

WELLSBORO MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MEETING

OCTOBER 18, 2011

MINUTES

The meeting of the Wellsboro Municipal Authority was called to order in the Council Room of the John E Dugan Fire Station/Municipal Building by Chairman Robert DeCamp, at 4 pm on October 18, 2011. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present.

ATTENDANCE: Wellsboro Municipal Authority members: Grant Cavanaugh, Ed Owlett, Dennison Young, Robert DeCamp and Tom Reindl. Members of the Borough Council: Joan Hart, Rudy Scharf and Terry Bryant. Borough Engineer: Scott Bray. Borough Secretary/Treasurer: Susan Keck. Media: Natalie Kennedy and Cheryl Clark. Water & Sewer Clerk: Teresa Marshall and Joe McNally from GeoServies.

The minutes from September 20, 2011 were approved as written. The motion to accept was made by Tom Reindl and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dennison Young.

SCOTT BRAY: The Slow Sand Filter # 1 drained, scraped and is being filled right now. He has also contacted DEP concerning their review of the pilot study proposal. They stated that they would likely approve the study and to proceed. A formal letter will probably be sent this week. He has contacted Pall to set up the study starting on the 24<sup>th</sup> of this month. It will run probably 4-6 weeks. We are working to coordinate the items that are needed to do study that we need to supply.

Scott had to look for an alternative source to buy nitrogen credits from Wyoming Valley Authority no longer had them available. He did find a source that could provide the credits for the shortfall. He has been trying to see if anyone was interested in the phosphorus credits but no one seems to be interested yet.

All the equipment and materials needed for the installation of the second intake line and meter at Rock Run has been delivered.

The Long Term Control Plan revision has been submitted to DEP along with the Corrective Action Plan that was requested by DEP in the letter of September 14, 2011. DEP sent the letter of formal consent for the civil penalty, we should have our solicitor look at before signing and paying the fine.

TERRY BRYANT: He asked Scott if they had to buy nitrogen credits last year.

SCOTT-BRAY: He stated that we weren't on the program last year but they had run through it and they were fine last year. We would have actually had nitrogen credit to sell. The wet weather and infiltration of water created the problem this year. We need to

identify the sources of infiltration and have them corrected. Bob Decamp asked if our wells were producing nitrogen. Scott replied "no" that it was in the wastewater.

TERRY BRYANT: At the workshop we had, we knew where a large amount of infiltration was coming in – have we corrected that?

SCOTT BRAY: We are working on it. The calculation for nitrogen pounds is a function of concentration, flow and a conversion factor. When the flow goes up the concentration goes down but not enough to make up for the increased flow so when the flow increases the loading increases no matter what the constituent is. March, April & May of this year was 8,000 lbs. more that last year because of the wet weather and September will be the obviously very high. We need to identify the areas of infiltration and get them out of our system so when we have a wet year we won't be in this situation again. This is the goal of the Long Term Control Plan. Outflow is everything that goes into the stream.

BOB DECAMP: So in laymen's terms – we have a lot of rain water that was collected by our system increasing the outflow of the sewer plant.

TOM REINDL: You take samples three times a week – you may have a dozen or so samples – there is an average taken for the month. Scott stated that if a sample is taken on a high flow day – it will effect us.

TERRY BRAYNT: It is important that we make the taxpayers understand how important it is to get the storm water out of the system to help us financially as a community. It has got to be separated.

BOB DECAMP: We actually returned no more nitrogen that we normally do but because of the formula we showed that we did return more nitrogen because of the flow.

SCOTT BRAY: If we get the volume of the flows down then we will be back within our limits.

BOB DECAMP: The amount of stormwater from infiltration going into our sewer system and out into the stream has created the high nitrogen levels. Should we tell people how much this has cost? The comments were affirmative that the customers should know.

GRANT CAVANAUGH: We need to get the property owners eaves out of the sewer systems.

SCOTT BRAY: Any yard drains or anything that goes into the system needs to be removed.

TERRY BRYANT: We have to buy how much nitrogen? It is taxpayer money to buy these credits.

TOM REINDL: The amount needed to buy the credits \$69,965.50.

ROBERT DECAMP: To get this money we have reduced the sewer fund?

SUE KECK: We have \$55,000 designated out of the various water and sewer sales. We have extra pension money that we can spend anyway we want.

