

**MINUTES**  
**OPERATIONS & ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

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Attendants: Messrs. Cartafalsa, Cherico, DiSantis, S. Garner, Hurst, Kern, Lehman, Martin, Moss, Mullen, Nagle, Shuster, Willert, and Mesdames Amadio, Billings, Bonnett, Caulk, B. Garner, Keffer, and Nichols.

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

The following were present: Mike Ewall and Mike Delzingaro. 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. P2024-01 – Replacement Belts For A Belt Filter Press / Gravity Belt Thickeners

Ms. Caulk stated that there were two bids received.

	<u>TOTAL BID AMOUNT</u>
Clear Edge Filtration Group	\$58,079.56
GSM Engineered Fabrics	\$63,514.00

Mr. Mullen stated that these bids will be reviewed by Staff and our Solicitor's office, and consideration of award will be placed on the agenda for the February 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

4. MONTHLY REPORT – DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE: Mr. DiSantis highlighted certain items in the written report. He stated that January was a very wet month with a daily average flow of 45.03 MGD which was significantly higher average daily flow than the average for 2023 of 33 MGD. Mr. DiSantis stated that there were eight reportable incidents to DEP; seven of those were wet weather SSOs and one was a dry weather SSO. The wet weather SSOs all happened during the rain event on January 9<sup>th</sup>. The dry weather SSO occurred during testing of the emergency bypass pumps at the Chester Pump Station. During the test, a fitting blew out causing a leak. It was immediately stopped. Continuing, Mr. DiSantis reported that there were no violations at the Western Regional Treatment Plant; however, the weekly cBOD concentration was exceeded at the Thornbury Township Wastewater Treatment Plant, likely caused by an overloading due from road salt runoff affecting this very small treatment plant since no other reason could be found.

Regarding solids handling, he stated that both incinerators were in service 69% of the time and inventory levels were generally lower during January. Mr. DiSantis reported that significant maintenance work was performed on the grit systems at the WRTP, the Chester Ridley Creek and Chester Pump Stations. Also, the typical solids handling work was performed including the belt press and cake feed pumps. The corrective work order versus the planned and predictive ratio was 47% corrective and 53% planned and predicted. Due to the snow storm in January, Sewer Maintenance spent 11% of the hours on snow removal but was still able to perform a significant amount of routine line cleaning and televising. Lastly, he reported that the trucked waste business had a very good month with 28.53 million gallons received. Mr. DiSantis had no additional comments to the written report. The Committee had no questions regarding the written report.

5. MONTHLY REPORT – DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING: Mr. Hurst highlighted certain items in the written report. He stated that we continue to develop the Long Term Control Plan alternatives and there have been discussions with EPA regarding those alternatives. An outline of a report will be sent to EPA preliminarily on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Greely and Hansen is doing all the modeling needed for that. Regarding the Odor Control Project, we recently met with the designer and reviewed a 60% design submission and will be going to construction in July or August. That construction will last through 2025 and is expected to be online by the end of 2025. That project is the replacement of a temporary carbon-based system that is still operating. Under Regulatory Filings, we are working to get the 2024 stack testing protocol completed and ready for submission. That will go to the PADEP for approval and, hopefully, schedule the stack testing in June.

Referring to the discussion yesterday at the Strategic Planning committee meeting regarding ultraviolet disinfection (UV), Mr. Hurst stated that there is a cost table included in his report showing the capital costs and operations costs of various disinfection alternatives. We began looking at UV during the tunnel and the Eastern Service Area program, and we continued to finish this UV evaluation even though the tunnel program was placed on the backburner. We continued because of the dramatic rise in chlorine costs. Converting to UV is a compelling cost option and, using current values, about a million dollars a year in operating costs would be saved. Chlorine prices are expected to rise faster than electricity. Engineering, Operations, and Maintenance all agreed to advance the UV design and, ultimately, begin a construction project to convert to UV. This is an approximately \$25 million capital project. To make it most effective, we moved the rehabilitation of T-27 ahead in the capital schedule so it also can be done at the same time as the conversion to UV. The rehab of T-27 is estimated to cost \$10 million. This estimated schedule for completion of the UV and T-27 project is 3.5 years. It was noted that a meeting is being planned to review the updated capital plan. Mr. Hurst asked if there were any concerns or questions. There were none.

