

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF THE
PLUM CREEK MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY**

A regular meeting of the Board of The Plum Creek Municipal Authority was held on March 21, 2023, at the Plum Creek Municipal Authority Business Office Building, South Manheim Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.

Board members present at the meeting were Jim Ridderhoff, Jerry Weiss, and Ryan Achenbach. Also, in attendance were Nancy Wesner (PCMA Office), Joe Zerbe, Kevin Dunn (ARRO Operations Manager), Andy Marcano (ARRO Water Services), Jamie Lorah (SSM Engineering) and property owners Joe Haggerty, David Mengel, Bob Still, Richard Hardy, James and Mary Heimbecker.

Jim Ridderhoff called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The minutes for the February 2023 meeting were accepted with two corrections (page 3, fifth paragraph the word should be manganese not magnesium and on page 4, second paragraph the word should be C900 not Senine), by motion of Ryan Achenbach, seconded by Jerry Weiss, carried by all.

The Treasurer's report for February 2023 was reviewed and accepted by motion of Ryan Achenbach, seconded by Jerry Weiss, carried by all.

David Kline (ARRO Water Services), submitted a written manager's report to the Board prior to the meeting:

- Copies of the following information have been submitted by ARRO Water Services to PA DEP on the authority's behalf and are viewable via PA DEP website via the eDMR.
 - Discharge Monitoring Report and Supplemental Reports

In water operations, David Kline (ARRO Water Services) reported that:

- February 16: Begin fixing meter reading problem.
- February 22: Worked with Moyer to fix influent valve. Updated Jamie Lorah via phone on the status of the repairs.
- February 23: Worked on meter repairs from meter reading. Got all done except four meters. Two are already scheduled, need to make appointments for the final two.
- Booster Station: Normal operations; nothing to report.

In sewage operations, David Kline (ARRO Water Services) reported that:

- There were 42 pumps done (14 HT and 28 Septic) for the month of February 2023.
- Pump Truck Operations / Maintenance – Nothing to report.

Jim Ridderhoff said in the manager's report it states that there were eleven loads of sludge taken out. Andy Marcano (ARRO) said that is incorrect, there were no loads of sludge taken out. Nancy (office) will email David Kline (ARRO) about it and get the report corrected.

Andy Marcano (ARRO) said the plant is still not in operation. Currently, they have been making repairs, as we come across them, in succession, in the way they occur in the system. The influent valve was problematic, we finally got that situated where we could control how much water comes into the plant. We need to control how much water goes into the plant before we can figure how much water is supposed to go out. When we got to the part where it was supposed to start going out - we went to fire up the final filter and burned up another motor.

Andy Marcano (ARRO) said Slaymaker came in and removed the pump and took it to their shop. They are going to see if they can rebuild it or replace it. Andy said when PPL came out to shut the power off to do a repair (there is no back-up generator here) and once the power shuts off there is a certain volume of water that is suspended in the system and once the blowers shut off all that water settles and then proceeds to overflow out of the clarifiers into the final tanks. If we would have discharged, it would have caused us to have a DEP violation. The skimmer pit ended up overflowing into where this pump was and there was nothing anybody could do about it without having power.

In legal matters, Joe Zerbe said he was able to close the transaction on lot 134 Navajo Drive but had nothing else to report.

Jerry Weiss said he took the unusable meters to Weiner Recycling and PCMA got a check for them.

In engineering matters, Jamie Lorah (SSM) said on the Act 537 Plan there is no update. The oil spill remediation was pushed back to next week.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) said she received a copy of the completed Well #3 water analyses. Jamie said they looked at the results and there is a little bit of methane in there that could be causing the bubbling and we would like to test again. We have taken a finished water sample and that is what these results are from. We would like to know what is in the raw water, how much manganese is being removed, and whether these contaminants are in raw water and finished water. We would also like to take a sample right before it gets into the storage tank for that finished water. Jamie said their recommendation is to do another round of testing before we make any further recommendations to the Board in terms of needs for potential treatment. There is carbon dioxide which is not an abnormal thing to be in water but there is a high amount of carbon dioxide as well in Well #3 finished water and there is very high manganese which was brought up at the last meeting. There is a sequestering agent being used and whether it is effective or whether it is now being underdosed because something changed in the raw water - we do not know because we do not have raw water samples. We do know back when the well was drilled the manganese was high and that is why the Klenphos-300 (sequestering agent) is being used to remove the manganese. Jamie said you might need to bring in someone from your chemical supplier and look at other potential chemicals that could be used. Jamie said then it is just a permit amendment to get that changed out in all your systems if there is a different chemical that should be used. Andy Marcano (ARRO) said Well #3 is the biggest producer. Jamie said the chemical sequesters the iron and manganese.

Andy Marcano (ARRO) said as soon as he sees a difference in the water tower, he has the guys come in and do leak detection and when the leaks are found he gets them fixed right away. Andy said the majority of the leaks are from the service lines.

Jim Ridderhoff said the Klenphos-300 has worked effectively for many years but in the last six months he can see the manganese in his house.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) said they can do a raw and finished water sample at each of the active wells. Jamie said there are no secondary contaminant limits – there is no guidance on what CO₂ or methane should be in well water – no guidance given by EPA or DEP.