RUDY SCHARF: What happened to when we applied to the DEP to sell effluent?

SCOTT BRAY: It is the SRBC that regulates that and the applications have to be made by the purchases not by us. We have two letters of intent with the gas companies of which one was asked to pull his application when he submitted it at that time. They didn't have a way of dealing with it, there is no indication if they are proceeding with the applications. You're right, if we sell the effluent, we are not discharging into the stream and the problem goes away.

RUDY SCHARF: Can't we ask the gas companies for help? Scott will send a letter to see if they are pursuing the applications.

BOB DECAMP: We start the year over on October 1. By the middle or end of next month we will know the results to see if we are on target or not. We know that one of the areas of our community dumps immediately into our plant. Does the Authority have the ability to discuss this. It was a large amount of water coming from this property. We must have the authority to do this.

GRANT CAVANAUGH: Is there any big influences coming from the townships?

SCOTT BRAY: One of the townships does have a problem and they are pursuing it – the other township doesn't have the problem.

BOB DECAMP: Under our Intermunicipal Authority Agreement – do we have the ability to tell them that they have 90 days to stop this? Sue commented that we did have the authority.

SCOTT BRAY: This is part of the Long Term Control Plan to contact the townships of the situation and have them report back to us. We also need to look at the different areas in the Borough also. We need to develop ways to eliminate the problems.

ROBERT DECAMP: Is there anyway the township could dump the water before it comes to us? Scott replied that they have to send it to us.

ED OWLETT: In the past when we had trouble with this – they went over their levels – are they still within their daily limits?

SCOTT BRAY: He would have to check with Dan. Every system has spikes – the question is what is the spike and how long it sustained and what is that in relation to the base flow?

ED OWLETT: He recalled that this was the only way we could control flow was that we had limits on what could come in.

SCOTT BRAY: I know that they have been working on this for a while now. They have also done some things because they are working within their allocation.

TERRY BRYANT: If they are over their limits – could they help with the costs – is that part of the agreement? If we can identify any of this we need to be aggressive in dealing with it.

ROBERT DECAMP: If a property is pushing off a lot of water – is it metered and are they charged for it? The response of yes there was a meter and they are charged for it.

ED OWLETT: Isn't there a provision in the Intermunicipal Agreement to notify them if they go over.

SCOTT BRAY: If the municipality are consistently within 90% of their allocation – we are to put them on notice and they are required to tell us what they will do to bring it back into compliance.

GRANT CAVANAUGH: He knows a lot of the older homes are going into the sewer because that is what they did then. If we are going to look inside the Borough we should be looking at that.

SCOTT BRAY: Mark has been working on a program to get the storm water out of the systems. There are some areas that if you take the lines out on the ground – it will go right back into their basements because it has no place to go. Identify and correct what is correctable as you go. There may some places that only need to be disconnected.

ED OWLETT: There was a lot of work done with the Borough issues with the existing lines. There was a large of infiltration of storm water lines that was going into the sewer system. Scott reported that a lot of this has been corrected. We still have to look at the other issues and get them corrected. We also need to look at the collection system as part of the Long Term Control Plan. It won't be done within a year's time.

GRANT CAVANAUGH: Right now – it is a pretty hefty price tag. Bob Decamp quoted about \$6,000 a month.

BOB DECAMP: We are consenting to the fine of \$2,450:00.

TERRY BRYANT: Have we ever bought a nitrogen credit before?

When asked where does the money go for the credits of nitrogen sold, Scott responded that it goes to the people selling the credits. If we have credits next year left over, then we will be able to receive money. This is the first year that it was required. Scott stated that there was people who decided to upgrade that bought credits in the past or had long term contracts and needed credits ahead of time.

There was a motion by Tom Reindl to sign the consent order after it was reviewed by the solicitor. Grant Cavanaugh 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Robert DeCamp suggested that the meter reader check out the roof drains as he is reading the meters.

SCOTT BRAY: They could check to see if the roof drains drops straight down into the ground but that may not be the case. When they did storm drains around town, there were provisions made to hook up.

RUDY SCHARF: A book was prepared for that and he had a copy of it at home.

SCOTT BRAY: The smoke test was done back in the 80's before the sewer plant was built. He didn't know what the status was. There was some corrective action taken. There was no formal record taken then on what was corrected and what was not.

TERRY BRYANT: I believe we are in the process of buying flow meters?

