

Rensselaer County Sewer District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2023

I. Call to order

Chairman Miner called the regular meeting of the Rensselaer County Sewer District No. 1 to order on October 25, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the Rensselaer County Legislature Conference Room.

II. Roll call

Chairman Miner conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Miner, Dambrose, Dolgin, Poletto, Lewandusky, Lourinia, Mainello, and Masone. Others present: Tom Garrett- Siemens, Shadrach Treat- Siemens, Greg Bold-CDM Smith, Vice Chair of the Legislature Bob Loveridge, Jaime Thomas, and Harry Tutunjian.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Masone led the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the September meeting were approved after a motion from Mainello and a second from Masone.

V. Reports

Siemens presentation- Greg Bold from CDM Smith reviewed the progress update document and the steps that have been taken to date.

Siemens and CDM Smith are working to address the issues in the Dekra dust report. The sludge screen is set to be relocated to the North dock and will be protected from the cold weather.

CDM is still waiting on the report on the internal conditions of the dryer from Thielsch. The next round of thorough cleaning of the dryer area is set for November.

CDM and Siemens are exploring ways to mitigate the dust while permanent solutions are implemented. This includes the fabrication of a cover for the dump truck and a new loading method.

Lewandusky asked how it would be installed and if it would require the operator to adjust it. Greg Bold said it is still in the design phase and will be made from aluminum and may require operator adjustment.

The vendor for the vacuum cleaner visited the site and will be providing a recommendation.

CDM is initiating work on the Phase 5 updates (the 3 FIM's that were approved at a prior meeting). They are anticipating a late Spring 2024 construction starting date and are currently procuring contractors.

The HVAC system is under review and the 10 year old asset management plan is being considered to be updated.

The biosolids were hauled out today by a firm contracted by Siemens.

Chairman Miner asked if there is a timeframe for the piping in the tunnel to be replaced.

Tom Garrett said that a report on all of the piping in the tunnel will be ready in November or December.

Masone asked if failure of the pipe is imminent, and if we should be moving more quickly to begin repairs or replacement. Garrett said that they are moving as fast as they can.

Masone asked what the next step would be after we get the report. Miner said that the board would send a plan to the Legislature for review and approval.

The staffing assessment was done and a draft report was completed. Vice Chair of the Legislature Bob Loveridge said that they are looking for an operations manager and a 4A operator. He spoke out challenges with NYS Civil Service and there prolonged approval period for the new titles. The Legislature is concerned that if someone is hired, NYS could change the job requirements and/or force a civil service test for the position. This could result in the new appointee losing their job.

The draft staffing report shows that there are enough positions at the plant, but there is room for some operational changes to streamline things.

Chairman Miner said that a meeting was held at the plant to discuss staffing needs but there hasn't been any feedback.

Vice Chair of the Legislature Bob Loveridge said that the responsibility falls on the Legislature, and they need accurate assessments of the staffing and management issues.

Masone said that if it is approached properly, it can be done.

Siemens and CDM Smith concluded their presentation and left at 6:52pm

Staff Issues – Nothing to report

Siemens- Dryer Replacement Project- Covered earlier

Aeration and Miscellaneous Projects - Derrick is still communicating with EFC and our engineers at Ramboll to provide EFC with the information they need to give us the go ahead to proceed. Accomplishing the bonding process brought us closer to going out to bid.

Internet Service at Treatment Plant- - It was discovered by Jason Wheeler that our wireless plan at the plant was the cheapest plan available and did not give us enough bandwidth throughout the month, so performance would degrade after the 11th day of each month. The plan was upgraded to 5G and the entire system crashed. It has been restored now, and new equipment has arrived and we are waiting for it to be installed.

VI. Old Business

Bond resolution and EFC grant – Bond resolution was adopted unanimously earlier this month. We owe many thanks to Mark Wojcik the county CFO and CJ Kempf the County Attorney for their efforts in helping our staff completing this process. Our bond counsel Hodgson Russ will handle the details. Ramboll will manage the grant for us and take care of all reporting to EFC.

The SPDEs permit renewal process is underway. Our staff met with DEC last week and it well. We are getting them information they are looking for. There are new requirements that will now require us to conduct quarterly testing of effluent and biosolid for PFAS.

Meeting location- Troy county office building is still under construction and may not be ready for after-hours meetings. We will keep an eye on the progress there.

VII. New Business

VIII. Open Discussion

Chairman Miner suggested pushing the November meeting back one week to the Wednesday after Thanksgiving. Cancelling the December meeting set for the 27th was also discussed.

IX. Next meeting: November 29, 2023 at 6pm at the Rensselaer County Office Building 99 Troy Rd. 2nd floor Conference room

X. Adjournment- Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm after a motion from Poletto and a second from Masone.

Minutes submitted by: Harry Tutunjian