

Rensselaer County Sewer District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2023

I. Call to order

Chairman Miner called the regular meeting of the Rensselaer County Sewer District No. 1 to order on September 27, 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, Lourinia, Poletto, and Masone. Others present: Tom Garrett-Siemens, Shadrach Treat-Siemens, Frank Montana-Siemens, Dan Durfee-CDM Smith, Jaime Thomas, Derrick Gardner, and Harry Tutunjian.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Miner led the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

V. Reports

Siemens presentation- Dan Durfee from CDM Smith distributed the updated task schedule. They have reached out to Dekra to get a specialist to coordinate the activities outlined in the report and to make recommendations to break the items down into 4 priority categories and formulate an action plan.

Chairman Miner asked if anything in the report was concerning. Durfee said that the report was broken down based on the priority of their importance and they will be addressed in order of importance. Poletto asked for an example of a high priority item. Durfee said that installation of the temporary wall recategorized the building space so new requirements need to be met. Miner asked if this is spelled out in the report, Durfee said yes. Miner asked if we can move forward in a timely manner. Durfee said that he can't speak for Siemens, but it will be addressed in the next phase.

Frank Montana from Siemens spoke about the Sludge Pilot and said that after meeting with folks at the plant it was decided that the pilot will be relocated to a winter location so it can be winterized and operated properly so testing can be done. Poletto asked if the

equipment will solve the problems. Durfee said that in combination with the vibratory screener it should make a big difference.

Montana said that this sludge press would not be the permanent one and that a new unit would be designed and built and will have at least 6 months of lead time. Miner asked if Jason Wheeler at the plant thinks there is enough staff to operate it. Tom Garrett and Frank Montana both said they can't speak for Jason, but a new unit would be more automated and require less labor. Derrick Gardner said that moving outside and using conveyors to move material would reduce labor.

Montana stated that there are 4 vendors ready to haul the biosolids. Whoever is available first will be chosen to haul it. It will be turnkey. Durfee added that Chris Wheland's departure from Troy has delayed the end use testing that was to be done with Troy's product.

Durfee stated that Siemens has agreed to pick up the costs of the vibratory screener.

The testing of the dryer was completed by Thielsch and results are expected in 30 days. The thorough cleaning of the plant has put on hold at the request of the plant and will be set for twice a year.

Frank Montana said that the Make-up air unit will be relocated but there is no schedule yet. Frank also agreed to bring a vacuum vendor to the plant to help coordinate the best unit for our application.

Dan Durfee said that Operations and Maintenance Assessment this Monday and Tuesday with plant staff. He also said that the dedusting fluid application point would be relocated to make maintenance easier.

HVAC modifications at the administration building will be examined with the piping issues in the tunnels.

The asset management plan has begun. It will update the 10 year old plan we have now. It should be completed in October or November.

Durfee state that a meeting last week resulted in new evaluation requests that include building enclosure, Makeup air relocation, Biosolid disposal, and piping evaluation and repair strategy.

Minar and Poleto questioned the viability of removing old pipes or leaving them in place after they are abandoned.

Durfee said that two of 3 mechanical screens examined are not working (Durfee later corrected himself and said there are only 2 screens, and one is not working). Poletto asked if these are the screens whose spacing was questioned, Durfee answered yes. The plan is to replace them with finer screens that move faster. Miner asked how quick that could be done. Durfee said they are working to determine that.

Durfee said they are looking primary settling tanks to ease the changing of shear pins. Durfee also said they are looking at humidity levels in the tunnel that could be causing rust and corrosion, and if HVAC improvements could resolve the issue.

Staff Issues – We are still in need of a senior mechanic. Mike Buffaline retired last year, but has been working part time this spring and summer. His help was immeasurable, but he will be heading south soon, and he will leave us with a big void.

No update on Civil Service testing for our Executive and Deputy Executive Director positions, so they have not been filled.

Siemens- Dryer Replacement Project- Covered earlier

Aeration and Miscellaneous Projects We are inching closer to final approval. Our county attorney has helped us work out some issues with EFC and we believe we are close to a resolution of the issues. We still hope to go out to bid before the end of the year and still hope to go out to bid before the end of the year and begin next year.

Last week, there was a failure in an aeration tank. Heavy corrosion caused a splash guard to dislodge and fall onto one of the aeration agitator paddles. The system was shut down and evaluated. It was determined that the splash guard could be removed. Collett Mechanical was brought in under an Emergency Declaration and removed the splash guard. Cost was not to exceed \$6,000. After the entire channel of tanks were drained and cleared of sludge, the project was completed. The tanks were filled, and it appears that the motor and gear box were not significantly damaged because the system seems to be working well. All of these parts will be removed under the new project. Failures like this stress the importance of moving forward with the Aeration Project as soon as we can.

Internet Service at Treatment Plant- Project is set to be completed on Friday.

2024 Budget- Nothing to report

VI. Old Business

Gallo Settlement- - Last month this body approved the \$300k settlement. The Legislature approved it at their September 12th meeting, and today the check was delivered and the project is officially closed out. Mike Gallo personally delivered all the spare parts that were promised. However, when Mike Wilcox examined everything, he discovered that a sealed box that was to contain a gear box and motor was missing the 1hp explosion proof motor. Mike researched the cost of the motor and it was valued at \$1,844.64. Mr. Gallo wrote us a check that amount and the matter was resolved amicably.

VII. New Business

VIII. Open Discussion

IX. Next meeting: October 25, 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 Poleto and a second from Masone.

Minutes submitted by: Harry Tutunjian