Burrillville Sewer Commission

Regular Meeting of April 11, 2023

Board Room of the BWWTF

Members Present: William Andrews – Chairman

Richard Nolan – Vice Chairman

Gary Rouleau – Commission Member

Daniel Joubert – Commission Member

Also Present: James Dyment – Consulting Engineer

Dennis Anderson – Town Council Liaison

Michael Emond – Superintendent

Stacey Richard – Office Manager

**Agenda Item –** The question of accepting the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 14, 2023 and the question of dispensing with the reading of said Minutes.

**Voted –** Mr. Nolan made a motion to accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 14, 2023 and to dispense with the reading of said Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rouleau. All in favor, so voted.

**Public Comment –** None

**Correspondence: 23-09-01 –** Letter from Bruce Tancrede, President, Harrisville Spring Lake Campers Inc., requesting to gift Plat 110 Lot 004 to the Sewer Commission. The Commission currently has an easement on this property for a sewer line and manholes.

Mr. Andrews stated that this property is on Cove Road and is non-buildable. Mr. Andrews suggested that the land should be gifted to the Town of Burrillville.

**Voted –** Mr. Rouleau made a motion to send a letter to Mr. Tancrede suggesting that the land be gifted to the Town of Burrillville. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nolan. All in favor, so voted.

**New Business:** Discuss and take possible action on Extension of Agreement for Professional Services between the Burrillville Sewer Commission and Beta Group, Inc.

* Email from Michael Emond, Superintendent dated 2/21/2023
* Beta – BSC Executed Agreement
* General Engineering Services RFP-Q

**Voted –** Mr. Nolan made a motion to extend the Agreement of Professional Services between the Burrillville Sewer Commission and Beta Group, Inc. for two (2) years and authorize the Chairman to sign the Agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Joubert. All in favor, so voted.

Final Audit from Marcum LLP for Fiscal Year 2022

**Voted –** Mr. Nolan made a motion to receive and file the final audit report from Marcum LLP. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rouleau. All in favor, so voted.

Discuss Synagro and sludge disposal issues recently making the news and planning for the future

There was some discussion regarding the future of sludge disposal.

Discussion on safety measures for the Sewer Commission office and building

There was some discussion regarding various safety measure options, such as cameras and door buzzers.

Discuss and take possible action on 22-24 Spring Lake Road. Property may not be connected to the sanitary sewer system.

Ms. Richard explained that it is uncertain whether or not this property ever completed the connection to the sanitary sewer system. The property was assessed, but has never been billed for usage. There is a note on the connection plan stating that the plumbing was unfinished.

**Voted –** Mr. Andrews made a motion to refer this issue to Attorney Tim Kane to draft a letter to the resident. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nolan. All in favor, so voted.

RICWA Gold Award announcement – Annual Awards Banquet May 12, 2023

Mr. Emond stated that there is a dinner offered for award winners who are members of RICWA and requested that the BSC pay for tickets for any operators who would like to attend the dinner. Mr. Andrews stated that he would like to attend the dinner as well.

Presentation of Superintendent’s Budget Proposal for FY2024 Budget.

Mr. Emond presented three (3) different versions of the proposed budget for FY2024, including one with no increase to user charges and one with an additional employee. There was some discussion on this matter. Mr. Nolan recommended that Mr. Emond revise the budget to include an additional employee for six (6) months.

Memo from Michael Emond, Superintendent, regarding tentative schedule of Public Hearings for FY2024 Budget.

**Voted –** Mr. Joubert made a motion to hold the Public Hearings on May 23, 2023 at 6:30 PM and June 13, 2023 at 6:30 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rouleau. All in favor, so voted.

**Old Business:** Discuss and take possible action on tardiness policy

**Voted –** Mr. Joubert made a motion to adopt the tardiness policy for the BSC office staff only. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rouleau. All in favor, so voted.

**Invoices –** None

**Engineer’s Report:** RIIB (Account CW # - BURR-CW-FY22)

RI Infrastructure Bank – Pay Request #13 in the amount of $5,490.00

Exhibit A – Project Payment Requisition Form

Exhibit F – Wage Rate Requirement Certification Form

Exhibit G – Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters

Exhibit H – American Iron and Steel Certification

**Voted –** Mr. Nolan made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign and pay RI Infrastructure Bank Pay Request #13 in the amount of $5,490.00, including Exhibits A, F, G & H. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rouleau. All in favor, so voted.

