolution.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- (a) Personnel - no report

- (b) Finance - no report
- (c) Consumers - no report
- (d) Audit - no report
- (d) Public Participation - no report
- (e) Capital Projects - Ms. Gates stated that there is no report but that a brief committee meeting will be held following the Board meeting today.
- (f) Insurance - no report
- (h) Watershed Lands Acquisition Committee - no report

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gordon Sell introduced himself and Angelo Lovisa as members of the Hunterdon Sailing Club. Mr. Sell described the history and purpose of the Hunterdon Sailing Club. Mr. Sell stated that the posted warnings regarding harmful algal blooms ("HABs") have prevented club members from participating in their activities, which include volunteer Scout events, because of their liability insurance. Mr. Sell discussed research on the toxicity of HABs at various parts per million and the location of the HABs observed within the reservoir. Mr. Sell inquired if the nature of the warning signs are comparable to the risk imposed by the HABs and asked if signage with a lesser warning might be appropriate commensurate with differing levels of toxicity or with open water locations. Mr. Sell offered any help that the Hunterdon Sailing Club could provide in finding solutions to this issue.

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 of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 P.M.

I hereby certify this to be a true and original copy of the September 9, 2019 New Jersey Water Supply Authority meeting minutes.

*Michelle Rollman*

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Michelle Rollman  
Finance and Accounting Analyst