

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

A regular meeting of the Board of The Plum Creek Municipal Authority was held on April 20, 2021 via a Zoom meeting.

Board members present (via Zoom) at the meeting were Jim Ridderhoff, Jerry Weiss, Matt Gruber, Corby Lewis, and Ryan Achenbach. Also, in attendance were Nancy Wesner (PCMA Office), Matthew Crump (SES – Select Environmental Solutions), Jamie Lorah (SSM Engineering), and C.M. and property owners – Joe Haggerty, Richard Hardy, David Mengel, and Nelson.

Jim Ridderhoff called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

The minutes for the March 2021 meeting were accepted by motion of Matt Gruber, seconded by Jerry Weiss, carried by all but Ryan Achenbach, who abstained because he did not receive the meeting packet/minutes in time to review them.

The Treasurer's report for March 2021 was reviewed and accepted by motion of Matt Gruber, seconded by Corby Lewis, carried by all.

Matthew Crump (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

In water operations, Matthew Crump (SES) reported that:

- Continue normal operations.
- We are currently operating 2 wells presently. Our average yield is 188,900 gallons per day.
- Wells are rotated to have equal run time, and rest time.
- KOP kit changed at Well # 6 and Well # 8.

- Booster Station at 14.0 PSI, as of April 9, 2021 (14.2 PSI – full).
  - Booster Station: All pumps operational and rotating on monthly basis.
- In sewage operations, Matthew Crump (SES) reported that:
- Normal operations continue and plant ran well for March 2021.
  - Approximately 20 septic pumps are in the backlog.
  - No maintenance to report.

Matthew Crump (SES) was sitting in for Mike Kreiser (SES) who could not attend the meeting. Matthew said Mike had just sent him a quote for well rehab. Matthew said he does not know if he is missing one or if we only got one. It looks like the proposal for Well # 1 the total would be \$28,670 from Subsurface Technologies. Matthew said they would like to do two wells and that would be their recommendation to plan and schedule them for this summer. Matthew said they are thinking that we should put Well # 3 as a priority in front of Well# 1. Currently, Well # 3 has an air issue, and we would be looking to get that fixed because it causes bubbles in the lines and things of that nature. Jim Ridderhoff asked if we had a quote from Subsurface on Well # 3. Matthew said he was only seeing a quote for Well # 1. Nancy said the office only received a quote for Well # 1.

In engineering matters, Jamie Lorah (SSM), said the update she had regarding the Act 537 plan is that we are officially out for Public Comment. It was posted in the Pottsville Republican on April 15th. The 30-day public comment period is officially kicked off and it runs from April 15th to May 15th. We sent hard copies to the Plum Creek office of both township's documents. We did not send hard copies to Lake Wynonah. Jamie asked Nancy if they asked for copies. Nancy said Joe Haggerty had asked this morning about copies and both were emailed to him. Jen has it on the website and we do have copies if anybody wants one, but they should call ahead because our office is closed. Joe said they did print out a hard copy in their office so if somebody comes looking for it, we can show it to them. Jamie said they also sent electronic copies to both townships, but they got an email today asking for hard copies and they should have been sent today. Jamie said submissions were also made to the County Planning Commission as well as both Township Planning Commissions and the County Health Department. That is a requirement under Act 537. Each of these planning agencies as well as the County Health Department are allowed up to 60-days to provide comment. So, if during that 60-day period we get additional comments from the County and Township Planning Commissions or the Health Department we will incorporate those as well. Jamie said she attempted to get a hold of Scott Novatnak, several times, he is our DEP planning reviewer. Jamie said he did not respond and that is why it took until

April 15th to get it into public comment because she emailed him every week and called him twice a week since our last meeting. Jamie said she got a response today that he finally read the emails she was sending him and one of them is the advertisement in the Pottsville Republican.

