

Rensselaer County Sewer District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

August 23, 2023

I. Call to order

Chairman Miner called the regular meeting of the Rensselaer County Sewer District No. 1 to order on August 23, 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, Bott, Dambrose, Dolgin, Lewandusky, Poletto, Rockwell, Mainello, and Masone. Others present: Tom Garrett- Siemens, Shadrach Treat- Siemens, Frank Montana-Siemens, Dan Durfee-CDM Smith, Jaime Thomas, Derrick Gardner, Jason Wheeler, and Harry Tutunjian.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Charles Rockwell led the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

V. Reports

Siemens presentation- Siemens staff distributed the updated progress report and read through what has been completed.

The sludge screen pilot is being relocated again to its 3rd location. Jason Wheeler said that the 2nd location was also a problem because it was not capturing any material, whereas the first location capture too much to handle efficiently.

Miner asked if moving it will solve the problem. Wheeler said it would capture more material. Poletto asked what differenc it would make. Wheeler said that it will capture material at a different pontof the treatment process.

Frank Montana said tha the first location was filling bins every 15 minutes. Poletto asked where the material would go. Wheeler said it would go to a landfill and be costly to dispose of.

Dan Durfee said he is not sure where they are with end use of the dried product. Wheeler said that the plant can't host the process, only a pilot demonstration. Durfee will coordinate with Troy.

Dust mitigation- Durfee said that no decision has been made as to what system to use. Shad Treat said that they priced the vibratory screener.

Dryer evaluation- Komline has been delayed. Frank Montana is anticipating them to be available the second week of September. Wheeler said that they have never opened the dryer. Montana said that Komline would be there to support them when it is opened.

Operations and Maintenance staffing- Durfee said that they will work with Jason Wheeler to determine needs.

Product Conveyance and Dedusting- adjustments are being made. Wheeler said that he would like to see the application process modified. Durfee said that Vince Apa is looking into it.

Durfee also said that they are working on an asset management plan. The last plan was done by them in 2012 and reviewed 400 assets. Plan was required by EFC. The 5 year plan and a new plan will lay out priorities to protect against shut down failures. They will also be looking into modifying the HVAC system at the administration building.

Tom Garrett distributed the Proposed Facility Improvement Measures and Frank Montana outlined the report. The total price was \$4,447,240. Lead time is not included but 20-40 weeks is expected for some equipment.

Jason Wheeler said that an itemized list of costs would be helpful. Miner said that the board is not looking to "nickel and dime" the project, but would like to know if everything listed needs to be replaced.

Wheeler said that plant piping is a concern and Montana asked where the focus should be. Wheeler said that all of the piping in the tunnel should be considered.

Lewandusky said that they would like to know the cost of the skimmings tank so they can decide if the money should be spent elsewhere.

Bott said that he believes that Siemens has done what we have asked for with this report, and that the board should move forward with it.

Chairman Miner asked for a motion to recommend moving the Siemens proposal to the Legislature for approval. Poletto made the motion and Masone seconded it.

Lewandusky asked Jason Wheeler if he was comfortable moving it forward and Wheeler said that these are the issues that were discussed.

Mainello said that we should preface this by stating that this is the first phase of many projects that may be coming.

Miner called for a vote by the show of hands. All were in favor with the exception of Rockwell.

Shad from Siemens said that they have a grants team and will pursue additional funding to offset this and future projects.

Siemens left the meeting.

Staff Issues – Nothing new to report

Siemens- Dryer Replacement Project- Covered earlier. Tutunjian added that he reached out to Troy Sand and gravel and Joe Buono from Cloverleaf Nurseries to see if needed more our biosolids.

Aeration and Miscellaneous Projects- Today's agenda includes an updated bonding resolution that is another required component of EFC approval. The Legislature passed a bonding resolution in 2021 as part of the grant application but we never followed through because we were waiting for project approval.

Internet Service at Treatment Plant- Project was to be completed today, but was pushed back to Friday.

2024 Budget- We met with the County finance department to review the budget. They have no serious concerns with our proposal. We once again have a fund balance of approximately \$4 million. We don't know how much we will use to balance our budget until other numbers are input, such as insurance, retirement, etc.

Legislature is open to considering a rate increase. They are considering commissioning another rate study similar to what was done by CDM Smith in 2014. The legislature is also considering a review of our billing structure and system. Some communities assess each community with a set fee for county sewer treatment, and then allow the municipality to calculate what rate to charge their users. It is something that they want us to look at.

Jason Wheeler elaborated on the methods Albany County uses to bill municipalities this way.

VI. Old Business

Troy Pump Station Mediation- Pump Station- We have a resolution on our agenda to recommend that the Legislature approves the settlement agreement. The Legislature will be voting to approve the settlement with Gallo at their next meeting after this board acts on it. We will be paying them \$300,000 and officially completing the prolonged project and mediation. Gallo was looking for nearly \$1 million, so this settlement is in our favor.

VII. New Business

1. Resolution Supporting Issuance of bonds to finance the Aeration Project.

Motion made by Rockwell, second by Rockwell, adopted unanimously.

2. Resolution Supporting the Negotiated Settlement with Gallo Construction.

Motion made by Poletto, second by Mainello, adopted unanimously.

VIII. Open Discussion

- IX. ARPA Funding spending deadline is approaching we were awarded \$6M and we have spent some of that already. We are exploring replacing some vehicles in our fleet, if it is an approved use. We also hope to compile a quick list of priority items that can be addressed in short order. There is not enough time to commission larger projects that will require substantial engineering and design, contract bidding, and prolonged a period of construction.

Future meeting location- Chairman Miner asked all commissioners if they liked meeting in East Greenbush, or if they'd prefer meeting in the Troy offices. After discussing pros and cons, a straw vote was taken and meeting in Troy was preferred by the majority. Tutunjian said that he would look into the logistics of securing meeting space when the building is ready.

X. Next meeting: September 27, 2023 at 6pm at the Rensselaer County Office Building 99 Troy Rd. 2nd floor Conference room

XI. Adjournment- Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm after a motion from Poletto and a second from Masone.

Minutes submitted by: Harry Tutunjian