

WELLSBORO MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY MEETING

MAY 17, 2011

MINUTES

The meeting of the Wellsboro Municipal Authority was called to order by Robert DeCamp, Chairman, on May 17, 2011, in the Council Room of the John E. Dugan Fire Station/Municipal Building. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present.

ROLL CALL: Wellsboro Municipal Authority Members: Robert DeCamp, Ed Owlett, Grant Cavanaugh, Dennison Young, Tom Reindl. Council Members: Rudy Scharf, Joan Hart and Terry Bryant. Superintendent of Public Works: Mark Dieffenbach. Borough Secretary/Treasurer: Susan Keck. Engineer: Scott Bray. Solicitor: Robert Cox Jr. Hydro-Geologist: Joe McNally. Water & Sewer Clerk: Teresa Marshall.

MINUTES: The minutes from April 19, 2011 were approved as written. Grant Cavanaugh made the motion to accept and Denny Young 2nd. Passed.

Bob Cox asked for executive meeting.

Once the meeting resumed a motion to pay the fine instituted by DEP was made by Ed Owlett and 2nd by Denny Young.

BOB COX: He was contacted by Enxco to potentially put a wind farm on the Authority property. We had been contacted a while ago from another company for the same thing. They are huge structures and disturb a lot of land. Denny asked how many would be put in and there wasn't a number given. A study would have to be made first according to Terry Bryant. There is a tremendous impact on the property according to Scott Bray. Bob Decamp asked if there were any transmission lines nearby and Scott responded that they were on both ends of the property. After more discussion it was decided that a letter be written declining their offer because of our water system being there.

SCOTT BRAY: Slow sand filter was drained, scraped and ripened and put back on line. They had been ripening this filter for 4-5 days when # 2 filter started to fail. The turbidity level was a 1.1 NTU so Filter #1 was brought on line before the ripening process was completed. Usually ripening takes less time, but because of the re-sanding project last fall and the cold winter it took longer. We did contact DEP and asked to go on-line for Filter #1. We were able to avoid having to go on a boil order but will probably receive a Notice of Violation from DEP. Filter # 2 has been drained, and scraped and re-circulated, the turbidity levels are coming down. It will be noted on the Annual Water report that is sent out to the customers.

There were five holes dug to check the level of sand and we had 38 to 40 inches in Sand Filter #1 and the same in Filter #2. When we went in and changed the gravel and sand we

lost our biological activity and it took three weeks to ripen last time. Mark stated that there must be enough heat in our water to jumpstart the process or we would have been on boil order all winter.

Several years ago, when we started to do the Stokesdale Project, we were going to have the Keck Well on-line before the line came down, so it was decided to not put the pre-treatment facility at Hamilton Lake and we had abandoned doing anything else at Brownlea. Larson had designed the pretreatment facility at Hamilton and Scott was pretty sure that it had been permitted also. If we were to pre-treat it, there would be less load on our filters. This wasn't a new concept; Chester Engineers had talked about it 30 years ago. Slow Sand filter technology is dependent on the weather, source of water and different other things and our source water is always changing ie. when we scrape the filter is it's always a different color. It could be this time next year before we even run the line to the Keck Well.

BOB COX: The line of credit at the bank is available for that kind of project. Rudy stated that we haven't heard yet on how we can spend the grant monies. Sue mentioned that the \$289,000.00 that was spent on the sand will be reimbursed by the grant and she would be hearing from them on how the rest of the monies next week. Terry Bryant also added that we may not be able to spend the rest of the money. Scott wanted to know if we wanted to go further than the pretreatment facility at Hamilton Lake. It was originally around \$150,000.00 for the facility.

Bob then asked Scott if we had this system in place, would we have been able to prevent what happened last week? Scott didn't think it would have made a difference in the levels because that had to do more with the timing of the sand.

SCOTT BRAY: We also have the issue with the wetland monitoring test. If there is an impact on the wetlands from the Keck Well, then it may have to go to a back burner while we look for something else. Do we want to limp along with the slow sand filters or look at something else? We need to stay within DEP compliance.