Jim Ridderhoff asked Jamie Lorah (SSM) about the 30-day period and the 60-day period and would she explain it. Jamie said under the Act 537 we need a minimum of 30 days of public comment. Jamie said that opens it to anyone wanting to provide comments from the public from outside of the township supervisors or planning commissions. The 60-day period is required by the Act 537 regulations and that is to allow both Township Planning Commissions (South Manheim & Wayne), Schuylkill County Planning Commission, and the County Health Department to provide comments and those will need to be incorporated into the Act 537 plan submissions to DEP. They are allowed 60 days to provide comments and if they do not comment within 60 days, they need to either request an extension or they just defer and say they do not have any comments. Jamie said any comments received should be forwarded to her or Nancy (PCMA Office) or to both so they can be compiled into one document because that will get appended to the Act 537 plans and will go to DEP once the townships sign off and adopt the ordinance.

Corby Lewis said he was reading the plan for the transition period and he thinks it is backwards. Corby said he thinks they should start with the solid septic's and let Plum Creek handle the holding tanks because they are a priority. We do not want to let the holding tank guys hanging and somebody can not get to them.

Matthew Crump (SES) said he talked to Mike Kreiser (SES) and he said that the prices for both wells had been in there at some point, but he could not get them to Matthew right now. So, you saw Well # 1 and Mike said Well # 3 was also quoted and sent over at a past meeting and discussed. Matthew said he just needed to know how the Board wanted to proceed. Matthew said he thinks it is best to start with Well # 3 and take care of this air issue that is coming from the water and then take care of Well# 1 because that one was done in 2013. Corby Lewis said can we make a motion with the provision that it does not exceed the cost of Well # 1 without notification.

Upon motion by Corby Lewis, seconded by Ryan Achenbach, and carried by all, the Board approved to start the process to take care of the issues on Well # 3 but if it is going to exceed the dollar amount of Well # 1 the Board should be notified and then they will make a decision.

Jim Ridderhoff told Matthew Crump (SES) to start the process on Well # 3 and to give the Board an estimate as soon as possible and to make sure it does not go over the price of Well # 1. Matthew said okay and if the price does go over, he will make sure and touch base with Mike Kreiser (SES) so he can get in touch with the Board about the pricing.

Matthew Crump (SES) said at Well # 8 our maintenance guys are starting on redoing the inside piping tomorrow and L/B Water and Justin (SES) will be on site.

Matthew Crump (SES) said Mike Kreiser (SES) had a question for the Board. When Subsurface is out - did you want both wells done, did you want to do one and then a little bit of time in between schedule the next one, or did the Board had a preference. Jim Ridderhoff said he believes that if we schedule them together, we save ourselves some travel time in the estimates. Ryan Achenbach said looking at the output from March, starting from halfway through the month, almost all our output was coming from Well # 6 and Well # 8. So, if we are primarily relying on those wells and trying to get Well # 1 and Well # 3 fixed up together if that saves time to get them back online – is that preferable for everybody. Corby Lewis, Matt Gruber, and Jerry Weiss said they are okay with it. Jim said to Matthew (SES) that the opinion is that you should schedule both.

In legal matters, Joe Zerbe, who did not attend, but touched base with Nancy before the meeting. Joe said there was nothing new to report.

Jim Ridderhoff said we got a couple of proposals to feather in the outside haulers. Jim said he made a proposal and Jamie Lorah (SSM) had one that was similar. The idea was to use the outside haulers to empty out our facilities, use our wastewater treatment plant to process, and they would be assisted by Carl (PCMA pump truck driver). Jim said Corby Lewis mentioned something about not the holding tanks right now just the septic's. Corby said yes, he thinks that is going to be a better process. Because when the holding tanks need to be emptied, they need to be emptied now – typically within a 24-hour period you want to be there and get that emptied.

Jim Ridderhoff said one of the proposals is that we would have an outside hauler come in for the whole week, he would meet Carl (PCMA), and the idea is that Carl would have a list from the telephone calls of the holding tanks that were due for that day. Carl would go with the outside hauler and empty the holding tanks for that day plus two septic's and that would be the day's work for that outside hauler. The next day he would come back and repeat the process. The outside hauler would be there for a whole week. The following week we would use a different

hauler and so over the process of say five weeks we would have five different haulers – one week each – so it would solve the problem of the holding tanks because they would be emptying the holding tanks just as if we would be doing it if we were doing the hauling. Cory Lewis said that part makes sense to him but what about after the five weeks or whatever. Jim said we can keep this up for about three months – we said we would do it for about three months and then we would go to the outside haulers totally. Corby said he does not like it. Jim said at some point in time we are going to have to go to the outside haulers and the holding tank people will have to realize that they are not going to get instant service, they are going to get the next day or the following day service, which is what we have contracted for, but we have been overly polite and have been doing it much quicker.

