

MINUTES
OPERATIONS & ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2024

Attendants: Messrs. Cartafalsa, Cherico, DiSantis, Hurst, Kern, Lehman, Martin, Moss, Mullen, Nagle, Shuster, Willert, and Mesdames Billings, Bonnett, Caulk, 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, Mr. Lindsey Turner and Steve Vinci. There were no other members of the public present.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS: Ms. Garner read aloud the two questions submitted by Mr. Lindsey Turner of Swarthmore College:

Question 1: “The Delaware County Solid Waste Authority recently pledged to divert 7x the amount of waste to the landfill instead of incinerating. This is truly important to the safety and wellbeing of Delco residents, especially Chester residents. I ask now if DELCORA has any plans to follow their footsteps and divert or reduce incineration?”

Response: Mr. DiSantis introduced himself as the Director of Operations and Maintenance for DELCORA and he thanked Mr. Turner for his interest in the Authority. Mr. DiSantis stated that the answer to Mr. Turner’s question is “No” not at this time. However, he would be interested in speaking further with Mr. Turner either after today’s meeting or sometime in the future, whatever is most convenient for Mr. Turner.

Question 2: “Additionally, I notice a lot of remediation equipment, for example the odor control, relies on natural gas. Are there plans to move towards renewable energy?”

Response: Mr. DiSantis stated that he assumed Mr. Turner was talking about the regenerative thermal oxidation unit (RTO) which is part of our best available technology pollution train on the incinerators. Mr. DiSantis stated that we have no plans to move away from natural gas at this point but he offered to speak further with Mr. Turner about this.

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. He stated that during the month of July there was one NPDES violation at the WRTP for exceeding the fecal coliform single sample maximum permit limit. We did meet the geometric mean with no issues. This particular permit limit only happens May through September as it is identified as the ‘swimming season’ in the Delaware River by the DRBC and the PADEP. We are working with the regulatory agencies regarding this permit limit because it generally only

applies to Pennsylvania and there are numerous violations in eastern Pennsylvania alone based upon our review of other Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) besides our own. We have been unable to find a scientific reason for it. Continuing, Mr. DiSantis stated that the dry weather continued in July. He reported that there were two reportable incidents during the month. One was a dry weather overflow that occurred at the WRTP due to an incinerator scrubber water pump failure. There was an overflow of approximately 1,000 gallons but it went into one of the drains which flows back to the head of the plant so any of the overflow material was re-treated. The other incident was an emissions incident due to an RTO short stack opening caused by the failure of a poppet valve actuator. Both of these incidents were addressed by maintenance staff with normal operations resuming shortly thereafter.

Mr. DiSantis stated both incinerators were in service 72% of the month and that no cake was hauled to compost during the month. Due to the very low flow, plant performance continued to do very well with the average daily flows under 31 million. Regarding remote operations, he stated that there were no violations. Mr. DiSantis reported that Central Maintenance had a typical busy month with 56% corrective, and 44% planned and predicted. Much of the corrective work related to incinerator maintenance and the preparation for stack testing. He noted that overall work order aging decreased by 5% as compared to last month. Sewer Maintenance had another very busy month with 21% of their time spent on routine line cleaning and televising. We are well past the annual PADEP requirement for televising. Other significant time spent includes 13% on manhole and pipe repairs, and 12% on manhole inspection and cleaning. He stated that we are converting to using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to inspect manholes and the results compared to our human videos are quite good. Regarding Hauled Waste, Mr. DiSantis stated that there were 22.05 million gallons received during July and hauled waste revenue remains projected to exceed the budgeted target. Mr. DiSantis had no additional comments to the written report. The Committee had no questions regarding the written report.

Mr. Willert requested Mr. DiSantis to advise the Board of the recent incident regarding the PennDOT project. Mr. DiSantis stated that on August 7th a contractor (R. E. Pierson) working for PennDOT struck our Eastern Force Main. This is a 36 inch force main that sends flow starting from the Central Delaware Pump Station passing it through to the Muckinipates Pump Station then on to the Darby Creek Pump Station. The line was properly marked. They were working well within any tolerances that are allowed. The contractor struck the force main while they were driving a piling. This incident occurred in the vicinity of the PennDOT project that is replacing the bridge over the Darby Creek on State Road 420. Our emergency contractor, A. J. Jurich, along with our staff built a small temporary pump station at the John Morton House Park. The Central Delaware County Authority interceptor is located in the same park so we could pump into that and that goes right back to our pump station. We were able to isolate one end of the line and we are working on isolating the other end of the line so we don't get back-feed from Philadelphia. We are still working on this daily but right now if we can't get that valve, we have a hot tap and valve insertion scheduled to be done by a company called Furmanite. Mr. DiSantis stated that we have all of the parts to repair the pipe but we cannot stop the flow totally. Furmanite has estimated it will take three

