

**MINUTES**  
**OPERATIONS & ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 11, 2025 (VIRTUAL)**

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

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

The following were present: Mike Ewall. 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: 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 there were no NPDES violations at the WRTP; however, there was a suspended solids violation at the Pocopson Preserve plant. There were six reportable incidents during the month; four were for emissions and two were for dry weather SSOs. One of the SSOs was due to a significant Chester Water Authority water leak that entered the City’s stormwater system and then our collection system, discharging out one of our CSOs. The other SSO was caused by some excessive grease in a collection system at the Pocopson Preserve. The emissions incident was caused by a PECO power interruption, a failure of an 800 amp original service breaker, and a poppet valve failure. On the poppet valve, the unit was taken down to do the repair but had a RTO short stack opened before the full hour was completed after sludge is turned off so that results in an emissions report. Lastly, there was an issue with one of the gas regulators for natural gas that resulted in a RTO short stack opening. Mr. DiSantis also reported that very dry weather continued. As noted, we made permit; however, there was a process upset early in the month of January. We also continued to deal with a condition of excessive zooglear EPS growth and filamentous bacteria. Both of these conditions negatively affect process performance and settling.

Regarding solids handling and planned incinerator maintenance, both incinerators were in service 80% of the time and no cake was hauled to compost during the month. There are still issues with dewatering due to a step change in the pH of the sludge feed that is negatively affecting the ability of our dewatering polymer to work. He noted that we are planning to do a trial shortly on a different polymer. Regarding maintenance activities, Mr. DiSantis reported that Central Maintenance completed work orders were 56% corrective, and 44% planned and predicted with work order aging decreasing by 5%. He stated that Sewer Maintenance spent 14% of time on winter weather response. This led to only 10% of the time being spent on routine line cleaning and televising. Regarding the Hauled Waste business, he noted that we received 25.27 million gallons during the month. Mr. DiSantis had no additional comments to the written report. In

response to a question from Mr. Nagle regarding odor control work in Folcroft, Mr. DiSantis stated that we have a contractual obligation to operate the Montgomery Avenue Pump Station for Folcroft and we respond to 'on call' only requests for problems with the collection system. He noted that there was a recent emergency line blockage which may have been due to one industry that was putting an excessive amount of grease into the lines. 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. He noted various ongoing miscellaneous tasks were performed on both the Sewer Maintenance and Paving Restoration services projects. Regarding the Townsend Street project, he reported that Myers is performing pipe installation and, as part of that, we are relocating a CWA water line which requires an on-site inspection. We are working with CWA to accommodate their staffing limitations. Concerning the I&I Reduction Program, Mr. Hurst stated that there were 134 feet of lateral replacement at nine addresses in Collingdale and Woodlyn. Also, some covers were replaced in Swarthmorewood, Woodlyn, and Crum Lynne sections in Ridley Township. Reporting on the Long Term Control Plan, Mr. Hurst stated that we received additional feedback from our contact, Mike Greenwald, at EPA that they are making progress with reviewing our latest proposal. We have received positive reviews and we have a call scheduled with Mr. Greenwald next Tuesday to determine next steps with respect to updates to the actual Long Term Control Plan. We have a draft document that we have been sharing so we are going to start mapping out what the formal update process looks like. Regarding the UV project, Mr. Hurst reported that we are midway through a pilot test of one of the manufacturers. In order to keep the lamps clean, they have a wiper technology that we were not confident would be able to work with our effluent. So, we have implemented a pilot to test that wiping technology to keep the quartz sleeves clean. We are part way through that pilot and, so far, the results look really good. We are going to send the quartz sleeves that we removed off the testing lab to actually test how much light is still going through them and through the second half of the test.

