

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
PLUM CREEK MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
March 2021**

A regular meeting of the Board of The Plum Creek Municipal Authority was held on March 16, 2021 via a Zoom meeting.

Board members present (via Zoom) at the meeting were Jim Ridderhoff, Ryan Achenbach, Jerry Weiss, and Matt Gruber. Also, in attendance were Joe Zerbe (PCMA Attorney), Nancy Wesner (PCMA Office), Mike Kreiser (SES – Select Environmental Solutions), Jamie Lorah (SSM Engineering), and property owners – Joe Haggerty, Richard Hardy, David Mengel, and Angela Haynes.

Ryan Achenbach called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

The minutes for the February 2021 meeting were accepted by motion of Jerry Weiss, seconded by Matt Gruber, carried by all.

The Treasurer's report for February 2021 was reviewed and accepted by motion of Matt Gruber, seconded by Jerry Weiss, carried by all.

Mike Kreiser (SES), submitted a written manager's report to the Board prior to the meeting:

- Copies of the following information has been submitted by SES to PA DEP on the authority's behalf and are viewable via PA DEP website via the eDMR.
 - Discharge monitoring report and Discharge monitoring report supplemental report
 - Western Star, PTO was repaired by Axiom.
 - Mack, fuel filters were replaced by Trans Edge.
- In water operations, Mike Kreiser (SES) reported that:
- Continue normal operations.
 - Current GPM of wells - #1-57, #3-85, #6-56, #8-66. Well# 3 produces more right after it is turned on.
 - We are currently operating 3 wells presently. Our average yield is 185,000 gallons per day.

- Booster Station at 12.7 PSI, as of March 15, 2021 (14.2 PSI – full).
- Booster Station: All pumps operational and rotating on monthly basis.

In sewage operations, Mike Kreiser (SES) reported that:

- Normal operations continue and plant ran well for February 2021.

- Approximately 25 septic pumps are in the backlog.

Mike Kreiser (SES) said the CCR (Consumer Confidence Report) report was prepared, and DEP approved it. It will be distributed and then we must send a certification form that it was submitted.

Mike Kreiser (SES) said Joe Clemas (PCMA) worked at that house (flushing it) last Thursday. Mike said Joe did not find any dirt or any issues and in talking to the resident she is very appreciative. She is not really seeing dirty water, but she is getting the staining in her toilets and bowls from manganese. Joe is going to call her about every two months and if he must stop and flush and make an appearance he will do so.

Mike Kreiser (SES) said Well# 6 there is a sub phase monitor that is not performing properly but the wells are working. We are working to try and resolve the issue. The well is operable without that at this point in time.

Mike Kreiser (SES) said on the wastewater side we prepared the Chapter 94 report and submitted it before the end of the month.

Mike Kreiser (SES) said we are using a lot more water than we did in 2016 but it has been stable since 2017. Mike said gallons of water used per year: 2016 - 6.5 million gallons, 2017 - 10 million gallons, 2018 – 10 million gallons, 2019 – 12 million gallons, 2020 – 11 million gallons. Mike said between 2016 and 2020 we are using about five million gallons more water per year then we were in the past.

Mike Kreiser (SES) said he is still trying to get a hold of Subsurface. It has been difficult to get a hold of them. Mike said we did work some numbers and we are not seeing a huge drop off in production on the wells. Mike said Well # 3 is often pulling air, having some air trapped in it, I am assuming that is one that is going to need attention down the road. Mike said he suggested to his guys to not run it as fast and see if it continues to pull air.

In engineering matters, Jamie Lorah (SSM), said the only thing she had to report is on the Act 537 planning. We gave Wayne & South Manheim townships until March 15th to provide any comments they may have on the Act 537 documents and then we told them we were going to go out for official public comment which we will need to advertise. Jamie said she is requesting tonight that the Authority

give her the approval to post that in the Pottsville Republican newspaper with DEP's approval on the public notice advertisement. Jamie said she still has not heard anything from Scott Novatnak (DEP), but I will send him the advertisement and if he approves it then we would like to put it in the Pottsville Republican. Once we have all comments from that 60-day period we will compile those in with the documents and hopefully the townships will sign off. Jamie said she got one response from David Rattigan (Wayne Township Solicitor) - he notified me that he had received everything, that they had already made their comments but could still provide some comments during the comment period if they feel it is necessary. Jamie said she did not get the same response from South Manheim's solicitor, but both were in correspondence and in conference calls with SSM over the past month. Jamie said she feels the documents are ready for the public notification period and if the Authority agrees we will post them. The advertisement goes in the Pottsville Republican and copies of the documents will need to be posted in the Authority office, both township offices, as well as any other location you feel is necessary. David Mengel said when you spoke about this before I asked if one could be posted in the Lake Wynonah office. Jamie said yes it can.

Upon motion by Jerry Weiss, seconded by Matt Gruber, and carried by all, the Board approved to advertise the two Act 537 plans for public view to open up that 60-day window.

In legal matters, Joe Zerbe said he addressed routine matters such as filing a lien but, other than that, there was nothing to report.

Ryan Achenbach said the Board members received the Chapter 94 (Wastewater) Annual Report in their meeting packets and that the report was completed and submitted.

