

GREEN BAY METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSION

Regular meeting of the Commission held via Zoom videoconference on June 23, 2021.

PRESENT: Commissioners Hasselblad, Blumreich, Mainz, Tumpach, and Hoffmann

ALSO PRESENT: T. Sigmund, P. Wescott, N. Qualls, B. Vander Loop, J. Smudde, T. Brown, B. Bartel, M. Obry, A. Charniak, B. Weller-Titus, B. Angoli, L. Sarau, P. Mentink, T. Garrison, E. Houghton, P. Smits, J. Van Sistine, R. Krause, S. Thieszen, J. Smies–Legal Counsel

Commission President Hasselblad called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

1) Safety moment.

T. Sigmund provided safety tips on ladders.

2) Introduce new employees:

- a) **Megan Obry, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator-in-Training**
- b) **Austin Charniak, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator-in-Training**

B. Bartel introduced Megan Obry and Austin Charniak, NEW Water's, the brand of the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District, newly-hired Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators-in-Training to the Commission.

M. Obry and A. Charniak introduced themselves, provided their educational backgrounds, and stated their excitement with starting their employment at NEW Water.

Commissioner Hasselblad welcomed them to the NEW Water team.

3) Convene in closed session under State Statute 19.85 (1) (g) for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel for the Commission who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the Commission with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved:

- a) **Litigation involving Bayview Interceptor**
- b) **Potential litigation resulting from the failure of the granulated activated carbon system of the fluidized bed incinerator**
- c) **Potential litigation resulting from wastewater spillage during construction of the Dutchman Creek Interceptor stream crossings**

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Motion #21-043

It was moved by Mainz, seconded by Blumreich, and unanimously agreed to convene in closed session under State Statute 19.85 (1) (g) for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel for the Commission who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the Commission with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.

4) **Reconvene in open session.**

Motion #21-044

It was moved by Blumreich, seconded by Hoffmann, and unanimously agreed to reconvene in open session.

5) **Approval of minutes of Commission meeting held May 26, 2021.**

Motion #21-045

It was moved by Mainz, seconded by Tumpach, and unanimously agreed to approve the May 26, 2021 minutes as distributed.

6) **May financials.**

B. Weller-Titus reported the operating revenues for May were unfavorable to budget by (\$101K) or 2% from less volume due to lower precipitation. These revenues were offset by additional biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) loadings due to Sustana Fiber's pretreatment system being down. Year to date, total operating revenues were unfavorable to budget by (\$197K) or 1% from less volume due to lower precipitation and Green Bay Packaging's (GBP) less loadings due to the timing of startup. These revenues were offset by additional BOD loadings due to Sustana Fiber's pretreatment system being down and additional septage revenue from a cheese manufacturer.

B. Weller-Titus reported the operating expenses for May were favorable to budget by \$118K or 6% due to less expenditures than budgeted for benefits (worker's compensation credit), power, plant maintenance, and contracted services. Year to date, total operating expenses were favorable to budget by \$1.2M or 12% due to less expenditures in contracted services, plant maintenance, power, benefits, and office related expenses. Net income for May was \$1M. Net income year to date was \$2.8M.

Commissioner Mainz left the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

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- 7) **Approve Resolution for acceptance of the Compliance Maintenance Annual Report for 2020 for the Green Bay Facility.**
- 8) **Approve Resolution for acceptance of the Compliance Maintenance Annual Report for 2020 for the De Pere Facility.**

J. Smudde stated the Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR) for both the Green Bay and De Pere Facilities is a report card for NEW Water's operations, which is due to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) by June 30, 2021. Both of the facilities for the 2020 review year achieved a 4.0 score. The Green Bay Facility (GBF) received a rare deduction of two points on the influent component of the CMAR due to exceeding 90% of the design capacity flow for the facility. In March 2020, the GBF average daily flow was 2.869 MGD higher due to 4.36 inches of precipitation received that month, which was 2.44 inches greater than the 30-year average for the month of March. The score of the CMARs is critical in helping determine which rates NEW Water will receive when applying for Clean Water Fund Loans. He requested Commission approval of the two resolutions for the Green Bay and De Pere Facilities.

Commissioner Hasselblad commended the work of NEW Water staff in receiving a high score of 4.0.

T. Sigmund stated the WDNR has used the scoring on design capacity flow to prompt utilities to start the process of facility planning to keep in compliance. NEW Water has started liquid facilities planning to keep proactive with permit compliance.