Mr. Hurst stated that the T-27 and Odor Control project is currently out for public bid and bids will be opened at the March O&E Committee meeting. There is also a set of bid documents out for bid to get equipment pre-purchase prices from three manufacturers for the UV equipment. We will likely proceed with doing a purchase order for them to start manufacturing that equipment to keep the schedule moving along. Mr. Hurst reported that Corrosion Probe is a consulting company that we use for corrosion protection matters and corrosion repair. They are currently in the middle of doing some detail work for us for an entirely different series of repairs in the primary clarifier and grit tanks. Those areas get a lot of corrosion just because of their location in the process and they are in need of some upkeep and repair. He noted that there is an item on the agenda for consideration for some additional design fees for Corrosion Probe. Mr. Hurst also mentioned that work continues on various land acquisition matters, such as the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Dock Street property with the City to define where the actual delineation of the land is going to occur. There is a title matter that the City is working on in order to get that to a final agreement of sale. Mr. Hurst noted that the annual PCB Report is due soon. This

report is sent to the DRBC and it presents the data that we've collected over the year on PCB influent and effluent, and also on best management practices. The data was sent to the consultant for generating that report so that will be coming out soon. Lastly, Mr. Hurst stated that we have extended our conversation with PADEP regarding our "10% rule" for our disinfection permit. He noted that we are optimistic that working with PADEP Harrisburg in being able to convert to a 10% rule all year long, which is consistent with most other states across the country. We continue to discuss this with PADEP. Mr. Hurst had no additional comments to the written report.

Mr. Nagle asked about the lack of access to the Monroe property. Mr. Hurst stated that they do not want us to sample the property for fear the deal will not go through and if tested, the results would be subject to scrutiny. That matter is on hold but we are considering other parcels that may be available to us. Ms. Nichols asked if that was identified a superfund site. Mr. Hurst responded that during phase one that it was not but there is one on the other side of the tracks where Rt. 291 turns. The Committee had no other questions regarding the written report.

4. 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 noted how dry the fall was but in December, there were nearly 3 inches of precipitation which is more typical of a year so flows were up in December. The DELCORA staff is in the process of replacing the rain gauge at the WRTP because, somehow, it was double-counting precipitation. The new gauge is coming in very shortly and will be installed. Mr. Lehman's recommendation is to run it for a month or so and compare it against the other gauges around the area to make sure that we are comfortable with the data before we use it in the model. Mr. Hurst confirmed that the gauge is onsite and being installed. Mr. Lehman reported that the Metering Program continues to proceed with no issues. He will provide annual summaries to several municipalities which they use at this time of year for their Chapter 94 reports. Under General Engineering, he noted that Weston has been supporting the DELCORA staff with some mapping with respect to some requests for information from the Delaware River Basin Commission. It was challenging to sort through and understand where the hauled waste originated.

Continuing, Mr. Lehman stated that the EDU program is proceeding ahead and that he has just received the tax parcel information from the county. The county provided no breakdown of the different land uses so he has to consolidate the data to get a reasonable number of land uses. He also noted that Weston has a GeoExplorer site set up to review and pare down the data. A GeoExplorer site will be provided to DELCORA once the data is more manageable. Mr. Lehman stated that the annual Chapter 94 report is proceeding ahead with some data being received but the municipal reports have not been received yet but are expected in the next two to three weeks. Mr. Lehman had no additional comments to the written report. The Committee had no questions regarding the written report.

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

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

10. AUTHORIZATION FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

- A. CEMTEK Systems – Proposal Dated November 15, 2024 – For Professional Services To Provide CEMS Maintenance Service (Quarterly, Semi-Annual And Annual Services For 2025) – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$17,225.00 (Operating Funds)

Mr. DiSantis stated that this proposal is just for the routine services for our Continuous Emissions Monitoring System.

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 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- B. CEMTEK Systems – Proposal Dated January 21, 2025 – For Professional Services To Provide Relative Accuracy Test Audits (RATAS) Of Two CEMS Systems – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$12,210.00 (Operating Funds)

Mr. DiSantis stated that this proposal is for the Relative Accuracy Test Audit. The audit ensures that we are using the right gas to maintain the CEMS.

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 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- C. Corrosion Probe, Inc. – Proposal Dated January 30, 2025 – For Professional Services For Continued On-Call Services For Corrosion And Materials Engineering, Testing, And Consulting Services Including Development Of Specs And Details To Repair The Primary Tanks – Total Additional Amount Not To Exceed \$75,000.00 (Capital Funds)

Mr. Hurst stated that he mentioned this earlier in his report. This is an on-call contract and it is used very often for various corrosion matters. Right now, we are working on the primary clarifier and it will cost about \$15,000 to develop those details which is just a piece of the overall project.