Ryan Achenbach said Joe Haggerty inquired if Plum Creek did a certain water test for PFAS. Ryan said he has information about it, and we have some quotes. Mike Kreiser (SES) said this is a test that we currently do not do. Mike said it is a test that is not required, and it is not in your DEP standards of needing to be done. So, from Plum Creeks' standpoint there is no reason that you have to do it. Mike said from the public health side there has been some things that have been out in the news and it is out there about concerns and it would be up to the Board what they would like to do or not to do. Mike said there is quote and he could always pay and test it himself if he is concerned about it and leave the Board out of it. Joe Haggerty asked if it is an expensive test? Ryan said it looks to him as though PFAS is not a single line-item test, it appears to be an extensive number of compounds, so to do the entire test for the whole list (which is extensive) is \$1,355 through MJ

Reider Associates who does the environmental testing. Joe Haggerty asked how this type of test is administered.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) said it is currently an unregulated contaminant, so it is not regulated by DEP. She does not even think it is a secondary regulated by EPA yet. They are starting to do some testing especially in urbanized areas where you have chemical factories. Jamie said PFAS is a man-made chemical and you are most likely not going to find it in aquifers and in an area in the setting you are in right now. Jamie said she knows that they are generated from things like fire apparatus, and they use it at the airports when they do special testing of their equipment. Jamie said she is not real familiar with its uses, but she can say that while it is starting to be in the public eye, something that is starting to have some concern with EPA, it is not yet a regulated contaminant. They are finding it in waterways, very trace amounts, but we are talking places like the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia. We are not talking about places like Plum Creek. It is an expensive test to do, and the Authority is not required to take it.

Ryan Achenbach said he had a Pennlive article which was updated February 19, 2021 and in it is the same description that Jamie Lorah (SSM) just said. In the article it says - PFAS are most commonly found in water supplies around airports, firefighting training grounds, and military bases. Joe Haggerty said it was brought to his attention by a member who asked about it. Joe said it probably will be worthwhile commenting on it, maybe Saturday, that you are aware of it, looked into the test, discussed it, and you do not necessarily think that it is anything that is a risk here.

David Mengel said he had a question for Mike Kreiser (SES). David said from the previous meeting you were discussing hauling, how to ease out of it, mixing loads from holding tanks and septic systems, and that you like to see a mix with it. What is the difference between a load from a holding tank and a septic system? Mike said holding tanks have no system behind it so all the water from your washing machine, toilets, showers, all go in that and you have to get it pumped out when it is full. Your septic system has a sand mound or whatever after it, so your actual tank holds the solids. Holding tanks are holding as much as they can take then you have to pump it and that is why holding tanks are pumped out more often than septic tanks. David said as you were talking, I got the impression that it made a difference in the treatment end of it. Mike said yes, because a holding tank is mainly water and a lot of water mixed in with it versus the septic tank is pretty much just sludge and solids. Mike said your wastewater plant needs the solids to keep it alive. If you are just putting water in and there is no BOD and solids to feed

the plant, the plant is a living organism, and it needs the proper amount of air and food to keep it alive. If you starve it and do not supply food to it then it is going to die off and just by supplying water, there is no food source for that plant to keep it alive.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) said on DEP's website there is a PFAS database in the state of Pennsylvania with a first round and second round results from testing. They tested in most of the counties. Jamie said she just looked at the Schuylkill County database and the closet location to you is the FedEx facility in Auburn and that had non-detect results for PFAS and every other result (maybe about 15 results) for Schuylkill County not one of them had a detection. Ryan Achenbach said he will forward the email link from Jamie to Joe Haggerty.

Ryan Achenbach said in the last meeting we had come to an agreement on the Board to at least make and pass a motion that we were going to do some sort of feathering process in order to start bringing in the outside haulers. Ryan said he got some excellent information from Jamie Lorah (SSM), and Jim Ridderhoff and Jerry Weiss had proposals on it too. The recommendation from Jamie and Jim are fairly similar. We are missing Corby Lewis tonight and Jim (who was in attendance but was having trouble with his audio). Ryan said he would like to table this till all the Board members are in attendance. Jerry said he feels all the Board members should be involved in the discussion. Jerry said by the next Board meeting we can let the public know that we are going to discuss it. Matt Gruber said if we want to wait till all Board members are together that is fine with him. Ryan said we can put on the website that we will be going over at least two of the proposal for how we are going to possibly feather in the use of private haulers. Ryan said he will send an email to the office with a small paragraph that can be put on the website. Ryan said we are looking at the final plans being given to the townships, we are advertising for the public so we can enter this 60-day window, so us going over the proposal and holding it until April I do not think impedes things a whole lot other than just rolling it back a little bit.

Nancy (PCMA Office) said in the Board's meeting packets there was an email regarding the new electricity rates and asked if the Board wanted to make a motion on it. Ryan Achenbach asked when does our rate expire. Nancy said she thinks it is August or September. Ryan and the other Board members tabled this to April's meeting.

There being no further business, Jerry Weiss motioned for adjournment, Matt Gruber seconded the motion, carried by all. Ryan Achenbach adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