Corby Lewis said he would like to hear what some of the other Board members have to say. Ryan Achenbach said what he would like to know is on a holding tank when the

Joe Haggerty said he thinks generally once you see the light or the alarm you probably have, depending upon the family, a week or less and probably if you have a larger family probably three days or less. Jamie Lorah (SSM) said a holding tank typically has a capacity of 4,000 gallons and she thinks the alarm is set at 75 percent. So, that leaves you about 1,000 gallons of remaining capacity in the tank. The alarm will continue to light up or if it is audible, it will sound until you turn it off or until someone empties it. But that 1,000 gallons is dependent on the residents and their usage. So, a typical home will use anywhere from 250 to 400 gallons a day on average depending on the household size. Jamie said you would want to have someone out there within the three-to-four-day period.

Joe Haggerty said a concern of his is that, especially if these prices go up anywhere near of what you are projecting, people are really going to try to micromanage this right until the end. Joe said he thinks his alarm went off at 85 percent not 75 percent. When the alarm goes off at 85 percent and it is a \$200 pump or so you might be inclined to call rather promptly but if you are going to end up paying \$500 - \$600 you are probably going to try get that down to 95 or 96 percent. You are going to want to get as much pumped as you can for that fee. Joe said he thinks the quick service is going to be more important going forward than it has been in the past.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) said she had one comment to add for Mr. Lewis about the holding tanks versus the septic systems. There is a chemistry we still have to be concerned about at the plant and if Mike Kreiser were here, he would remind

everyone that he is going to want a mixture at the plant of both holding tank waste and septic waste. We can not limit it to one or the other because this is being hauled down to the wastewater treatment plant. Jamie said we need to pump both. Ryan Achenbach said we need the solids for the live bacteria load. Jamie said that is correct.

Corby Lewis said this is his concern. You are going to have these outside haulers coming in and they are not just dealing with Lake Wynonah they are also dealing with the outside. When a holding tank comes up and it needs to be emptied (as soon as possible) and you are scheduled out for a week then what. They must find another hauler and hopefully they are not scheduled out.

Jim Ridderhoff said this is just a thought. If we are in the feathering in process, we have a hauler for the whole week, he is hauling both the holding tanks and the septic's, they are emptying them in our treatment plant, and he sees the necessity of the holding tanks. We can get a rough idea from each of these haulers how dependable they are going to be to answering the call of holding tank people and how they are going to respond. We may have some very responsible and dependable outside haulers. Joe Haggerty said you could make it a condition of qualifying them as a hauler. You want to be a hauler for Lake Wynonah you have to assure us that you will be able to give us three-day service for holding tanks. Jim said he thinks that would be a legitimate question and a good starting point.

Ryan Achenbach said is anybody aware of other neighborhoods around our service area that are running off of holding tanks. Ryan said if we are worried about being able to schedule people in - is there a pressing demand for three-day service for any other community or even a partial community. Is there competition for this immediate service? Jamie Lorah (SSM) said that is a good question to ask the haulers, but she does not know of any. Jamie said within the townships most have onlot systems we do not have public sewage necessarily there is a little bit in Wayne township, but it is not real close. The rest of the townships are onlot and most likely are septic systems and not holding tanks. Holding tanks are more the exception – now to get a holding tank permit you need a special maintenance agreement with the township. So, even the townships could probably tell us that too – like the township SEO's.

Richard Hardy said he thinks the holding tanks were mainly put in as far as lakefront properties because they were concerned with the drain fields leeching into the lake. Because the people off the lake did not have to have a holding tank. Ryan Achenbach said he agrees with Richard and he believes it was also paired up

with the fact of expecting at the time that they were going to be able to do public sewer.