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 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- D. Iron Horse Environmental – Proposal Dated February 3, 2025 – For Professional Services To Provide Class I Service For Each Of The Four Howden Blowers Over A Period Of Five Years Through PA COSTARS Contract #016-E22-258 – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$173,394.14 (Operating Funds)

Mr. DiSantis stated that we have four Turbplex brand blowers. Turbplex was bought by Howden. New Turbplex blowers cost over \$1 million each and they are the center of our

aeration system. This proposal is for a Five Year Service Plan that will service a minimum of one blower per year and that includes parts and travel. The technicians come from Missouri where the factory is located and stay for one week.

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 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- E. Iron Horse Environmental – Proposal Dated February 3, 2025 – For Professional Services To Provide Additional Howden Blower Service Through PA COSTARS Contract #016-E22-258 – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$11,977.90 (Operating Funds)

Mr. DiSantis stated that this proposal is for Class II service which, if needed, would be coordinated and scheduled at the same time as the Class I service as noted above. Class II service is much more in depth.

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 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

#### 11. AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS:

- Contract No. TR-2501-O – Pocopson Riverside Biosolids Removal Project

Mr. DiSantis stated that this project will be the first time that the treatment lagoon will be cleaned at Pocopson Riverside. That plant went into service 17 years ago.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend Board approval of the above Authorization to Advertise for Bids. This item will be placed on the agenda for the February 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

#### 12. AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE:

- Sherwood Logan & Associates – Ovivo Proposal #Q1434.2-KB Dated January 15, 2025 – For The Purchase Of Fifty (50) New Aeration Tank Diffusers Through PA COSTARS Contract #016-E23-290 – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$62,837.00 (Capital Funds)

Mr. Hurst stated that this is for replacement aeration panels. We keep an inventory of spares on site and, as panels fail, we go into the tanks and replace them. This purchase is to restock our supply of spares.

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 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- Industrial Controls Distributors – Relevant Quote #1553006 Dated January 15, 2025 – For The Purchase Of PLCs, Input/Output (I/O) Cards, I/O Backplanes, And Related SCADA Equipment Through PA COSTARS Contract #016-E22-272 (Industrial Controls Is A Sole Source Vendor For Ge Automation / Emerson Products) – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$83,429.60 (Capital Funds)

Mr. DiSantis stated that we are standardized on GE Emerson for all our PLCS. This purchase is to stock up on PLCS, backplanes, I/O boards, and other typical items that are needed during the service of our PLC system.

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 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- Iron Horse Environmental – Proposal #24-1015-HD.4 Dated February 3, 2025 – For The Purchase Of Recommended Spare Parts For Inventory For Class II Service Through PA COSTARS Contract #016-E22-258 – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$59,554.95 (Capital Funds)

Mr. DiSantis stated that this purchase is for the parts for a Class II service on one of the blowers later this year and because of the 10 to 12 week lead time, we would like to buy these parts now.

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 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- Nadler Modular – Proposal Dated February 5, 2025 – For The Purchase Of One Newly Constructed Modular Building Through TIPS Contract #24020201 – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$161,488.00 (Capital Funds)

Mr. Hurst stated that this is for a modular office that will be used for the hauled waste staff where all the truckers go to deliver their samples and check in. They currently reside in a building which is going to be repurposed for the odor control project that's out on the street for bid. He noted that we have done business with Nadler before and the TIPS contract is a cooperative purchasing program similar to COSTARS.

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 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

- Iron Horse Environmental – Proposal #25-0207-RM Dated February 7, 2025 – For The Purchase Of Three (3) Roots Blowers Through PA COSTARS Contract #016-E22-258 – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$101,358.00 (Capital Funds)

Mr. DiSantis stated that this is to add one blower to the remaining three sludge holding tanks. In 2024, as a test, a blower was added to one holding tank which reduced all of the sulfides and we were able to stop adding a particular chemical that was used to address that.

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 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved by Ms. Keffer, seconded by Mr. Martin, and unanimously carried to adjourn the regular meeting at 4:00 p.m.