

**MINUTES**  
**OPERATIONS & ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 12, 2021 (VIRTUAL)**

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

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

Mr. Mike Ewall of Energy Justice Network was present for the latter half of the meeting. There were no other members of the public present.

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

3. BID OPENING:

- Contract No. TCR-2103-O – Plant and Facilities Services

Ms. Caulk stated that there was one bid received.

BIDDER

TOTAL BID AMOUNT

MOR Construction

\$803,100.00 (3 year contract)

Mr. Mullen stated that this bid will be reviewed by Staff and our Solicitor's office, and consideration of award will be placed on the agenda for the October 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

4. MONTHLY REPORT – DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE: Mr. DiSantis highlighted certain items in the written report. He stated that there were no violations at the WRTP during September; however, there was one violation for exceeding the instantaneous fecal coliform limit at the Chadds Ford Turners Mill plant. He noted that flow was up slightly, closer to the yearly average, with good process results and good results in solids handling with only fourteen loads hauled to compost. The incinerators were in service 81% of the time, and usage of polymer and natural gas was good. There were ten reportable incidents to the PADEP. Seven incidents were from wet weather events, namely, Hurricane Ida on 9/1 and another rain storm on 9/23. The 9/23 rain storm also occurred during a high-high tide resulting in flooding in areas that may not normally flood. That storm measured about 1.96 inches of rain in two hours. Continuing, Mr. DiSantis stated that Trucked Waste continues to do very well. Regarding Maintenance activities, he reported that Central Maintenance spent 53% of their time on corrective maintenance, and 47% on planned and predictive maintenance. Sewer Maintenance spent 26% of monthly man hours on routine line cleaning and televising per the new permit requirements.

In response to a question from Mr. Nagle concerning the higher monthly solids processing costs, Mr. DiSantis stated that it was determined that using more natural gas at the RTO would reduce the number of emission incidents even though using natural gas is less efficient and skews the year-to-date average figures. In response to Mr. Nagle's question about the current natural gas contract, Mr. DiSantis stated that a team negotiated the contract and Ms. Caulk noted that the current contract expires at the end of 2022 with locked-in wholesale rates. 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. Concerning the Incinerator Maintenance contract, he noted that Industrial Furnace is spending time helping to diagnose the cause of need to frequently washout the RTO#2 media. This is requiring increased maintenance on the incinerators. Regarding the ESA and the Long Term Control Plan, design projects are proceeding. The Act 537 Plan Update has been published for review and available for comment. The comment period for the public has ended but the comment period for the municipalities and the Planning Commission ends in three weeks. When received, comments will be reviewed and addressed, then the 537 Plan Update will be issued for adoption. It is hoped that the Plan will be adopted by all municipalities. Mr. Hurst stated that the USEPA has not yet issued a formal comment letter on the Long Term Control Plan Update. Mr. Hurst had no additional comments to the written report. The Committee had no 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 SWMM Modeling continues with no issues. Regarding the Metering Program, he stated that he is getting requests from other entities for data which they use for their next year's budget. Also, the as-built drawings for the Utility Water project have been submitted to DELCORA and staff is reviewing them. 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: Mr. Mullen stated that there were no Authorizations for Professional Services at this time.

10. AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS:

- Contract No. P2021-08 – Unleaded Gasoline And Diesel Fuel With Tracking System
- Contract No. P2021-09 – Janitorial Services
- Contract No. P2021-10 – Liquid Chlorine In One Ton Cylinder
- Contract No. P2021-11 – Liquid Caustic Soda
- Contract No. SW-2104-C – SWDCMA Sewer Inflow & Infiltration Removal

Referring to Contract No. SW-2104-C, Mr. Hurst stated that identification of high Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) as required by the Long Term Control Plan and NPDES Permit is a component of this project. The second annual report identifying areas of high I&I is being prepared by the firm of Brown & Caldwell and will include meters in SWDCMA, so their engineers know where to focus their repair efforts. In response to a question about sources for funding of municipalities' I&I work, Mr. Hurst noted the intention for a collaborative effort between DELCORA and the conveyance authorities to aid the municipalities to collectively apply for grant funding.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend Board approval of the above Authorizations to Advertise. These items will be placed on the agenda for the October 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