weeks to get the parts that would allow us to complete the repair and stop this bypass operation. Also, the bypass operation has a dialer connected to it, there is odor control there and there is fencing all around the area. He welcomed any of the Board members to visit the site or he can provide photos. Mr. Willert commended everyone involved in responding to this emergency situation and getting it under control in such a short period of time. Mr. DiSantis said it was a great team effort from all of the departments here. He explained the situation at the time. The overflow bubbled up out of the ground and went downhill at the side of the bank along the bridge and went right into the Darby Creek. An estimated 200 gallons a minute went into the Darby Creek. It took about seven hours to bring in all of the equipment needed to stop it and then work continued to fortify it and make the site safe. There were no complaints received about the odor but we wanted to address it early on so an odor system will be installed. He stated that a telephone dialer was added even though people were sent to monitor the pumps and the fuel for the last two days. The pumps are fueled up every day. There is also a light tower there so if anyone needs to be there at night, the area is well lit when the lights are turned on. Mr. DiSantis noted that all of the regulatory agencies were involved immediately and that PADEP issued a Notice of Violation to PennDOT for this incident.

5. MONTHLY REPORT – DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING: Mr. Hurst highlighted certain items in the written report. Regarding the CSO #5 project, he stated that it is expected to get restarted in a few weeks since we haven't been able to adapt the design in order to get past the PECO conflicts. It will require a Phase 2 amount of work to complete some separation work in order to accommodate the current PECO blockage. The small diameter piping project is on the Board agenda for a request to close out. That project went into the four large pump stations and replaced a fairly high number of pipes that were all small diameter that were built out of copper or galvanized materials that, over time, were beginning to corrode and possibly cause leakages and flood issues. They were all replaced with stainless steel so that project is now complete and will be closed out. Mr. Hurst stated that the Municipal I&I project continues on. We are moving into a few different areas and continuing to support various county efforts with respect to the Habitat for Humanity program. Regarding the UV project, we have evaluated three manufacturers and we plan to go to two additional site visits to view the equipment from these manufacturers, and the next step will be the procurement phase. Mr. Hurst noted that there is a request on the agenda for an increase in the On-Call Services Contract from CHA Engineers, formerly D'Huy Engineers. There are a number of tasks that fall under that contract. The ones that are particularly active right now are: working on a system to improve the stormwater management at the WRTP, a first flush capture system, so that when it rains, any of the paved areas that would naturally flow to the river would instead be contained after the first flush of rain and diverted into the wastewater plant for treatment, and only after that, the water would go to the river; working on an Emergency Response Plan for the Eastern Force Main; and some preparatory work has been done on the Muckinipates valve that we are trying to close in order to get it working. We are working on that now to try and isolate the leak. Mr. Hurst also mentioned the number of the regulatory filings that are listed on the report but nothing real active in that area. Mr. Hurst had no additional comments to the written report.

Ms. Keffer asked several questions about the Municipal Inflow Reduction – Phase 1 project: 1) are we telling people that this program will help Chester get out of bankruptcy and that they are also benefiting directly; 2) what does tank cleaning have to do with the municipal inflow; and 3) explain the Hatches for Safety Program. In response, Mr. Hurst stated that this project was bid with a broad scope including the lateral program and the plant services project so two of the things she mentioned fall under the plant services contract. The equipment that we use out in the field for the lateral replacement, such as the Vactor trucks, etc., is the same equipment that is used within the plant for when we take a tank down so the crews can go in and clean out the tanks before we go in to maintain them. That part was included in the Municipal Inflow Reduction project since the same equipment is used. Regarding the Hatch Safety Program, Mr. Hurst stated that program did start as part of the original plant service contract. There was a near-miss with one of the hatches and we identified that there is a step change that we can make with all of our hatches where we put secondary grading below the hatches so when you open up the lid, instead of seeing an open hole, you actually see a secondary grading below it so you don't fall through the hatch. Mr. Hurst explained that part started under the previous plant services contract and since it was ongoing work that followed through with this contract as well so we generically call it the Lateral Program but there are two large categories of work. The much bigger piece of work is the lateral program but it also includes plant services work. 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 this is the dry part of the year so flows are down. When the SWMM modeling was done in June, he noticed that the precipitation was off so those values were double-checked against the gauge at the Delaware County Pump Station. The check revealed that the DELCORA gauge recorded seven inches and the other recorded only two and a half inches. He stated that Weston reran the model before submitting it to DELCORA for that month. The DELCORA staff is working on making repairs to the gauge to get it back online and providing quality data. That will be double-checked each month against other gauges to make certain that it is solid data. Mr. Lehman also stated that the Metering Program is progressing well. Mr. Lehman had no additional comments to the written report. The Committee had no questions regarding the written report.