BOB DECAMP: If there is an impact on the wetlands that would be shown with the pump test – is there anywhere else we could go? Joe McNally answered “yes” there were potential sites nearby that are not near wetlands. We could do another path and get proposals on permitting a pretreatment facility and get bids in case something goes wrong. Scott agreed that we could go ahead and get the permitting done if it wasn't already done but he wasn't sure how long they could hold a bid.

TERRY BRYANT: The thoughts were that we still need the pretreatment facility at Hamilton Lake.

SCOTT BRAY: If he thought the Keck Well was online within a year's time, that would be 250 gallons a minute that we wouldn't be taking out of Hamilton Lake. He wasn't looking for an answer today but brought it up to give the Authority something to think about.

Several years ago, we had gotten into a lot of problems with Hamilton Lake and they had to ask DEP to run a temporary pipe at Rock Run. We had gone ahead and got the permits necessary to put in a permanent line but it never happened. We had to again ask DEP for permission to run a temporary line from Rock Run for water. DEP reacted to the emergency permit very quickly. The paperwork for the amendment for the permit went out in the mail today.

SUE KECK: If they (Council and the Authority) were to decide to use another type of treatment other than the Slow Sand Filter would the treatment facility be useful at Hamilton Lake?

SCOTT BRAY: He responded "yes". The type of technology for this kind of situation, are membranes and you really have to be careful on what you load on the membranes. Pretreatment would become more important. Bob asked that we should be working on this also. Joe McNally stated that the preliminary stuff could be started now. Scott stated that Sue had the copies of the design and there is a whole set of plans. There should be a set of specs also. He didn't know if it ever went to bid. Have Sue contact Larson Design to find out the status and what it would take to go ahead. Sue asked if that would be proprietary information and Scott told her that a release would have to be obtained from Larson. It was their information and we couldn't use without their permission.

MARK DIEFFENBACH: He wanted to know if we wanted to wait on the variable speed drive for \$7,900.00.

SCOTT BRAY: He thought that they wanted to control the flow. There are two pumps on Hamilton Lake intake. They draw water out of the Lake and take in up the hill and drop it into a box. The water at Hamilton Lake is drawn out by pump, the water from BrownLea is gravity drawn and the pump overpowers the water from BrownLea. We are now having the bad water overpowering the good water. Having the variable drive on, it would slow down the water coming from Hamilton Lake allowing more of the good water to come in.

JOE MCNALLY: They are working on two issues, the evaluation of the wetlands and SWIP monitoring. We met with DEP at the end of March to discuss the wetlands. GeoServices has prepared and submitted a wetlands monitoring plan to DEP and the SRBC (Susquehanna River Basin Commission). We had requested that they give us comments by mid-April. The SRBC responded by April 22, 2011. We had conversations with DEP and they did not want to give written comments but wanted to meet on site and then proceed with questions and comments. We did have the written response from SRBC, part of that was a request to get two copies of the final reports from Moody describing the March 2010 aquifer test. This report addressed the pre-approval of that procedure. A copy of the SRBC letter and copies of the report were also sent to DEP. We had shown both of them data in earlier meetings.

A meeting was scheduled on the 9th of May with DEP. We met at the Keck well, walked down the railroad over to Mr. Keck's property and walked through the wetlands monitoring plan. A letter was written to DEP summarizing the May 9, 2011 meeting. On the 12th of May, we had a telephone conversation with Todd from SRBC and basically talked about the comments that they had. We will be also sending them a letter.

Both DEP and the SRBC are in agreement with moving forward with the wetland monitoring plan. We are going to document their agreement. We will do the wetland monitoring test first to see if there are any significant changes in the levels in the wetlands. If there are, the well may not be able to be used. If everything is all right, then we will proceed with the SWIP testing. We still have the deadline of starting the SWIP testing by the end of June. All we need is dry weather to run the test.

