

Rensselaer County Sewer District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2023

I. Call to order

Chairman Miner called the regular meeting of the Rensselaer County Sewer District No. 1 to order on February 22, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the Rensselaer County Legislature Chambers.

II. Roll call

Chairman Miner conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Bott, Dambrose, Dolgin, Lewandusky, Lourinia, Mainello, Poletto, Masone, and Rockwell. Others present:, Tom Garrett- Siemens, Jaime Thomas, and Harry Tutunjian.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Rockwell led the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the January meeting were approved after a motion from Poletto and a second from Masone.

Siemens presentation- Tom Garrett from Siemens gave an update on the dryer project. He distributed an updated edition of the report of steps being taken to address the dust issues with the dryer and other observations from CDM Smith.

Garrett stated that the screening pilot unit would be delivered on March 13th and that RCSD staff would be trained and given a written protocol on its operation.

Poletto asked what happened to the old screen. Garrett said that there was no old screen, and that we use a belt dryer. The screen will be installed somewhere in the process line.

The dust mitigation report from Dekra is two weeks out.

Chairman Miner asked a question about Task 1; he asked who would install a boiler in a place where access is limited. Miner said it didn't make sense and who approved it. Garrett said that he did not know who signed off on it, but he wants to fix it.

Regarding Task 12, Jaime Thomas asked why they are using the term "donation" in reference to Siemens purchasing a vacuum for the plant. Garrett said that this is not part of the contract, and that Tutunjian asked for one, and that he looked into getting one for the plant.

Lewandusky asked if we would still need a vacuum if the dryer and dust collection was working, and Garrett said that we would still need it.

Miner said that we have to decide on an air operated unit or electric.

Jaime asked if Siemens always asks for a waiver when making a donation. Garrett said that the request is on advice of their attorney. Jaime asked if he could speak to their attorney and Garrett said no, but that he would ask him to email him.

Chairman Miner asked if there were any more questions than closed the presentation portion of the meeting. Tom Garret left at 6:40pm

V. District Report

1). **Staff issues-** Mike Buffaline who had retired last year, is back part time. He has a wealth of institutional knowledge of the plant and its equipment, so we are glad that he still wants to help us out.

The Civil Service Commission approved our changes to the Lab Director position, and we have increased the salary, so we are hopeful we can attract some qualified candidates.

We had one employee file an injury report and we have asked our labor attorney to review and investigate the report.

2).**Siemens Project-** This was covered during the presentation from Siemens.

3) **Troy Pump Stations-** - Tutunjian read the following email into the record: Our attorney Tom Peterson sent me the following communication from Gallo's attorney:

Harry: The latest I have is a response by Gallo's attorney to an inquiry from the American Arbitration Association:

Dear Mr. Fenimore

The parties have continued to work toward a complete and final resolution of the issues involved in this dispute since the last mediation session that Walter Breakell presided at.

I believe that it is agreed that except as stated below, physical work is complete.

There are several items in the spare parts category that have yet to be delivered. There is one crane that was sent out for repairs that has not yet come back from the manufacturer. What we hope is a final site visit by the controls vendor is scheduled for early February. That visit is to confirm acceptable operations.

The parties have not yet agreed on a final settlement dollar amount and for that reason I ask that AAA keep this matter on the active list. I am hopeful that we will come to a conclusion without further action by AAA but until the matter remain unsettled, I feel I must keep the mediation option open.

Thank you.

JOEL M. HOWARD, III, ESQ

4) Aeration and Misc. Projects Grant Award- Our engineering firm Ramboll has sent an updated report to EFC for approval. The cost of the project has risen since it was first proposed pre-pandemic. Originally it was around \$10M and now it is \$14,214,000. That includes some electrical upgrades that includes the replacement of a Medium Voltage System (\$3.2M). We still hope to go out to bid soon and begin construction this year.

5) Biosolids Disposal- This was covered by Siemens. We do not have a contract for disposal.

6) Electrical Upgrades and Maintenance Plan RFP- We have not awarded the maintenance contract.

VI. Old Business

1) Troy Sewer Billing and Rental agreements- Jaime still has not received a response from Troy. We have asked staff to send Troy monthly bills. Troy is now dealing with the lead pipes issue so that probably has their attention now.

VIII. New Business – We are in the process of getting a new wireless connection at the plant. The ongoing project with Cornerstone is taking too long, so we decided to use Verizon to get a hotspot connection at the plant.

IX. Next Meeting

March 22 at 6pm location to be determined

X. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Rockwell, seconded by Mainello, and passed unanimously at 7:05 pm.

Minutes submitted by Harry Tutunjian