RIIB (Account CW # - BURR-CW-FY22)

RI Infrastructure Bank – Pay Request #14 in the amount of $11,044.00

Exhibit A – Project Payment Requisition Form

Exhibit F – Wage Rate Requirement Certification Form

Exhibit G – Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters

Exhibit H – American Iron and Steel Certification

**Voted –** Mr. Joubert made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign and pay RI Infrastructure Bank Pay Request #14 in the amount of $11,044.00, including Exhibits A, F, G & H. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nolan. All in favor, so voted.

RIDEM Project Priority List Submission

Mr. Dyment reviewed the project list that he created in conjunction with Mr. Emond, based on projects that may potentially need to be done. The list does not determine which projects will be done, but projects that may need to be done.

Proposed Task Order No. 17 – GIS/Asset Management Services

Mr. Dyment stated that Mr. Emond asked him to work on creating a system that will computerize maps of the sewer system that will be accessible online.

**Voted –** Mr. Nolan made a motion to authorize Task Order No. 17 for GIS/Asset Management Services. The motion was seconded by Mr. Joubert. All in favor, so voted.

Headworks RIDEM Review Update

Mr. Dyment stated that he is waiting to hear from RIDEM on Friday, April 14, 2023.

PAC Trial Reporting Discussion

Mr. Dyment stated that he will have a report on the PAC Trial next month.

**Voted –** Mr. Joubert made a motion to accept the Engineer’s Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rouleau. All in favor, so voted.

**Attorney’s Report:** None

**Superintendent’s Report:**

Report for the month of February, 2023

**1. WWTF OPERATIONS**

1. Influent to Treatment Facility – MGD

Average Daily Flow = 0.9566

Maximum Daily Flow = 1.2880 on 01-Feb

Minimum Daily Flow = 0.7670 on 19-Feb

Percent Average

Removal Concentration

1. Biochemical Oxygen Demand

EPA / DEM Permit Requirement = 85.0% min 30.0 mg/L

February achieved = 98.5% 3.1 mg/L

1. Total Suspended Solids

EPA / DEM Permit Requirement = 85.0% 30.0 mg/L

February achieved = 98.8% 2.9 mg/L

1. Total Phosphorus

EPA / DEM Permit Requirement = N/A 1.0 mg/L

February achieved = 78.2% 0.80 mg/L

1. Total Ammonia

EPA / DEM Permit Requirement = N/A 20.0 mg/L

February achieved = 63.3% 7.3 mg/L

1. Total Copper

EPA / DEM Permit Requirement = N/A 8.0 ug/L

February achieved = 96.8% 5.7 ug/L

1. Disposed Sludge

Dry Tons Disposed of = 24.75

Number of Loads Removed = 21

Average Dry Tons / Load = 1.18

Permit Excursions

There were no permit excursions to report for February 2022.

The most recent permit excursions were two permit excursions reported in the month of October 2022, both for daily maximum Copper. The first excursion was on October 6th and the second on October 13th with the results reported as 16.1 ug/L and 11.4 ug/L respectively. The daily maximum Copper limit is 10.6 ug/L.

Callout Alarms

There were seven (7) callout alarms at the wastewater treatment facility for February 2022.

2/3/23 – Low Initial Chlorine Residual – Area power outage caused glitch at plant, which further caused brief hypochlorite feed interruption. Residual back to normal when crew arrived.

2/12/23 – Low Initial Chlorine Residual – Hypochlorite pump #1 discharging into pressure relief vessel. Pressure relief valve replaced.

2/18/23 – Low Initial Chlorine Residual – Hypochlorite pump was not pumping. Debris in ball check. Flushed pump with water. Still would not pump. Took head apart and found head cracked. Replaced with new head, diaphragm, seats and balls. Balls were still getting stuck with debris causing pump not to pump. Took apart again and cleaned. Returned to normal.

2/19/23 – Final Chlorine Alarm – Found bisulfite pump #1 air bound, building no pressure. Purged lines and removed air from pump. Returned to normal.

