

DELAWARE COUNTY REGIONAL
WATER QUALITY CONTROL AUTHORITY
100 EAST FIFTH STREET
CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA 19013

MINUTES

MARCH 18, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Delaware County Regional Water Quality Control Authority was held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 3:30 P.M. The meeting was held in the Board Room of the Administration Building at 100 East Fifth Street, Chester, Pennsylvania and virtually via Zoom.com.

REGULAR
MEETING

Messrs. Kern, Martin, Moss, Mullen, Nagle, Schuster, Mesdames Billings, Keffer, and Nichols Board Members, constituting a quorum were present.

ROLL CALL

Messrs. Cartafalsa, Cherico, DiSantis, Hurst, Lehman, Rice, Swope, Willert, Mesdames Amadio, Bonnett, Byrd, Caulk, Fitzgerald, and Jackson were also present.

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE: The following were present: B. Preston Lyles and Gregory Cary. No other members of the public were present.

PUBLIC
ATTENDANCE

Mr. Kern, Chairman, called the meeting to Order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all parties present.

PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE

ORDER OF BUSINESS

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: Mr. Kern stated that there were no comments or questions received from the public.

PUBLIC

As mentioned in an earlier committee meeting, Mr. Kern stated that he read in the PMAA Authority magazine that employee Clint Swope has received the PaWARN Gold Star Award and he asked Mr. DiSantis to explain that further. Mr. DiSantis stated the PaWARN stands for the Pennsylvania Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network. He noted it is a mutual aid organization made up of public and private sector water and wastewater utilities. The purpose of the organization is to assist each other when there is an emergency. Mr. DiSantis stated during a 2024 emergency request from a water system in southwestern Pennsylvania, Clint Swope, our new Director of Maintenance, responded. The utility had a major power failure requiring the replacement of high voltage cable. The utility's local electrical equipment supplier said it would take a week to get the

RECOGNITION
OF CLINT
SWOPE

cable. Clint Swope, of the two DELCORA representatives to PaWARN, contacted one of DELCORA's electrical equipment suppliers and facilitated the delivery of the needed cable to the water system. As a result of his actions, PaWARN recognized Clint with their annual Gold Star Award. The award is given to an individual who went above and beyond during an emergency.

Mr. Swope thanked the Board for acknowledging the award and said that we use the PaWARN notifications for critical warnings, especially about bad weather, so there is a plan for crews working through storm events. This particular notice stood out to him and he thought he could help them out. Mr. DiSantis also stated that we get critical infrastructure warnings that are not necessarily public information but it helps us in assessing situations, especially potential cyber threats. He said Clint is definitely an asset here at DELCORA. Mr. Kern noted that he has been involved in the wastewater business for about fifty years and has traveled overseas meeting with people in their sewage treatment plants. He said the basic motivation is protecting the public health and the environment, and that we are willing to help each other. It shows the professionalism of the staff here and he wanted to bring the Board's attention to the great things our staff is doing. He thanked the staff and said the Board appreciates their efforts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: It was moved by Ms. Keffer, seconded by Ms. Billings, and unanimously carried that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 18, 2025, be approved as submitted.

APPROVAL
OF MINUTES

REPORTS:

REPORTS

1. COMMITTEES:

COMMITTEES

a. Human Resources and Administration. Ms. Nichols stated that the Committee met on March 10, 2025. There were no additions to the meeting minutes.

Human Resources
and Administration

b. Strategic Planning and Goals. Mr. Kern stated that the Committee met on March 10, 2025. There were no additions to the meeting minutes.

Strategic, Planning
& Goals

c. Operations and Engineering. Mr. Mullen stated that the Committee met on March 11, 2025. He noted items requiring Board action would be considered later in the agenda. There were no additions to the meeting minutes.

Operations and
Engineering

d. Finance. Mr. Nagle stated that the Committee met on March 12, 2025. There were no additions to the meeting minutes.