Regarding the Outfall Design Project, Mr. Hurst stated that, having placed the tunnel program on the backburner, we looked again at the outfall design and the driver for the outfall is water quality in the river. Without going above 44 MGD, we questioned whether we should advance the outfall construction. Since the ESA program will not proceed at this time and with more detailed and complex chemical analysis of the river required, our consultant, Kleinfelder, advised that we do not need to proceed with the

outfall at this time. We still need to get through the DRBC docket update along with compliance and permitting issues with the PADEP. He stated that we should put the outfall on the backburner and proceed through the regulatory process with both the PADEP and the DRBC. It will require us to deal with two treatment efficiency issues that he will discuss further under the incinerator change order item on today's agenda.

Lastly, Mr. Hurst reported that there has been some engagement with the EPA and their rulemaking. EPA is planning to designate the portion of the river where DELCORA discharges as a higher level of fishery and requiring a greater amount of dissolved oxygen that would require us to remove the ammonia, possibly all year long. He stated that we have submitted a comment letter during the public comment period. We have requested Raftelis to do an economic analysis, requested Brown and Caldwell to comment on the fish science, and engaged Michelle Jackson's assistance in the community. 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 their major effort now is on preparation of the Chapter 94 report for 2023. The municipal reports are expected in the next two weeks when we will be checking to see what reports are missing and follow up on those. He commended the DELCORA staff for their efforts on this project and in tracking down the missing reports. Mr. Lehman reported that the SWMM Modeling is proceeding. The January report was just received and he will be reviewing that shortly. Also, the Metering Program continues to proceed ahead with no major issues. Mr. Lehman had no additional comments to the written report. The Committee had no questions regarding the written report.

7. CHANGE ORDERS:

- Contract No. TC-2201-C – Incinerator – Annual Maintenance And Emergency Repairs 2022 – Change Order No. 1 – Increase In Contract Time Due To Planned Incinerator Burner Work Addressed In Preliminary Discussions With The PADEP That Is Expected To Extend Beyond The Current Contract End Date Of April 1, 2024 – Increase In Contract Time Of 183 Days To October 1, 2024 (No Change In Original Contract Amount Of \$1,491,400.00) (Industrial Furnace Company, Inc.)

Mr. Hurst stated that there is no change in contract value. This change order is only for an extension of time. We have preliminary approval from PADEP to reconfigure the burners in the top hearth of the multi-hearth incinerator that will allow us to achieve a slightly different combustion in the top zone which will help the overall performance of the system. Because of the timing of the approval, we believe we will be part way through that work when this contract is set to expire so we are requesting more time to use the available funds to complete that burner work.

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

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. Remington & Vernick Engineers – Proposal Dated January 26, 2024 – For Professional Engineering Services For Construction Bid Pricing Evaluation Services For Bids Received From The Keystone Purchasing Network (KPN) – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$15,000.00 Per Bid (Capital Funds)

Mr. Hurst stated that this proposal is to provide engineering support on the cost side of KPN when there is no design engineer attached to a project. Remington & Vernick will be performing the cost review of KPN projects.

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 February 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- B. Remington & Vernick Engineers – Proposal Dated February 7, 2024 – For Professional Engineering Services For Construction Management And Inspection Services For The Force Main Installation Project From Beech Street Pump Station To Ridge Road In Lower And Upper Chichester Townships – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$137,500.00 (Capital Funds)

Mr. Hurst stated that this proposal is to provide construction management and the inspection services for the force main that will run from the Beech Street Pump Station down to Ridge Road located in both Lower Chichester and Upper Chichester Townships, and Remington & Vernick will facilitate coordination and cooperation between the two townships. Remington & Vernick has good resources and they are also supporting us on the Townsend Street construction project. We are anticipating beginning this project very soon on the portions that are not obstructed by PECO. We enjoy some efficiencies from Remington & Vernick by being able to do both projects as once.

Ms. Nichols asked if there is a threshold for proposals that should go out as Request for Proposals (RFP) versus just assigning contracts, especially for those over \$100,000. Mr. Hurst stated that the procedure could be adjusted if requested by the Board; however, using his consulting background in both design and construction, those decisions follow a set formula in some respects. And, even though \$137,000 is a lot of money, it is a relatively small inspection and construction fee for a \$5 million project so he feels very confident with the value we are getting. He also stated that sometimes when you issue an RFP, some consultants get into creative ways to cost a job and may offer a low level inspector for a smaller inspection cost but that could cause us subsequent issues. Ms. Nichols added that she was not suggesting that we change it but was just posing a question about having some sort of blueprint for how we decide when to go out for bid or rely on the recommendations of our team. She said she does trust his recommendations. Mr. Willert stated that Mr. Hurst knows a lot of engineering firms, considers several firms, reviews them with his staff, and always picks the best one suited for the project.