We were hoping to put the piezometers in on Thursday depending on the weather. We have it scheduled now for the 23rd. We may be able to get a few weeks extension on the deadline but DEP will not do their test if the ground is frozen and the SWIP test takes six months. If there are enough rain events during the test, they (DEP) may be able to collect it then and avoid the possibility of frozen ground. After the piezometer monitors have been put in, we need to get the data loggers in. We will need to do constant rate testing at least two days before the actual test, 2 days for the testing and a couple of days after. We are hoping to have everything in by June 3, 2011 and start the testing on June 6, 2011 with clear weather during that time period.

We have been in touch with the railroad to let them know what is going on. Mark and his crew may be needed on Tuesday the 24th putting in a weir with hand shovels. It's a piece of plywood that goes across the stream with a "V" notch on top that has to be well-anchored and not leak. Mark also asked if it were premature to put the hose down on June 1, 2011. He didn't mind, however, everything was weather related. We need at least two or three days with no rain and a few days before that with very little rain. After that test is run, we won't need the hose. There will be a shorter discharge from the well on the SWIP test because we are just purging the well for a sample.

How the test works is that after the test is done we give two days for the well to recover. While this is happening, we will download the data loggers and take a look at that information. This will give us time to move into the SWIP testing as quickly as possible. There is some discussion on how to move as quickly as possible with the electric and pumps.

SCOTT BRAY: We had discussed putting a permanent pump in first, then the issue of the wetlands came up, now the discussion is to put a temporary pump (single phase) in and run it off a generator until we get the test results in. If they are good have the electric company run their three phase line and install a permanent pump at a later date. It's \$10,000.00 a month to rent the pump for six months. Maybe we should ask them how much it would be to buy it and leave it there. It's got to be less than renting it for six months. Joe will be having a conference call later in the week with them.

JOE MCNALLY: There are a number of points to be monitored – there may be as many as 20 to 29 monitoring points for the data loggers. Do we want to rent or buy some of the data loggers. Some of them could be reuseable. Renting the data loggers is around \$250.00 each a month. Buying them would be around \$700-750.00. We could buy some and rent some. Bob Cox asked if they could be reused in the Brownlea area.

SCOTT BRAY: Scott suggested that we buy a dozen and rent the rest of the data loggers. We need to get something in place today because realistically, they need to be in place by the third of June. Bob Cox said that in theory, we could pay for them from the grant money we get from the state. It was also suggested that they could be paid for from the Shell money. Terry Bryant suggested using the grant money first.

JOE MCNALLY: One of the comments from SRBC was the former Dresser Plant and the TCE issues. They are bringing it to our attention again. He has been in touch with the company doing the mediation. They will be sending a site characterization report into DEP shortly describing fate and transport of the TCE, where it is, where it is going to. We are looking at getting that data as soon as possible. In talking with them they would like a copy of the report we submitted to DEP in March of 2010. Basically it is already out in the public. Bob Cox said that we we'll share with them if they will share with us and that he thought we had this discussion with them several years ago. A letter should be written spelling out that there was a discussion with the Authority and the Authority agrees that we will share information with them if they share with us.

We plan to do some of the field work next week. We have not had a good window with the weather in some time but we still haven't missed the window for SWIP testing and we couldn't have done it any sooner. He did inquire about the well that Shell is putting in as requested in the last meeting.

A motion was made for a lease/purchase ability for the pump and to purchase 10-12 data loggers. Tom Reindl made motion and Denny Young 2nd.

Bob Cox reminded them that if the data loggers were around \$750.00 a piece and we were buying 10 – 12 loggers, we would have to get some telephone quotes for purchase.

Terry stated that they were pleased at where we were right now. If we miss the window then it would be another year before we could do anything.

SUE KECK: The Authority has 1,000 acres under a Forest Management Plan with recommendations for each 10 – 15 acre parcel. Some of the recommendations were to cut, thin out some of the growth. We may want to look at that. Bob Decamp suggested we review the report and bring it up on the next meeting.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Teresa Marshall.