Finance

- e. Pension. Mr. Martin stated that there was no formal meeting of the Pension Committee and had nothing to report at this time. He did confirm the report from February that the Pension Plan is 116% funded per the report from our independent Financial Advisor as of the end of December 2024. Pension
- f. Legal Liaison. Ms. Billings stated that she had no report at this time but there will be an Executive Session to provide an update on the Chester bankruptcy proceedings. Legal Liaison
2. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kern stated that DELCORA is preparing to contact the Philadelphia Water Department to initiate our discussions for an extension of our service agreement. He stated that we have also been in contact with Aqua regarding that and invited them to join us. He reported that we have had some preliminary discussions with PENNVEST for funding capital projects. Also, he noted that there will be Executive Session to discuss litigation issues. CHAIRMAN
3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Mr. Willert stated that there were no additions to the written report. However, he did mention that BoardPaq is going out of business and this is the last month that we can use that service. He stated that Pam Caulk knew of this and she searched for a similar type service. She and her team found a service called Diligent Community. Ms. Caulk stated that we are ready to transition from BoardPaq to Diligent in April. She stated that everyone will receive an email with log-in information and she will follow up with instructions and a few white-sheets. She told the Board to contact her or the Admin team if they have any questions. Ms. Caulk also wanted to thank Brianna Garner and Jim Cartafalsa for their participation in this effort. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
4. DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING: Mr. Hurst stated that there were no additions to the written report. DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING
5. DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE: Mr. DiSantis stated that there were no additions to the written report. DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE
6. SOLICITOR: Mr. Rice stated that he will review some items in Executive Session. He also noted that he is putting some information together on the Open Records Act because of some recent requests that we received. He is also reviewing the Sunshine Act because many of the cases are intertwined so he wants to provide the Board with that guidance so everyone understands what is a public record and what is not a public record. Mr. Rice said if anyone has any specific questions on either of those topics to email him over the next week or so and he will address them in a memo. He had nothing further to report at this time. SOLICITOR

OPERATING FUND PAYMENTS:

OPERATING
FUND PAYMENTS

1. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT: Mr. Cherico stated that there were no additions to the written report.

CHIEF FINANCIAL
OFFICER

2. PAYMENT OF BILLS:

PAYMENT
OF BILLS

Approval of Operating Statement, Statement of Fund Balances, and List of Bills for the month of February 2025.

It was moved by Ms. Billings, seconded by Ms. Keffer, and unanimously carried that the statement and the list of bills in the amount of \$5,235,244.42 for the month of February 2025 contained in the Chief Financial Officer report be approved.

CONSTRUCTION FUND PAYMENTS:

CONSTRUCTION
FUND PAYMENTS

1. ENGINEERING ADVISOR'S REPORT: Mr. Lehman stated that there were no additions to the written report.

ENGINEERING
ADVISOR

2. CHANGE ORDERS:

CHANGE ORDERS

• Contract No. PF-2406-C – Multi-Facility Upgrades – Change Order No. 1 – Increase In Contract Amount Of \$271,780.00 For Additional Work Including Industrial Painting And Valves – (S. J. Thomas Company) (Capital Funds) (Original Contract Amount \$5,101,846.90). Mr. Kern stated that this contract change order was discussed at the Operations and Engineering Committee meeting, and it was the consensus of the committee to recommend Board approval.

Contract No.
PF-2406-C
Multi-Facility
Upgrades
CO #1

It was moved by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Mr. Moss, and unanimously carried to approve this contract change order.

• Contract No. TC-2304-C – WRTP Structural Painting – Change Order No. 1 – Decrease In Contract Amount Of \$38,867.00 For Final Close Out – (S. J. Thomas Company) (Capital Funds) (Original Contract Amount \$425,000.00). Mr. Kern stated that this contract change order was discussed at the Operations and Engineering Committee meeting, and it was the consensus of the committee to recommend Board approval.

Contract No.
TC-2304-C
WRTP Structural
Painting
CO #1

It was moved by Mr. Moss, seconded by Ms. Nichols, and unanimously carried to approve this contract change order.

• Contract No. SEW-2402-C – Municipal Inflow Reduction-Phase 1 – Change Order No. 1 – Decrease In Contract Amount Of \$59,868.71 And Decrease In Contract Time Of 318 Days For Final Close Out (S. J. Thomas Company) (Capital Funds) (Original

Contract No.
SEW-2402-C
Municipal Inflow
Reduction-Phase 1
CO #1

Contract Amount Of \$5,196,175.10). Mr. Kern stated that this contract change order was discussed at the Operations and Engineering Committee meeting, and it was the consensus of the committee to recommend Board approval.

