

# ***Rensselaer County Sewer District No. 1***

## ***Meeting Minutes***

March 22, 2023

### **I. Call to order**

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

### **II. Roll call**

Chairman Miner conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Miner, Bott, Dambrose, Dolgin, Lewandusky, Lourinia, Poletto, Masone, and Rockwell. Others present: Tom Garrett- Siemens, Dan Durfee-CDM Smith, 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 February meeting were approved after a motion from Masone and a second from Rockwell.

### **V. Reports**

**Siemens presentation-** Dan Durfee from CDM Smith distributed an updated copy of the handout from last month. He reviewed the tasks that have been updated:

The dust analysis from Dekra is due back next week. Miner asked what they are looking for. Durfee said that they have very little data on what the dust is made of so they are looking to see what the make up of the product is. Masone asked there was a certain percentage of material they were looking for, and Durfee said that they would know more next month.

The sludge screen pilot was delivered and placed into operation on March 15. It encountered a problem with the inlet pressure on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The location of the equipment is resulting in it capturing an inordinate amount of material. The dumpster would be filled about 5 times a day.

Poletto asked where the material goes. Durfee said it is sent to the landfill. Miner asked why there is so much debris. Durfee said that a lot of grit and screening materials are making their way through the plant. Poletto asked why this wasn't found earlier. Durfee

said that he did not know because CDM Smith was not involved in the subsequent projects that were completed after they submitted their proposal (Grit Separation Project).

Dolgin stated that the photo in the report looks like a 2 yard dumpster and asked how often it was filled. Durfee said that that the material is heavy and the dumpster cannot be filled. Durfee said that the process has to run continually for at least a month so the newly treated sludge can go through the digester. Then we will be able to see if the final product has improved.

Poleto asked if the goal is to minimize what goes to the landfill. Durfee answered, yes, and said that we are still sending much less product to the landfill than before we had a dryer.

Masone asked if the material that is now being removed by the sludge screen pilot has been going into the dryer, Durfee said yes.

Miner asked if there is a cost estimate to fix the problem, Durfee said they would know in 2 to 3 months.

Poleto asked if the fiber could be run through the dryer separately, Durfee said the product would be undesirable. Durfee added that they are seeing more fibers in sewage because of the number of wipes being flushed. Poleto added that the Town of Brunswick adds notices in their newsletters about the dangers of flushing wipes.

Durfee said that he hopes to have more data next month, after the press is moved to a different area of the treatment process. Durfee added that the biosolids shed is full, and needs to be cleared out. He said that he has talked to Troy, and they are interested in working with us to mix their unwanted dewatered sludge from their drinking water treatment plant with our biosolid. They will be running some tests soon.

Durfee stated that he is trying to get Komline to develop a spare parts list, because there are no spare parts at this time. He also said that he would like to have Komline come in and inspect the dryer for wear and abrasion. Komline has suggested slowing down the dryer speed and we are waiting for the results of those tests.

Poleto asked if slowing it down could cause damage, Durfee said no.

The Siemens/CDM Smith presentation ended at 6:45.

**Staff Issues** - a 20 year employee just announced he is leaving. Harry Theopheles works in maintenance and is the UPSEU Shop Steward. We will look for a replacement. Lab Director Jennifer Theakos is retiring in April. We have interviewed several candidates to replace her. No selection yet.

**Siemens-** Dryer Replacement Project- Covered earlier

**Troy Pump Station Project Status-** Nothing to report.

**Aeration and Misc Projects-** We will be going out to bid shortly. We are waiting for Ramboll, our engineering firm, to put together the bid documents.

**Biosolid Disposal-** We have reached out to a few companies and Cloverleaf Nurseries has expressed interest in taking our product. We will have to pay them, but it will still be less than what we were paying under our contract with Casella. Cloverleaf is just over the bridge in Menands and they want to use it at their nurseries in East Greenbush.

## **VI. Old Business**

**Troy Sewer Billing and Rental Agreements** - Nothing new to report.

## **VII. New Business**

Last Week DEC did their annual inspection. Derrick and Jason indicated that it went very well.

We applied for additional funding for our Aeration Project. Congresswoman Stefanik's office reached out to area municipalities to nifty them about available funding, so we applied for \$5.75M. We have about \$10M in grants already. The project was expected to be around \$11M but, as I reported last month, has jumped to over \$14M. I expect it to go even higher.

## **VIII. Open Discussion**

**IX. Next meeting: April 26, 2023 at 6pm at the Rensselaer County Wastewater Treatment Plant on Water Street**

**X. Adjournment-** Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm after a motion from Bott and a second from Masone

Minutes submitted by: Harry Tutunjian