

**MINUTES**  
**OPERATIONS & ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**APRIL 13, 2021 (VIRTUAL)**

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Attendants: Messrs. DiSantis, Hurst, Kern, Knapp, Lehman, Lucas, Mullen, Nagle, Pileggi, Pisani, Willert, and Mesdames Amadio, Bonnett, Nichols, and Sage.

1. ROLL CALL: Eight members of the DELCORA Board of Directors were present at the meeting constituting a quorum.

There were no members of the public present.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All parties present at the meeting recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. BID OPENING: Mr. Mullen stated that there were no bid openings at this time.

4. MONTHLY REPORT – DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE: Mr. DiSantis highlighted certain items in the written report. Mr. DiSantis stated that there were no violations at the WRTP during March; however, there were TSS violations at the Pocopson Riverside and Preserve systems. It is typical for this time of year to have high TSS over the limit of 30 due to algae. PADEP is aware of this situation and the systems should have seasonal permits. The Chadds Ford Ridings facility exceeded almost every parameter and the project to replace the plant with a pump station is underway. The plant has outlived its service life. There were also some reportable incidents to the PADEP due to rain-caused SSOs. These recurring issues are being addressed in the capital plan and the yet-to-be-approved Long Term Capital Plan. There were also several emission issues; one was due to operator error but others are due to the power quality issues from PECO. The condition or quality of the power can negatively affect the sensitive computer-based equipment that controls just about all equipment at DELCORA's facilities. There is a power factor capacitor bank that monitors and corrects the power factor; however, there are still issues especially with the Marcus Hook line. At WRTP, power supply to the incinerator building has been taken off this and placed on a line that does not have these power quality issues. PECO has been unresponsive to our concerns. Mr. DiSantis stated that plant performance has been affected by some rain events and construction activity. Under Solids Handling, a significant amount of planned work went very well but as a result, there were sixteen loads hauled to compost. Mr. DiSantis responded to several questions about the issue of the power quality and general discussion followed concerning possible solutions to the problem such as monitoring the power, determining what other loads may share our power lines, switching power from underground lines to overhead lines, obtaining a dedicated power source, such as from Covanta and using PECO as a backup. Mr. DiSantis stated that using Covanta was considered several years ago but it was determined to be too cost prohibitive since PECO would also require regular payments to have capacity available as a backup. This option will be revisited.

Mr. DiSantis also mentioned that when the application to renew DELCORA's NPDES Permit was advertised in the PA Bulletin for public comment, there were some false negative comments made by the Clean Air Council. He and Irene Fitzgerald

drafted a rebuttal and Dr. Strand, head of the Chester Environmental Partnership (CEP), sent our rebuttal to all of the local environmental organizations. At the next CEP meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup>, DELCORA is on the agenda to present our response to the Clean Air Council's comments. Mr. DiSantis and Irene Fitzgerald will be attending the CEP meeting. Mr. Hurst had shared the response with Mr. Nagle who stated that DELCORA drafted an excellent response. In response to a request from Ms. Nichols, Mr. DiSantis will send her information about the April 20<sup>th</sup> CEP meeting so she can attend. Mr. DiSantis had no additional comments to the written report. The Committee had no other questions regarding the written report.

5. MONTHLY REPORT – DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING: Mr. Hurst highlighted certain items in the written report. Regarding the new NPDES permit effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, it includes aspects of the Long Term Control Plan, one of which was the requirement to submit an Infiltration and Inflow (I&I) report. The report was submitted to PADEP and the USEPA, and was also provided to all County Authorities and municipalities. The report identified about twenty “hot spots” in the county; two of which are in Marcus Hook. The County has been doing some infrastructure improvements but the year two report is expected to discuss plans for improvements in the “hot spot” areas. The I&I report was sent to the engineers of the “hot spots” to facilitate development of those plans. Mr. Hurst also mentioned that work continues on the approval of the Long Term Control Plan. The January submission addressed some previously raised issues and we continue to respond to other comments as the USEPA/PADEP review proceeds. Regarding the ESA Design project, the engineering consultants submitted a 30% design package which is being reviewed by our Engineering staff. Progress continues on the geotechnical investigation; results to date show good rock strata to build a tunnel within. He also noted that the Springhill Farm treatment plant is being demolished and the HVAC Upgrade contractor, CM3, is currently performing air quality work in work in B-3. Regarding the WRTP Plant Upgrades project, work was completed on the hauling lanes and drainage areas, rehab on one of the four ET tanks is complete, and work continues on the wetting system in the ash silo area to reduce the dust. In response to a question from Mr. Lucas, Mr. Hurst stated that rock cores are being removed and stored. Mr. Hurst had no additional comments to the written report. The Committee had no other questions regarding the written report.