Ryan Achenbach said he likes the idea of bringing a hauler in for a week at the time and our goal is not to just expose them to the needs of Lake Wynonah and then let them do their own thing but what if we actively try to build a service board of haulers that get to see what is going on. What we are talking about is a feathering in process for not only the customers in Lake Wynonah but also for the haulers and say here is what we are doing and here is the potential holding tank load in a week and they each to get to have a period of time experiencing it to see if they can meet the needs. Then we push them to try to become an official service hauler for Lake Wynonah where they can make some sort of commitment, if we are able to build that, and if we cannot get a hauler to commit with that, we must revisit this entire thing. Ryan thinks it is worth an opportunity. Jim Ridderhoff said he believes Joe Haggerty had a valid point by saying if you cannot meet our requirements, you cannot be on the list to be an official hauler. Ryan said he would think after a week we could finalize that time period they should be able to have an idea. It all comes down to math we should be able to look at our records and say here is how many holding tank calls we get on an average in a week and here is what you are going to have to do to be in here. Ryan said he knows we got a list of at least five haulers so if we can cover that with a commitment we are working in a good direction. Ryan said how will we know till we get them on site.

Joe Haggerty said he thinks Corby Lewis had a good point earlier when he was talking about them scheduling. Joe said in Lake Wynonah we are kind of on the three-year interval for the septic's but when you get outside of Lake Wynonah, in both townships, he is not sure that they have a forced interval. It might be that the septic's are getting pumped on an as-needed basis or longer intervals. Joe said he has a feeling that a lot of those services, outside of the lake, are more for emergency pumps and repairs and things of that nature versus just a three-year maintenance pump. Jim Ridderhoff said the process he had described before of an outside hauler working for one week – say we have five haulers – hauler “A” was the first week and hauler “B” was the second week – so we go through five weeks and then we come to the sixth week and then we go back to “A” and we do it again. So, these haulers, for three months, they have been hauling in Lake Wynonah they are going to have a better idea of us, and we are going to have a better idea of them. Jim said like Ryan Achenbach was talking about it is a feathering in for both of us to see if they can handle what our needs are.

Corby Lewis asked Jim Ridderhoff if he talked to any of the haulers and asked them if they would commit one week. Jim said the proposal is here now talking with us and he has not sent that out to other haulers but after this discussion he will go and ask them. Corby said they have other clientele that is going to come up during that week. He does not know how it is going to work. Jim said all the haulers have more than one truck so they could commit one truck to Lake Wynonah for a week. Corby said they have two trucks – they have two trucks for a reason – they have that much demand on the outside of Lake Wynonah and now you are adding the demand of Lake Wynonah. Matt Gruber said that is his biggest concern also. Matt said being in business and to just drop everything you are doing and dedicate for one week to be somewhere it can be difficult. Matt said it possibly might work you will have to talk to some of these guys and see if that would be an option, but he thinks we are going to have to keep an open mind to the possibility that it might not work. He does not know if it would be an option to just have all five of them say we are going to try this for the next three to four weeks and all of them would work together.

Matt Gruber said as far as the holding tanks he does not know anybody in the area that has a holding tanks other than the lake. Most everybody is on septic systems.

Ryan Achenbach said if we contact as many of these haulers as possible and say we need to do a feathering in process in Lake Wynonah – are you willing to be on call when the service need of the holding tank comes in. We are essentially going through the haulers in order to see who is able to take it, whoever can take it at that time, comes and meets up with Carl (PCMA), who is familiar with the process in here, he does the ride along, and we take whoever is willing to service it. One thing is all these haulers must be interested in the fact that we have a market of holding tanks, that is not available everywhere else, which would be a consistent flow of business. Matt Gruber said he talked to people and they are all definitely interested.

Richard Hardy said he likes the idea that you are getting the people in there and seeing how they operate. Maybe a week is too long maybe scheduling a day at a time to try them out. Jim Ridderhoff said that is the plan we would get an outside hauler and our guy, Carl, would go with them for that whole day and show them what he does.

Jim Ridderhoff said he will contact the outside haulers within this next month and propose the one-week plan and see what it is and maybe they can only do three days or something. Jim said he likes the idea of more than just one day for the outside hauler because one day might not be typical of what every day is. They should have at least three days a week to get the idea of what is going on. David



Mengel said on the outside haulers it seems like a good idea and, he thinks if you would get these guys in for a week, they may be more interested because maybe they are looking for more business or looking to expand.