It was moved by Ms. Billings, seconded by Ms. Keffer, and unanimously carried to approve this contract change order.

- Contract No. SC-2101-C – Townsend Street CSO #5 Partial Separation Project – Change Order No. 1 – Increase In Contract Time Of 553 Days Due To PECO Electric Conflicts And Relocation (That Were Not Accurately Represented In Their Design Drawings) Affecting Original Design – No Change In Contract Amount – New Contract Completion Date August 29, 2025 (Allan Myers) (Capital Funds) (Original Contract Completion Date February 23, 2024). Mr. Kern stated that this contract change order was discussed at the Operations and Engineering Committee meeting, and it was the consensus of the committee to recommend Board approval.

Contract No.
SC-2101-C
Townsend St. CSO
#5 Partial
Separation
CO #1

It was moved by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Mullen, and unanimously carried to approve this contract change order.

3. CONTRACT CLOSEOUT AND FINAL PAYMENT APPROVAL:
Mr. Kern stated that there were no Contract Closeouts at this time.

CONTRACT
CLOSEOUT

4. PAYMENT OF BILLS:

PAYMENT OF
BILLS

It was moved by Mr. Schuster, seconded by Ms. Billings, and unanimously carried as follows: (a) that the bills of contractors, engineers and others for construction costs, engineering services and related costs under the Renewal & Replacement Fund in the amount of \$3,084,737.70 are hereby approved; and (b) the requisitions on the Renewal & Replacement Fund under the Trust Indenture with TD Bank, in payment of said bills, are hereby approved pending approval by the Treasurer, and the proper officers be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute same.

AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE CONTRACTS: Mr. Kern stated that there were no Authorizations to Advertise Contracts at this time.

AUTHORIZATION
TO ADVERTISE
CONTRACTS

AWARD OF CONTRACTS:

AWARD OF
CONTRACTS

- Contract No. P2025-01 – Dewatered Solids Transportation, Stabilization, And Beneficial Use/Disposal Services. Mr. Kern stated that four bids were received and the low bidder was Synagro/EPIC with a bid amount of \$3,121,559.72; however, the solicitor's review found the following discrepancy. He could not tell from the pdf copy

Contract No.
P2025-01
Disposal Svcs.

he received if Synagro affixed their corporate seal to the bid. He stated that this is a minor omission that could be corrected after the fact or waived.

It was moved by Mr. Nagle, seconded by Mr. Mullen, and unanimously carried to award Contract No. P2025-01 to Synagro/EPIC in the amount of \$3,121,559.72 pending confirmation of the corporate seal being affixed to its bid.

- Contract No. P2025-02 – Lawn Mowing & Maintenance Services. Mr. Kern stated that one bid was received from Deerfield Mowing and Property Maintenance with a bid amount of \$89,940.00; however, the solicitor's review found the following discrepancies. He could not tell from the pdf copy he received if Deerfield Mowing affixed their corporate seal to the bid and the president's signature was not attested to on the bid form. He stated that these omissions are minor and could be corrected after the fact or waived.

Contract No.
P2025-02
Lawn Svcs.

It was moved by Ms. Billings, seconded by Ms. Keffer, and unanimously carried to award Contract No. P2025-02 to Deerfield Mowing and Property Maintenance in the amount of \$89,940.00 pending confirmation of the corporate seal being affixed to its bid and the "attest" signature added to the bid form.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Kern stated that there was no Old Business at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS

1. Authorization for Professional Services: (Capital Funds)

Authorization for
Professional
Services

A. S. J. Thomas Company – Proposal Dated March 6, 2025 – For Professional Services For Pocopson Riverside Biosolids Removal & Disposal – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$208,325.00 (Capital Funds). Mr. Kern stated that this item was discussed at the Operations and Engineering Committee meeting, and it was the consensus of the committee to recommend Board approval.