6. MONTHLY REPORT – ENGINEERING ADVISOR: Mr. Lehman highlighted several on-going projects on the written report, which had been provided to all Board members in advance of today's meeting. He stated that the Annual Chapter 94 Reports were completed and submitted electronically to the PADEP; no paper copies were made. The annual SWMM Modeling and the Metering Program are both progressing well. Mr. Hurst also noted that the compilation of Chapter 94 reports came in under budget as a direct result of the electronic submission and not having the expense of creating paper copies. Mr. Lehman had no additional comments to the written report. The Committee had no questions regarding the written report.

7. CHANGE ORDERS: Mr. Mullen stated that there were no Contract Change Orders at this time.

8. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF CONTRACT CLOSE-OUT & FINAL PAYMENT:  
Mr. Mullen stated that there were no Contract Close-outs at this time.

9. AUTHORIZATION FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

- A. Trinity Consultants – Proposal Dated March 19, 2021 – For Professional Services To Provide Air Quality Permitting Evaluation For New Back-Up Scrubber And Prepare Plan Approval Application – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$9,400.00 (Operating Funds)

Mr. Hurst stated that Trinity Consultants has performed a great deal of air permitting work for DELCORA and this proposal addresses the required plan approval application for the backup odor control scrubber to be permitted.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend Board approval of the above proposal. This item will be placed on the agenda for the April 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- B. Alliance Source Testing – Proposal Dated March 9, 2021 – For Professional Engineering Services To Provide Additional Compliance Testing Of Two Incinerators And One Odor Scrubber – Total Additional Amount Not To Exceed \$26,640.00 (Operating Funds)

Mr. Hurst stated that Alliance Source Testing performed the stack testing this year; however, due to some equipment challenges, testing was suspended, and the scope was expanded at the request of PADEP. This proposal addresses that additional effort.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend Board approval of the above proposal. This item will be placed on the agenda for the April 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- C. Brown And Caldwell – Proposal Dated April 8, 2021 – For Professional Engineering Services To Provide Local Limits Development For The WRTP – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$64,910.00 (Operating Funds)

Mr. Hurst stated that Brown and Caldwell's Cliff Bell is an expert in the field of local limits development. The new NPDES permit requires DELCORA to have new local limits in place within one year.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend Board approval of the above proposal. This item will be placed on the agenda for the April 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- D. Weston Solutions, Inc. – Proposal Dated April 9, 2021 – For Professional Engineering Services To Continue Annual SWMM Modeling – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$25,000.00 (Operating Funds)

Mr. Hurst stated that Weston has been providing the Annual SWMM Modeling and this proposal will continue that routine modeling.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend Board approval of the above proposal. This item will be placed on the agenda for the April 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

10. AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS: Mr. Mullen stated that there were no Authorizations to Advertise for Bids at this time.

11. AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE:

- Purchase Of Five Valves For The Central Delaware Pump Station Through The PA CO-STARS Contract For A Total Amount Not To Exceed \$29,640.00 (Capital Funds)
- Purchase Of Labor And Materials For The Repair Of A Pump Rotating Assembly For The Chester Pump Station Through The PA CO-STARS Contract For A Total Amount Not To Exceed \$65,000.00 (Capital Funds)

Mr. Hurst stated that the five valves relate to the temporary pumping system and the pump rotating assembly is for the rebuild of the Chester Pump Station. Mr. DiSantis added that he received an updated quote for the pump rotating assembly. The cost is now less than \$50,000.00. The order takes twelve weeks and the repair takes four weeks.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend Board approval of the above purchases. These items will be placed on the agenda for the April 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved by Mr. Lucas, seconded by Mr. Knapp, and unanimously carried to adjourn the regular meeting at 4:05 p.m.