7. CHANGE ORDERS:

- Contract No. TEW-2206-C – Furnishing Equipment, Labor, & Supervision For Electrical Maintenance, Repairs & Other Construction-Related Projects – Change Order No. 2 – Increase In Contract Amount Due To \$110,218.00 Expenditure On Generators To Support Multiple Planned PECO-Requested Outages; The Remaining Funds In The Contract Are Allocated Towards Planned Preventative Maintenance Work And No Funds Remain In The Event Of An Emergency; 10% Of Original Contract Amount Requested In The Event Of Any Unforeseen Emergency Work – Increase In Contract Amount Of \$86,680.00 (Philips Brothers Electrical Contractors, Inc.)

Mr. Hurst stated that this change order addresses the issues with PECO taking out one of our two power supplies so we needed to rent generators in case PECO took out the other power supply. We've spent \$110,000 on generator rentals. There is a small amount of money left in the contract but we are requesting an additional \$86,680.00 for emergencies. This contract will renew in the next two months and go out for bid. In response to a question from Mr. Martin, Mr. Hurst stated that this contract ends in November and the amount requested will provide contingency funds and not be used for current bills. Also, this is a time and material contract and it may not even get spent.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend Board approval of the above change order. This item will be placed on the agenda for the August 20th Board meeting.

8. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF CONTRACT CLOSE-OUT & FINAL PAYMENT:

- Contract No. PS-2305-C – Piping & Hydraulic Mains Replacement At Several Pump Stations (S. J. Thomas Company, Inc.)

Mr. Hurst stated that this is a small diameter piping project that he described earlier during his report. It has reached final completion and is ready for closeout.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend Board approval of the above Contract Close Out and Final Payment. This item will be placed on the agenda for the August 20th Board meeting.

9. AUTHORIZATION FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

- A. Remington & Vernick Engineers – Proposal Dated July 16, 2024 – For Professional Engineering Services For Construction Bid Pricing Evaluation Services For Bids Received From The Keystone Purchasing Network (KPN) – Additional Specific Scope Of Services For The Multi-Facility Upgrades Project – Total Additional Amount Not To Exceed \$25,000.00 (Capital Funds)

Mr. Hurst stated that the KPN project is a competitively bid project through the state and as we assign tasks through the KPN, we are using Remington & Vernick to provide independent evaluation of those tasks. They will provide technical support to evaluate the proposals and the pricing received through KPN. Ms. Nichols asked if they are evaluating the proposals or are they evaluating the scope. Mr. Hurst responded that the job is bid on the state level so they are evaluating the bids but they are also evaluating task orders received from S. J. Thomas who is the KPN contractor that was successful in the public bid process in our area. When we receive a task order from S. J. Thomas, Remington & Vernick reviews that scope of work and evaluates it from an equity point of view, i.e. is the pricing reasonable, is the scope complete, are there any gaps. He also stated that we are using Remington & Vernick as an extension of the Engineering staff to evaluate the individual pricing we are getting.

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 August 20th Board meeting.

B. Catania Engineering – Proposal Dated July 1, 2024 – For Professional Engineering Services For The Review Of Planning Modules For 2024 – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$17,500.00 (Operating Funds)

Mr. Hurst stated that this proposal is for continual review of our planning modules when an entity needs capacity for new construction within our system. He also noted that there has been a great deal of building activity happening within the county. Ms. Nichols asked if the builders pay the fee for the assessment. Mr. Hurst responded 'yes'.

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 August 20th Board meeting.

C. Brown And Caldwell – Proposal Dated August 8, 2024 – For Professional Engineering Services To Provide Year 5 Reporting Of The Comprehensive Sewer System Infiltration And Inflow Control Program (Task Order No. 6) – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$354,904.00 (Capital Funds)

Mr. Hurst stated that this proposal is for Brown and Caldwell to do our Year 5 I&I report. For Year 5, we are doing a system-wide reassessment of all of the meter sheds. There are about 200 meters in the county that provide flow data. Historically, we use that data largely for building purposes but, in this case, we are using that data to evaluate the I&I in each individual meter shed. Generally, the reporting is not this large but because it is the Year 5 renewal, we are going back through all of the meters a second time. Last year, this proposal was \$229,000 and the year before that, it was \$198,000. The main focus of this is data analysis followed by generating a report that is submitted on April 1st. There are some tasks that follow after April 1st. This is a county-wide report and the data collected goes through a very detailed and sophisticated analysis to determine the leakiest locations. With the investments we've made, we expect to see some progress in a few areas.