S. J. Thomas
Pocopson Riverside
Biosolids Removal &
Disposal

It was moved by Mr. Martin, seconded by Ms. Nichols, and unanimously carried to approve this Professional Services proposal.

B. Carollo Engineers – Proposal Dated March 7, 2025 – For Professional Engineering Services For WRTP Grit Handling System Evaluation – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$90,000.00 (Capital Funds). Mr. Kern stated that this item was discussed at the Operations and Engineering Committee meeting, and it was the consensus of the committee to recommend Board approval.

Carollo Eng.
WRTP Grit Handling
System Evaluation

It was moved by Ms. Billings, seconded by Mr. Mullen, and unanimously carried to approve this Professional Services proposal.

C. Colliers Engineering & Design – Proposal Dated March 7, 2025 – For Professional Services For The Preparation Of A Boundary Survey Of The 2nd And Dock Street Parcel – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$6,850.00 (Capital Funds). Mr. Kern stated that this item was discussed at the Operations and Engineering Committee meeting, and it was the consensus of the committee to recommend Board approval.

Colliers Eng./Design
Boundary Survey
2nd & Dock Street
Parcel

It was moved by Mr. Mullen, seconded by Ms. Keffer, and unanimously carried to approve this Professional Services proposal.

D. Remington & Vernick Engineers – Proposal Dated February 26, 2025 – For Professional Engineering Services To Provide Design Services For The Crum Creek Force Main And LTCP-Related Conveyance Investigation – Total Amount Not To Exceed \$1,038,710.00 (Capital Funds). Mr. Kern stated that this item was discussed at the Operations and Engineering Committee meeting, and it was the consensus of the committee to recommend Board approval.

Remington & Vernick
Design Svcs. For
Crum Creek FM &
LTCP-Related
Conveyance
Investigation

It was moved by Mr. Nagle, seconded by Mr. Mullen, and unanimously carried to approve this Professional Services proposal.

In response to a question from Ms. Billings, Mr. Hurst confirmed that three different proposals were received and analyzed, and Remington & Vernick was the best qualified all around. Mr. Kern added that, unlike construction contracts, the best qualified professional service is not always the cheapest but chosen by primary qualifications.

2. Authorization for Professional Services: (Operating Funds)

Authorization for
Professional
Services

A. SEWERAI – Proposal Dated February 25, 2025 – 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. Kern stated that this item was discussed at the Operations and Engineering Committee meeting, and it was the consensus of the committee to recommend Board approval.

SEWERAI
AI-Assisted Sewer
Condition
Assessment

It was moved by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Mullen, and unanimously carried to approve this Professional Services proposal.

Mr. Kern noted that not many organizations use artificial intelligence for this type of work. Mr. DiSantis said that Jim Cartafalsa has been leading this effort the last few years. SEWERAI is not the first

company we have used but have used them the last several years and for the same price. Based on feedback he has received, it does a very good job in evaluating the conditions of the sewer lines. They run a camera through and videotape the sewer lines, and then AI evaluates it using a rating system. Using AI is faster, very accurate and more cost-effective than performing this task manually.

B. Chavond-Barry Engineering – Proposal Dated March 7, 2025 – For Professional Engineering Services For 2025 Stack Testing– Total Amount Not To Exceed \$202,780.00 (Operating Funds). Mr. Kern stated that this item was discussed at the Operations and Engineering Committee meeting, and it was the consensus of the committee to recommend Board approval.

Chavond-Barry
2025 Stack Testing

It was moved by Ms. Nichols, seconded by Ms. Keffer, and unanimously carried to approve this Professional Services proposal.

3. Authorization To Purchase: Mr. Kern stated that there were no Authorizations to Purchase at this time.

Authorization To
Purchase

There being no further business before the Board, it was moved by Ms. Keffer, seconded by Ms. Billings, and unanimously carried to begin the Executive Session at 4:01 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: There was an Executive Session held to discuss the Chester bankruptcy litigation.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

Board member Mr. Kenneth Schuster did not participate in the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved by Ms. Keffer, seconded by Ms. Nichols, and unanimously carried to adjourn the regular meeting after the Executive Session at 4:31 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

ATTEST
Secretary