Andy Marcano (ARRO) said he has been working with Nancy (office) on how we proceed to go about issuing boil water notices. Andy said there is no such thing as a precautionary boil water notice. You either need the boil water notice or you do not. Andy said the only time he will put the boil water signs up is if he knows for a fact that he seen that we had a loss of disinfection in one of the lines. But as a licensed operator it is your job while the water main break is being worked on to monitor it and make sure you have water always coming out of the break. If you have water always coming out of that break, then you are maintaining disinfection. You do not have to worry about anything getting into the pipe because the water is coming out. When you must shut the water main down, then at that point you confirm you lost disinfection because something could have gotten into that pipe, and you do not know where it is going. At that point – you get a boil water notice.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) said she wanted to notify the Board that she did not have the completed structural and electrical evaluation yet. Jamie hopes to have it for the next meeting.

Upon motion by Ryan Achenbach, seconded by Jerry Weiss, and carried by all, the Board approved testing at Wells #1, 6, and 8 for iron and manganese. The motion was amended to include testing at the Water Storage Tank.

Joe Haggerty said Jamie Lorah (SSM) mentioned the alternative analysis and waiting to hear from DEP – is that the scope of what you want to do, and you are waiting to hear from Scott Novatnak. Jamie said no. The Authority was offered, by PENNVEST and DEP, to do free technical assistance. PENNVEST and DEP have hired Larson Design Group and Gannett Fleming to do technical assistance. Free consulting work is being provided to certain municipal authorities on the wastewater side. Jamie said they sent a letter to the Board, we reached out, and we had a meeting with Larson Design Group and PENNVEST. We discussed that the Board needs a new alternative analysis for the Act 537 planning to resubmit the Act 537 planning. Bob Still asked if there are opportunities like that for the water side. Jamie said the same group could potentially do capital improvements for the Board and come up with funding.

David Mengel said he has complained several times about the manganese and cloudiness in his area, but nothing was ever done. Andy Marcano (ARRO) said (just recently) they think it is coming out of the ground and has nothing to do with the pump. The pump and motor were just replaced.

David Mengel said he feels that if the sewage treatment plant had been maintained through the years it would not be as bad as it is. Andy Marcano (ARRO) said the other side of this is the economic side. The rates were not being raised to prepare for upgrades through the years, but no community wants to hear that their sewage rates are going to be raised. Ryan Achenbach said the complexity of raising the rates is even wider scope than that because you had a community that started out as all holding tanks and over the years as that has spread to now where it is almost ninety percent septics, and we are down to eighty or so holding tanks. You are talking about a raise that would have to go onto the consumer base of even higher because you have gone from monthly pumps to now pumps every three years. So, to cover that loss of the consumer base you are now looking at costs that were even higher than what market rates would have been on the outside.

Andy Marcano (ARRO) said if you decide to change out the water mains there probably will be an additional charge to get rid of the piping. Jamie Lorah (SSM) said they would make sure that was covered in any specs.

Mary Heimbecker asked if the PENNVEST grant and loans are based completely on the necessity of what must be done here, whether it gets approved, and the money allocated, or does that have something to do with financial health or abilities of the community. Jamie Lorah (SSM) said when PENNVEST does their analysis they will look at what is a common rate for a certain region throughout the state and what they will do is try to make your rate match that rate. They will try to put a package together, grants plus loans together, so that the rate you would be paying would not be above that regional average.

Jim Ridderhoff said the next item on the agenda is about purchasing a pickup truck and that was assigned to Matt Gruber to gather information, but Matt could not attend the meeting tonight.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) said she did confirm that Kohl Bros is a COSTARS vendor, and they did provide a proposal for the replacement of the booster pumps, as well as the pipes, valves, and fittings. All the piping from the 8" suction pipe at floor level to the 8" discharge pipe at floor level. These would be on VFD's (variable frequency drive) on the pumps, and they would replace them with an equivalent size pump, but it would not be the same model and manufacturer because those pumps are obsolete. He has recommended these Grundfos pumps – Model CR15 two of those and Model CR95 two of those. They would provide a VFD control for each pump. These would sequence to maintain a constant system pressure with lead-lag operation and automatic alternation. He would provide fused disconnect for each pump, level panel with pressure sensor for low tank level protection. The proposal includes labor, equipment, and materials to demo all existing pumps, piping, and panel, and install new items. The total is not to exceed \$168,000. The existing pump panel is powered through a single disconnect switch and it might be best to investigate the installation of a main distribution panel with circuit breakers. He has not included that item, but this would eliminate the individual fused disconnect switch. Jamie said she wanted to present this to the Board as an option and open that discussion up to the Board. This is something that should be done, and it has a steep price tag associated with it but essentially if you have an issue where the booster pumps start to fail, you have electrical issues, at that station, everybody in the upper part of the system is going to suffer.

Andy Marcano (ARRO) said there are four pumps up at the booster station and three he has no idea if they are operational. Andy said since he got here there has been one pump running supplying water to the upper end of the development. Andy said when Kohl Bros was here, they saw we have a 10HP motor powering that and they said that the 10HP motor running 24/7 is overkill for the amount of water we are supplying to those upper areas. The way it is supposed to work is to have a smaller pump that is tied in with the pressure on the system. If it notices the pressure drops on the system that pump, which is tied into a variable frequency drive, then that pump would then ramp up and go faster to accommodate the consumption. Andy said Kohl Bros was here working on an electrical issue at Well #6 because it kept shutting off and he asked them to stop at the storage tank to look at it. Andy said Kohl Bros looked at the way the system was designed, and they are going to modernize it but duplicate what is already there. The system is designed correctly they are just going to make it more efficient.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) said you would need a public water supply permit amendment to change out the booster pumps to these pumps.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) will get another quote for the booster pump system for the next meeting. Jamie will also contact DEP on the permit issue.

There being no further business, Jim Ridderhoff motioned for adjournment, Jerry Weiss seconded the motion, carried by all. Jim Ridderhoff adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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