2/19/23 – Low Initial Chlorine Alarm – Hypo pump #2 slipping, not pumping consistently. Cleaned Initial Analyzer. Flushed Hypo pump #2 with water. Exercised stroke on pump, set at 80. Purged air from lines. Returned to normal.

2/24/23 & 2/26/23 – Low Initial Chlorine Residual – Returned to normal before crew arrived. Purged Hypo pumps. Cleaned and flushed Initial Chlorine analyzer.

**2. COLLECTION SYSTEM OPERATIONS**

There were five (5) after hour collection systems call-in responses for the month of February 2023. Find the call-in table below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Location | Nature of Call / Alarm Condition | Issue Found |
| 2/3/23 | Eagle Peak PS, South Main Street PS, Beach Road ES, Rock Avenue ES and Maplehill Mobile Home Park PS | Power Outage / Loss of Power | Area power outage. Power back on. Checked stations. |
| 2/4/23 | Reservoir Road PS | Bubbler Air Alarm | Bubbler air malfunction. Bled air and checked for condensation. Inspected rotometer. All working. Reset alarm. |
| 2/4/23 | Maplehill Mobile Home Park PS | High Wet Well | Floats encrusted with grease and rags. Removed debris from floats. |
| 2/9/23 | Beach Road ES | High Wet Well | Purged pumps and emptied wet well. |
| 2/12/23 | Beach Road ES | High Wet Well | Rags. Purged pumps. Pumped down wet well. Removed rags. |

**3. OTHER ACTIVITIES & CURRENT ISSUES**

2/1/23 – Completed the EPA 503 Reg Sludge Report for 2022 on CDX website.

2/2/23 – Bob Kooharian of Holland Co. on site to perform jar tests so we can send out samples to Phoenix to run aluminum in preparation for Poly Aluminum Chloride (PAC) trial.

2/2/23 – RIDEM monthly inspection performed by Jack Segal.

2/7/23 – Completed the Tier 2 report for 2022 and submitted to RIDEM, LECP 1 and Oakland-Mapleville Fire District.

2/8/23 – Team meeting with RIDEM at 10:30 AM for general info regarding future permit requirements forthcoming upon permit renewal. The requirements are listed below:

1. Quarterly influent and effluent PFAS/PFOA monitoring
2. Develop Species Sensitivity Screening as part of permit’s bioassay language
3. For Pretreatment, a local limits study evaluation within 120 days before effective date of permit
4. Development and submittal of a Resiliency Plan, and
5. Inspection of discharge outfall structure to verify its physical integrity and ensure proper operation

2/27/23 – Operations and maintenance crew flushed the hypochlorite header from the hypo tanks to the pumps in an effort to determine the cause of the recent rash of callouts regarding the hypo pumps. The header contained a large air pocket and a lot of debris that looked to be tiny degraded plastic bits. In conclusion, it is a possibility that because the hypochlorite tanks were lower than usual when receiving the delivery on 2/9/23, that air and debris from the bottom of the tanks was introduced into the header and caused the pumps to develop problems pumping. The debris found in the header is an indication of the degradation of the plastic tank. The typical lifetime of polyethylene tanks is 15-20 years. The tanks were installed in 2006.

Report for the month of March, 2023

**1. WWTF OPERATIONS**

1. Influent to Treatment Facility – MGD

Average Daily Flow = 1.0646

Maximum Daily Flow = 1.6620 on 14-Mar

Minimum Daily Flow = 0.8320 on 01-Mar

Percent Average

Removal Concentration

1. Biochemical Oxygen Demand

EPA / DEM Permit Requirement = 85.0% min 30.0 mg/L

March achieved = 98.2% 3.0 mg/L

1. Total Suspended Solids

EPA / DEM Permit Requirement = 85.0% 30.0 mg/L

March achieved = 99.1% 1.8 mg/L

1. Total Phosphorus

EPA / DEM Permit Requirement = N/A 1.0 mg/L

March achieved = 91.4% 0.27 mg/L

1. Total Ammonia

EPA / DEM Permit Requirement = N/A 20.0 mg/L

March achieved = 50.6% 9.5 mg/L

1. Total Copper

EPA / DEM Permit Requirement = N/A 8.0 ug/L

March achieved = 98.5% 2.0 ug/L

1. Disposed Sludge

Dry Tons Disposed of = 24.48

Number of Loads Removed = 20

Average Dry Tons / Load = 1.22

Permit Excursions

There were no permit excursions to report for March 2022.