Ryan Achenbach said we got a chat question from CM. It says if we have five potential haulers did you ever consider taking bids from them and taking the lowest bidder to exclusively do the lake. Ryan said to have an exclusivity deal with the lake he believes is something that the board at Lake Wynonah would also have to get involved in if there is going to be a contract just to do the lake. Jim Ridderhoff said he thinks we addressed that situation or addressed that question several months ago. Jim said Joe Haggerty was suggesting just having one or two haulers. Jim said his opinion is that one or two haulers can not handle what we have, and it would be more than the liability that we want to give to just one or two haulers. Jim said he suggests having four or five haulers. Joe Haggerty said you are doing it today with one hauler. Joe said if one of these guys looks at this business and sees it as being attractive, he might decide it is worth adding an extra truck and an extra driver and going after it. Ryan said we need to get the haulers involved in regard to what their opinions are, and interest and he thinks that would help. Matt Gruber agrees with Ryan that we should reach out to these haulers to see what they are willing to do and then we would all know which direction we are going. Jim said he will contact each of the haulers in the next few weeks and bring a report back next month. Corby said he would also invite them to the meeting. Jim and Ryan agreed.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) said over the course of the last year or more we have been discussing with Jim Ridderhoff and others on the Authority Board the options of bidding this work out and getting proposals from haulers. Jamie Lorah (SSM) said one of the concerns that Jim had, and maybe Joe Zerbe would have, was that by giving exclusivity rights to one hauler they are accepting a lot of liability and should they not have the equipment or not be able to provide immediate service and something overflows there may be some concerns by haulers about bidding on it.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) said it is an option to put it out as a bid and it is something that we could do if that is how we want to proceed but we need to start somewhere and that is with this trial run. Maybe everyone is right, and they can only do two or three days in each week to do a trial run. Maybe it takes longer than three months to transition and if it does so be it until everybody is comfortable and the Authority can set a time frame. It is not so much an issue of urgency other than the expense. So, we need to watch obviously expenses but if they are only going to do two or

three days versus five days you can then do it for a longer period because you are not hauling as much material. Looking back over some of the monthly reports we had 26 holding tank hauling events last month according to the report from Mike Kreiser (SES) that is less than one a day. Joe Haggerty said it gets a little seasonal. Jamie said there are enough haulers out there and local to you. Biro's is one of them that has many, many trucks and they already do this type of hauling work for other municipalities in the surrounding areas and would be interested. If you do decide later to put out an RFP (Request for Proposal) and get proposals, you then can lock them into a two- or three-year contract rate as an approved hauler and it could be more than one. Say you get five proposals and three of them are good you can lock all three of them into a given rate for a three-year period.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) said she does urge everyone that if you have a specific comment to put it in writing so that we can include it as well as the response in the Act 537 plan submission that we have showing that the Authority has officially addressed this and how they addressed it to the satisfaction of the person asking the question.

Ryan Achenbach said if he is not mistaken, we are down to about 120 or so holding tanks in Lake Wynonah and of those only about 50 to 60 percent are full-time residents. So, in regard to the total demand to the neighborhood of over 1200 properties the holding tanks that require constant service is fairly low. The haulers need to be aware of that at the right time.

Ryan Achenbach said another question came in from CM. What are the haulers charging to empty a tank? Ryan said he knows that spreads around a bit depending on the hauler. Jim Ridderhoff said we do not have an answer to that yet.

Jim Ridderhoff said the next item is to renew the electricity rate. Jennifer (PCMA Office) sent an update today that changes the numbers that were on the page that you received in your packet. The new rates are 5.7, 5.581, and 5.558. Ryan Achenbach asked how long did we take the last choice. Nancy said it was for one year and before that it was three years. Corby Lewis said his understanding is that the expiring rate is higher than the new rates. Ryan said he would not want to go with the 36 months because it is not a big enough savings compared to the 24 months. Jim and Corby said they were leaning towards the 24 months also. Jerry Weiss asked is there a disclaimer in the plan for two years that if the power grid starts to change more to environmental solar, which is more expensive than fossil and nuclear, since our nuclear plants are shutting down, and fossil plants are starting to be phased out, is there anything in the plan that has a disclaimer that they do not have to obey the pricing. Nancy said no she does not think so.