Mr. Hurst also stated that Pennsylvania statutes allows us to procure proposals either competitively or not competitively, so we are compliant with the state statute. There have been many times when we have sent out competitive RFPs for large and longer running assignments, such as the ESA and the inspection for T-28; however, he can create a roadmap as to how we make these decisions. Ms. Nichols noted that something like that would be very helpful as justification of how we do business and would govern how we engage firms. Mr. Willert stated that he will meet with Mr. Hurst to create the requested procedure.

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 February 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

C. Iron Horse Environmental – Proposal Dated November 27, 2023 – For Professional Services For Maintenance And Inspection Of #2 And #4 Turblex Blowers In Building B-6 Through The PA COSTARS Contract #016-E22-258 – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$41,939.00 (Operating Funds)

Mr. DiSantis stated that the Board has approved similar items before. These are the Turblex blowers. They are the four main blowers that produce all the air for aeration and can only be serviced by factory-trained technicians. This service is provided through PA COSTARS. They perform Class 1 and Class 2 service on two different blowers. Class 2 service is more in depth than Class 1 and those services are based on how many hours are on the machines so we go through and rotate Class 1s and Class 2s as needed.

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 February 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

D. CEMTEK Systems – Proposal Dated January 24, 2024 – For Professional Services To Provide Relative Accuracy Test Audits (RATAS) Of Two CEMS Systems – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$11,100.00 (Operating Funds)

Mr. DiSantis stated that the Relative Accuracy Test Audits (RATAS) are required by the Title V Permit.

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 February 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

E. Chavond-Barry Engineering Corp. – Proposal Dated January 24, 2024 – For Professional Engineering Services For 2024 Stack Testing – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$67,000.00 (Operating Funds)

Mr. DiSantis stated that Chavond-Barry is our combustion engineer. We reviewed their proposal with other previous stack testing proposals and this one was the lower cost.

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 February 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- F. Castle Valley Consultants, Inc. – Proposal Dated January 25, 2024 – For Professional Engineering Services For Preparation Of The Water Quality Management Permit Renewal Application For The Riverside Wastewater Treatment Plant, Pocopson Township, Chester County, PA – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$5,850.00 (Operating Funds)

Mr. DiSantis stated that Castle Valley is the engineering firm that we use for two of our waste pond treatment facilities located in Pocopson Township. This proposal is for a permit renewal for one of those two facilities.

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 February 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- G. SEWERAI – Proposal Dated January 23, 2024 – For Professional Services To Use An AI-Assisted Process To Facilitate Rapid And Accurate Sewer Condition Assessment – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$134,200.00 (Operating Funds)

Mr. DiSantis stated that we take the video footage and send it to them. Using artificial intelligence, they rate the pipes per the NASCO system. The proposal is based on a specific amount of data and they review a certain length of pipe. This information is used to classify our underground assets and those classifications then determine where they go in the capital plan and what we need to do with them. He noted that we will most likely not use all of the funds approved.

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 February 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Mr. Martin asked if the professional services expenses for consulting and engineering support are a budgeted item as a whole or are each of those segments of costs captured by a budget for individual projects. Mr. Cherico responded that we include expenses for consulting and engineering support in the budget but we do not budget them by individual projects.

10. AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS:

- Contract No. SEW-2401-CO – Furnishing Equipment, Labor & Supervision For Paving Restoration Services
- Contract No. P2024-03 – Residential Delinquent Notice Posting Service
- Contract No. P2024-04 – Sodium Bisulfite 38%

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 February 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

11. AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE:

- DRV, Inc. – Quote #18735 Dated January 26, 2024 – For The Purchase Of One (1) Replacement VFD For The Central Delaware Pump Station Through PA COSTARS Contract #016-E22-197 – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$36,339.91 (Capital Funds)

Mr. DiSantis stated that this is the supplier for the standardized Yaskawa brand of VFDs. This is a variable frequency drive for one of the 400 HP pumps at the Central Delaware Pump Station.