ROBERT DECAMP: We talked about it. What does a flow meter cost?

SCOTT BRAY: There are approved flow meters for about \$1500.00 a piece. Two are needed to be put in the main line or a sizable lateral.

ROBERT DECAMP: For basically ½ month's fine, we could buy two of them. So where would we get the money? Should we make a motion to buy two flow meters when we get the money? Scott asked if we had them yet? Bob answered "no".

SCOTT BRAY: Let's put together a plan. He is trying to work with Mark to develop a plan. Right now he is trying to scrape filters and everything else that needs to be done. The plan was to do this when things started to slow down.

ROBERT DECAMP: He suggested that someone make a motion that the engineer and superintendent bring forth a corrective action plan by next month. Ed asked if it could be done in 60-90 days.

SCOTT BRAY: To get started, the basis is there in the Long Term Control Plan. We have to figure out how we're going to do it to make it effective. Bob DeCamp asked him how much time he needed. Joan suggested 90 days. Scott didn't think they needed 90 days. Then it was suggested 60 days. Scott stated that they needed to decide what we are going to do first and how we are going to accomplish it according to the terms of the

Long Term Control Plan. If we are going after sump pumps and eaves we need bodies to go out and do that, we don't need flow meters right now. We may need them two years down the line but we need bodies to do the flow meters also.

ROBERT DECAMP: He suggested a letter be sent to property owners.

SCOTT BRAY: He thought that they should meet with them instead. They did meet with them once before and they were trying to get things resolved and not sure what happened after that. Bob DeCamp gave the sixty day timeline.

JOE MCNALLY: The issues still in front of us are waiting for the DEP to make a determination on the wetlands issue at the Keck Well. What we have done, at their request, was to send letters, one to the Pennsylvania Game Commission and one to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources providing them with information on the pumping test and the results on September 14, 2011. They were asked to take a look and see if there were any issues with the PNDI environmental review. Both of the agencies wrote letters back so that we now have them on record and that there was no impact anticipated. He provided information to SRBC and DEP. The other issue was with Baldwin Run and the issue of its classification as a Class A Wild Trout Stream. This issue had been resolved a long time ago that this was not the case and that it had been removed from the list. The documentation has been submitted to both groups. These two things provide strong evidence that the wetlands around the Keck Well are not an exceptional value. He does not have from the DEP any determination yet.

The work that we have been doing has been towards preparing the hydrogeological report. What we don't want to do is have DEP say we are fine and have to ramp up to meet the deadline or go full speed ahead and have them come back to us telling us that more things are needed. A lot of things that were needed for the meeting with DEP and SRBC were needed for the hydrological report also. We are going at an appropriate speed now.

TERRY BRYANT: If the little portion of wetland that we affected the elevation on is not exceptional value, our chances on getting on-line are great from everything he has heard. However, it is an exceptional value and we affect the elevation of the water – we can't do that. We are spending a lot of taxpayer money. When do we expect to hear from DEP – could it be months? Joe McNally said that it could be but he hoped it wouldn't be. He hopes to have an answer by the next meeting. Terry then asked if we could give them a deadline? Joe said that DEP has the ultimate decision even though the SRBC requested it. The two main parts that would make it an exceptional value were not a factor with the two agencies contacted and it not being a trout stream – it would seem we are close to a decision.

JOE MCNALLY: We have to make sure that the decision is not that we can use it sometime. He has phoned them and asked when we will have a decision. There are a number of groups involved. The other parts of this is that the SWIP test is still proceeding. There is a statistical package that DEP uses – he understand there aren't any big blips in the testing. The crew from the Borough is doing a great job at getting the

samples and reporting on time. Rudy Scharf asked when the test ended and Joe responded that it ended in December. They were concerned about freezing conditions of the ground. He thought there had been enough rain events this year, to show if there was any big peaks so we won't have to wait until the end to have DEP collect the sample for their test.

As other possible sites become available we should get DEP involved early.

BILLS: Cox Stokes & Lantz	\$1,025.06
Cox, Stokes & Lantz	\$ 691.95
William S Bray	\$1,397.50
GeoServices Ltd.	<u>\$17,637.75</u>
TOTAL	\$20,752.26

Ed Owlett made the motion to pay the bills and Denny Young 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Meeting adjourned and the Authority went into an executive session.

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Teresa Marshall