Upon motion by Corby Lewis, seconded by Ryan Achenbach, and carried by all, the Board approved to renew the electricity rate for 24 months at the rate of 5.581.

Jim Ridderhoff said we received some information, today, from Lake Wynonah Group. Jim said he briefly read it, it has many, many pages, and it was just received today. Jim said it is not really our responsibility for most of what they are talking about because the SEO's were making the exceptions. Ryan Achenbach said he was going to defer to Joe Zerbe on this obviously for a reason.

Ryan Achenbach said there is clearly some sort of an agreement within Lake Wynonah and with the townships that in order to facilitate moving people into onlot systems they are able to sign off assuming all liability to go into those and kind of encroach on those easements in order to put in a system. Ryan said what was included was a copy of what these members in Lake Wynonah sign off on and what it says is you are assuming all liability if down the road the utility companies end up needing to use those easements and your system is in the way you are going to be liable for whatever ends up having to be done. Ryan said he is not sure what that has to do with PCMA because we are not involved in any of those decisions. Joe Haggerty said where it might come into play is going ahead with the Act 537. Joe thinks the predicate there is that a lot of these remaining holding tanks are going to be able to be converted and if this issue that has been raised would be successful in rolling back people's ability to encroach on these utilities setbacks you might not end up with a whole lot holding tank conversions. Jamie Lorah (SSM) said she had a suggestion that this just came in today and Joe Zerbe has not had a chance to review it – this is all legal related and it would make sense to table it until Joe Zerbe is able to review what was transmitted before discussing it any further. Joe Haggerty said also mention to Joe Zerbe that we view this as anonymous because we are not quite sure who this group is – we do not know any members or how to communicate with them. Jim said the Board is going to table this issue until next time.

The Emergency Response Plan Revision 9 was updated and given to the Board for review. Upon motion by Jerry Weiss, seconded by Matt Gruber, and carried by all, the updated Emergency Response Plan Revision 9 was approved and adopted with the following corrections to phone numbers for Jim Ridderhoff, Jerry Weiss, and Corby Lewis.

David Mengel said the yearly water report that came with the last bill – he is wondering if PCMA checks for iron and manganese. David said the first two columns has NA – is there no values for those particular columns? Matthew Crump (SES) it is possible that their rotation for testing is not needed. David asked how

often do you test for iron and manganese? Matthew said he would have to check on the scheduling to answer that question. David said according to report the last samples were taken in 2015. Jamie Lorah (SSM) said according to the monitoring requirements you are not required to monitor iron and manganese on a regular basis and that is according to the DEP drinking water reporting website. Jamie said that would be up to the Authority to decide to test it, but it is not a requirement.

David Mengel said also on the same page that has chemical contaminants list - on the prior report that was put out on the detected chemical contaminants there is two entries on the bottom for total coliform and E. coli and there are none in this new report that came out. Jamie Lorah (SSM) said that is because those were detected in 2019 and they were not detected in 2020. Matthew Crump (SES) said in the instructions that DEP gives when filling out the CCR they say that if nothing was detected that it should not included on the detected sample results page.

David Mengel said when talking about pumping the list of pumps he is assuming the Municipal Authority keeps the list and keeps track of when your three-years is due for your pump. David said the list of pumps that are done every three years has that ever been audited to see that every property is within the three-year limit. David said he is asking because he heard rumors of two in here and one that is supposedly at least five years since it has been pumped. Jim Ridderhoff said we have a three-year rotation that we are following somewhat closely but we are hampered by truck breakdowns and various things that keep us from keeping up with that schedule. However, we are not grossly behind on that – are we? Nancy said Jen does the three-year and sends out the letters so they are just trying to keep up with the current ones and then she will go back but she has not done that for a while to see who has not been done. Jim said would you have Jen check in the office and go back and see if somebody slipped through the cracks and has not been pumped for quite a while.

There being no further business, Corby Lewis motioned for adjournment, Jerry Weiss seconded the motion, carried by all. Jim Ridderhoff adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Meeting minutes were taken, prepared, and submitted by Nancy Wesner.