#### 11. AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE:

- Purchase Of Five Teledyne ISCO Flow Modules For The Metering Program Through The PA CO-STARS Contract #016-031 (HARTCO) – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$31,131.00 (Capital Funds)
- Purchase Of Seven Flo-Loggers For The Metering Program Through The PA CO-STARS Contract #016-040 (Control Systems 21) – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$36,848.49 (Capital Funds)
- Purchase Of Ten Area Velocity Sensors For The Metering Program Through A Sole Source Provider (FloWav Quote No. DEL921-01) – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$24,970.00 (Capital Funds)

Mr. DiSantis noted that the three purchases listed above are to update the inventory for the various types of meters used for the metering project.

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 October 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- Purchase Of One CLAROS Process Management And Optimization System (Hardware And System Support) To Automate The Chlorination / Dechlorination Process Through The PA CO-STARS Contract #020-002 (HACH) – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$49,404.00 (Capital Funds)
- Purchase Of One Turbidity And Suspended Solids Inline Probe With Wiper (Hardware And Technical Support) To Upgrade The Solids Sensor Through The PA CO-STARS Contract #020-002 (HACH) – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$10,902.80 (Capital Funds)

Mr. DiSantis noted that the first of the two purchases listed above is to automate the chlorination/dechlorination system. The second purchase is to institute real-time monitoring of the solids going to the incinerator in lieu of manually taking daily samples and testing them through the QAQC process resulting in a time lag.

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 October 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- Purchase Of Phosphoric Acid 85% Through The PA CO-STARs Contract #015-12 (George S. Coyne Chemical Co., Inc.) – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$310,200.00 (Operating Funds)

Mr. DiSantis state that this is a routine purchase and the amount is based on estimated usage.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend Board approval of the above purchase. This item will be placed on the agenda for the October 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- Purchase Of Primary Clarifier Spare Parts Through The PA CO-STARs Contract #016-154 (Iron Horse Environmental) – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$573,000.00 (Capital Funds)

Mr. DiSantis stated that this purchase replaces the contract bids that were rejected last month due to issues with the bid specifications. That contract was not re-bid. Mr. DiSantis received a proposal from the vendor for the same parts through a PA CO-STARs contract for a savings of approximately \$30,000.00.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend Board approval of the above purchase. This item will be placed on the agenda for the October 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Mr. Hurst noted that there will be an addition to next week's Board agenda under Authorization to Purchase regarding a purchase of metal roof replacement material.

12. 2022 CAPITAL AND RATES NEEDS: Mr. Hurst presented a series of slides summarizing the 2022 Capital Plan projects and gave a detailed review of each slide. Mr. Hurst gave an overall review of the primary projects for 2022 with four projects highlighted, and a slide and description was presented on each one. The estimated total of the associated projects and sewer improvement projects is approximately \$42 million in 2022. The cost in 2021 was approximately \$24 million. The cost table presented was from the Eastern Service Area Act 537 Plan Update which shows the alternatives for either re-directing Delaware County's flow from Philadelphia (PWD) to the WRTP or maintaining the current method of discharging flow to the PWD and the costs associated with each alternative. This would eliminate the increased costs to have PWD treat that flow. As previously discussed, the tunnel alternative was chosen as the most cost-effective choice, and the impact to the environment and to the rate payers was also considered in this decision. He also noted that tunnels have been utilized in many cities including Washington, DC, Indianapolis, Chicago, and Milwaukee for wet weather management. It will take about four years to build the tunnel and the contract is expected to be bid out at the end of next year. He concluded by describing the combined sewer system in Chester, the effect of large wet weather flows from upstream communities that bring water into our collection system, the additional wet weather

treatment at the Chester Pump Station, and the proposed WRTP outfall extension to dilute the plume of wastewater. The first five years of the LTCP projects are included in the new NPDES Permit. Discussion followed concerning the time-sensitive projects, the need for the new T-28 clarifier, and the condition and repair of the T-27 clarifier.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved by Mr. Lucas, seconded by Mr. Knapp, and unanimously carried to adjourn the regular meeting at 4:29 p.m.