Commissioner Blumreich asked how NEW Water compared with the CMAR scoring to other districts. T. Sigmund replied that NEW Water staff would gather that information and provide it to the Commission.

Motion #21-046

It was moved by Blumreich, seconded by Hoffmann, and unanimously agreed to approve the Resolutions for acceptance of the 2020 CMARs for the Green Bay and De Pere Facilities. (Resolutions #21-004 and #21-005 are on file at the NEW Water offices)

- 9) **Sewer plan approval:**
 - a) **Village of Ashwaubenon – Project #H0599 9-20-00648; GBMSD Request #2021-19**

B. Angoli reported the Village of Ashwaubenon submitted a request for approval of a sanitary sewer plan for a new subdivision. Staff recommends approval of the plan.

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Motion #21-047

It was moved by Blumreich, seconded by Hoffmann, and unanimously agreed to approve the Village of Ashwaubenon sewer plan subject to favorable approval recommendations from Brown County Planning and final approval by the WDNR.

10) Update of projects:

a) Effluent Reuse Pump Station and Force Main

B. Angoli stated GBP and staff are still working to understand the plugging issues of the water treatment skids strainers at the GBP mill. GBP has installed a 200 micron strainer to test and see if this reduces plugging of the strainer with the back flushing system, and removes the solids from the strainer.

b) Bayview Interceptor Replacement

P. Mentink reported the Bayview Interceptor Replacement construction is complete. The site has been demobilized and only a few punch list items remain before the project is closed out.

c) Regional I&I Reduction Program Project update

L. Sarau stated NEW Water is still working towards its Strategic Plan initiative of reducing clear water from Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) entering its system. Brown and Caldwell (B&C) has continued to work with NEW Water staff on the following:

- Workshop with municipal customers to learn what different tools, technology, and techniques are available to locate and reduce I&I
- Review of NEW Water and customer information
- Draft of Technical Memorandum No. 1 – Assessment of current I&I Conditions
- Preparation and execution of June 16, 2021 Regional I&I Reduction Program Alternatives Workshop with the Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG)

L. Sarau stated the SAG Workshop focused on B&C reviewing an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publication focusing on motivation tactics and economic incentives. Staff and B&C are looking to set up another SAG meeting to discuss the feedback from the workshop.

Commissioner Hasselblad asked if there was much customer participation during the workshop. L. Sarau replied yes.

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Commissioner Blumreich asked if the EPA article was specific to I&I information. L. Sarau replied no, it was more on environmental impacts. B&C presented specific case studies at the workshop on types of I&I incentives. N. Qualls added that workshop materials and surveys were used to gauge SAG members' participation and feedback. NEW Water staff will share information collected with the Commission.

11) **May 2021 Operations report.**

P. Wescott reported that both Green Bay and De Pere Facilities were in full compliance for the month of May. The De Pere Facility tied performance records for Total Suspended Solids for average daily concentration, average pounds discharged per day, and for total pounds discharged per month. The Green Bay Facility was in compliance with air quality limits for the month of May. For resource recovery for the month of May, the solids processing facility generated 2,758 MWH of electricity. Total bio-gas volume recovered was 287,040 CCF; this is 95.5% of the total volume produced.

Commissioner Hasselblad asked if the bio-gas production of 95.5% was a record. P. Wescott replied no, stating the highest bio-gas production percentage recorded was better than 98%.

12) **Executive Director's report:**

a) **July Commission meeting**

The July Commission meeting will be held Wednesday, July 28, 2021, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

b) **COVID-19 paid leave statistics**

T. Sigmund stated the last COVID-19 paid-leave statistics will be provided at the July Commission meeting due to the benefit expiring as of June 30, 2021.

c) **COVID-19 update**

The mask mandate has been lifted for all fully vaccinated individuals. Staff and visitors not fully vaccinated will still be required to wear masks.

d) **Dave Hoppe accepted the Field Services Technician position**

Dave Hoppe has accepted the Field Services Technician position. Due to staffing needs in the Treatment Department, he will start his new role in August. He has been with NEW Water since 2007.

e) **NACWA Platinum Peak Performance Awards**

NEW Water has received NACWA Platinum Peak Performance Awards for 18 consecutive years of 100% permit compliance at the Green Bay Facility and nine consecutive years at the De Pere Facility.

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f) 2020 Annual Report

The 2020 Annual Report is now available for viewing on NEW Water's website. This is NEW Water's first digital-only Annual Report produced.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

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Secretary