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 February 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- CEMTEK Systems – Quote #CII-2401-19 Dated January 31, 2024 – For The Purchase Of One Seal Controller With Associated Cards, THC Analyzer And O2 Analyzer Through Sole Source Vendor (CEMTEK Systems) – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$46,741.81 (Capital Funds)

Mr. DiSantis stated that last year we had a new CEMS (Continuous Emissions Monitoring System) system installed. CEMTEK is the contractor that was used for the purchase and installation. This proposal is for the purchase of spare parts for the CEMS system so that we can make sure we keep all of the analyzers operating regardless of the situation.

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 February 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- S. J. Thomas Company, Inc. – Proposal Dated February 7, 2024 – For Purchase Of Labor And Materials For Facility Services And Lateral Modifications Related To NPDES Permit And Draft LTCP Prescribed Municipal I&I Engagement At Various Locations Through The Keystone Purchasing Network – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$5,196,175.10 (Capital Funds)

Mr. Hurst stated that this is a contract to implement the I&I remediation program. This is a component part of our \$200-\$250 million Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) that is mandated by our Consent Decree and will, ultimately, be mandated by the EPA when they approve our LTCP. A few years ago when we did not have an LTCP, the PADEP placed early action items into our NPDES permit and this I&I program is one of those pieces. After much study of the I&I problem, this is the actual implementation of some physical repairs that will be done in the DELCORA system and other municipal systems. Act 44 allows us to work in other systems.

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 February 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

12. CONSENT DECREE STIPULATED PENALTIES – PENALTY PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,000.00 EACH TO USEPA AND PADEP (TOTAL \$32,000.00) FOR FOUR SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOWS THAT TOOK PLACE DURING THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2022 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022 – PER USEPA LETTER DATED JANUARY 24, 2024: Mr. DiSantis stated that, as part of the Consent Decree, we were penalized for violations of our NPDES permit at the WRTP as well as sanitary sewer overflows. We receive these periodically and this one is for incidents in 2022. They initially demanded \$80,000 but we were able to negotiate and get the number of

violations reduced which resulted in the \$32,000 penalty (\$8,000 for each overflow). This penalty is for four overflows from 2022.

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

13. REVIEW OF PILOT LATERAL REPAIR PROGRAM: Ms. Billings stated that there had been previous discussions about doing some work on private sewer laterals where problems had been identified. These were in areas that were Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) eligible areas that had been identified through extensive testing as contributing to system-wide I&I. After some research and solicitor review, it was determined that there is a specific law in Pennsylvania that allows DELCORA to make repairs on private property if it has identified a problem and identified that the work to be done will be beneficial to public health and safety. We are formalizing the program so the Authority can move forward in contracting the work. As mentioned above, Mr. Hurst noted we are using the KPN purchasing network to perform the work for about \$5 million.

Ms. Billings added that after the work is completed, we will be able to measure whether it had any effect on flow into the system. Also, this program requires the municipality and the property owner to agree to allow the work to be done and clarifies that DELCORA will not be responsible for those lateral lines after our work is finished; however, we are responsible for all cleanup of the area where work was done. Mr. Martin asked if this trial would be completed during 2024 or would extend into the next year, and if the \$5 million referenced above was budgeted for 2024 and, if not, where will that money come from. Mr. Hurst responded that it was budgeted in 2024 but will probably go beyond 2024 into 2025 based upon the work that needs to be done. The intent is that this is essentially a calendar year program. In response to a question from Ms. Nichols as to this project being included in the Chapter 94 report, Mr. Hurst stated that there will be a dedicated I&I annual report, as required by the EPA, submitted at the same time as the Chapter 94 report.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend Board approval of the above Pilot Lateral Repair Program. This item will be placed on the agenda for the February 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

14. APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO THE PROCUREMENT / PURCHASING POLICY OF 2013:

To Read As Follows:

“The DELCORA Board Of Directors Supports And Encourages The Use Of PennBid, Co-Stars, Keystone Purchasing Network (KPN), Municibid, And Other Online Electronic Platforms As May Become Available For Purposes Of Contract Bidding And Purchasing And Selling Of DELCORA Equipment, Vehicles, And Other Assets, As Approved By The Solicitor As Complying With State Procurement Requirements For Municipal Authorities.”



Mr. Mullen read aloud the amendment.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend Board approval of the above amendment to the Procurement/Purchasing Policy of 2013. This item will be placed on the agenda for the February 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved by Mr. Nagle, seconded by Ms. Billings, and unanimously carried to adjourn the regular meeting at 4:10 p.m.