Ms. Billings asked if this is an internal report or one that is sent to a regulatory agency. Mr. Hurst stated that this report is submitted to the state regulatory agency, the EPA, and all of the municipalities. She also asked if this was part of our Consent Decree. Mr. Hurst responded that, 'yes', it is in respect to the part of the Consent Decree that specifically mandates that we deal with both SSOs and CSOs, so this report relates to the SSO aspect. Additionally, Mr. Hurst noted that the state and the EPA have made it abundantly clear that we were not going to get an approved Long Term Control Plan unless DELCORA played a leadership role in county-wide I&I and that is what DELCORA has accomplished.

Ms. Nichols asked about the timeframe for studying the data. Mr. Hurst responded that it would include the wet period from the spring and further back but he did not have an exact date. It will also include the past set of storms even though it fell on pretty dry ground. Ms. Keffer asked if DELCORA has a list of the municipalities that have a sewer lateral ordinance. She mentioned in her first year as Upper Darby Mayor, a sewer lateral ordinance was passed. Mr. Hurst responded that there is a list but it is not 100% current and we need to go back through it again to confirm the status of each one. Ms. Billings

suggested contacting the Delaware County realtors since they know who has one and who does not. Mr. Hurst stated that he will get the list updated. Ms. Nichols added that it's one thing to have an ordinance but another to actually enforce it. She suggested checking with the permitting offices to find out if they are actually enforcing it at the time of sale.

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 August 20th Board meeting.

- D. CHA Consulting, Inc. (Formerly D'Huy Engineering) – Proposal Dated August 5, 2024 – For Professional On-Call Engineering Services For 2024-2025 – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$150,000.00 (Capital Funds)

Mr. Hurst stated that this proposal is the 'on call' contract that he mentioned earlier and it's been a while since we have renewed this contract.

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 August 20th Board meeting.

10. AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS:

- Contract No. TEW-2405-C – Furnishing Equipment, Labor & Supervision For Electrical Maintenance, Repairs & Other Construction Related Projects

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend Board approval of the above contract advertisement. This item will be placed on the agenda for the August 20th Board meeting.

11. AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE:

- Eastern Lift Truck Company – Quote Dated June 25, 2024 – For The Purchase Of A Hyster[®] H50a Lift Truck Through PA COSTARS Contract #008-E23-1242 – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$36,430.00 (Capital Funds)

Mr. DiSantis stated that this purchase is to replace the current forklift which has reached the end of its service life.

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 August 20th Board meeting.

- Reiner Pump Systems – Quote Dated July 25, 2024 – For The Purchase Of Two Submersible Pumps For The WRTP Storm System First Flush Capture Through PA COSTARS Vendor #359913 – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$7,120.00 (Capital Funds)

Mr. Hurst stated that this purchase is for several pumps to be located in vaults that will facilitate the first flush system that he described earlier during his report.

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 August 20th Board meeting.

- Edwin Elliot & Company – Quote Dated August 5, 2024 – For The Purchase Of Three (3) 16 Inch Wey Knife Gates With Rotork Actuators For The Muckinipates Pump Station Through PA COSTARS Contract #016-E23-297 – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$66,435.00 (Capital Funds)

Mr. Hurst stated that this purchase and the one below from Edwin Elliot are for valves for the Muckinipates Pump Station to go with the pump replacement being done there and the other purchase below is for the check valves; three for Muckinipates and one for Central; all related to the pump replacement work being performed at those two pump stations.

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 August 20th Board meeting.

- Edwin Elliot & Company – Quote Dated August 7, 2024 – For The Purchase Of Four (4) Ga Industries Flapper Check Valves For The Muckinipates Pump Station Through PA COSTARS Contract #016-E23-297 – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$43,140.00 (Capital Funds)

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 August 20th Board meeting.

- Watermark Environmental Systems – Quote Dated August 5, 2024 – For The Purchase Of Two (2) JWCE Muffin Monster Sewage Grinders For The WRTP Through JWCE PA COSTARS Contract #016-E23-282 – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$77,576.00 (Capital Funds)

Mr. DiSantis stated that this purchase is to add two grinders to the primary clarifier scum system. The primary clarifiers are the very first treatment unit at the WRTP and their purpose to get what easily settles and floats. The material that floats that comes in with wastewater needs to be ground up first because those materials are getting further down in the process and causing issues in another section of the process. If it is ground up first then it won't cause any further issues.

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 August 20th Board meeting.

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Mullen requested that the members of the Legal Liaison Committee remain for a brief meeting.

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