The most recent permit excursions were two permit excursions reported in the month of October 2022, both for daily maximum Copper. The first excursion was on October 6th and the second on October 13th with the results reported as 16.1 ug/L and 11.4 ug/L respectively. The daily maximum Copper limit is 10.6 ug/L.

Callout Alarms

There was one (1) callout alarm at the wastewater treatment facility for March 2022.

3/1/23 – High Final Residual alarm. High chlorine pump pressure (60 psi) caused pressure relief valve to activate and discharge hypochlorite into relief reservoir. Debris removed and pressure reduced at pump. Return to normal.

**2. COLLECTION SYSTEM OPERATIONS**

There were four (4) after hour collection systems call-in responses for the month of March 2022. Find the call-in table below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Location | Nature of Call / Alarm Condition | Issue Found |
| 3/12/23 | School Street PS | High Wet Well | Transducer tangled with rags and grease. Removed rags and grease. |
| 3/14/23 | School Street PS | High Wet Well | Checked transducer and cleaned it. Moved transducer location. Pumped down wet well. |
| 3/21/23 | Beach Road ES | High Wet Well | Wet well backed up. Clapper not setting (rags). Back-flushed suction line. Ran compressor and pumped down wet well to normal status. Drained condensate from receivers. Return to normal. |
| 3/31/23 | School Street, Spring Lake and Eagle Peak Pump Stations | Power Outage, High Wet Well, Pump Failure | Power outage caused various alarms. Cleared generator alarms at School Street and Spring Lake. At Eagle Peak reset pumps, cleared faults, pumped down wet well, cleaned transducer. |

**3. OTHER ACTIVITIES & CURRENT ISSUES**

3/1/23 – Received late email (6:32 PM) from Pat Rimkowski of Synagro reporting liquid sludge processing will be suspended until further notice due to issues with Woonsocket WWTF discharging solids into Blackstone River.

3/3/23 – Conference call with Matt Puglia of RIDEM and James Dyment and Steve Richtarek of BETA to discuss the PAC trial SOP, sampling, etc.

3/9/23 – Received PAC Trial approval letter from Matt Puglia of RIDEM.

3/13/23 – PAC Trial begins at 9 AM.

3/20/23 – PAC Trial ended at 3 PM.

3/27/23 – Received email from the RI Clean Water Association (RICWA) notifying the Burrillville Sewer Commission that the Burrillville WWTF has earned RICWA’s Gold Award for 2022 plant performance.

3/27/23 – Received BETA GIS proposal.

3/28/23 – Received final data from Phoenix Lab for the PAC Trial. Compiled data in a spreadsheet and sent to BETA. Data sheet (page 4) attached.

3/29/23 – Called Steve Janes of Fuse Energy to ask him to get something done with Arcadia regarding the billing and solar credit accounting. I explained our issues with billing and suggested that if things don’t become transparent that I will recommend to the Commission that we consider getting out of this agreement. Steve said he will call Arcadia immediately to get this situation resolved.

3/31/23 – Steve Janes reported that he has made progress with Arcadia and is seeking to have a conference call between Arcadia and BSC to discuss the following three steps to help resolve the billing issues:

1. Clarify your total electricity spending (and savings) to help you budget
2. Clarify amounts owed based on 90% of monetary credits generated and amortize them over the next 12 mos.
3. Potentially adjust your credit allocation size to a more conservative offset amount

**PAC TRIAL DATA**





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Mr. Emond gave a brief summary of the Superintendent’s Reports.

**Voted –** Mr. Joubert made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nolan. All in favor, so voted.

**Sewer Use/Sewer Assessment Write-Offs –** None

**Adjournment –** Mr. Nolan made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Joubert. All in favor, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline Batalon

Financial Aide

I have read the Minutes of the previous pages and hereby ratify the same.

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William Andrews Richard Nolan Gary Rouleau

Chairman Vice Chairman Commission Member

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Daniel Joubert

Commission Member