

**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 July 16, 2024, at the Plum Creek Municipal Authority Business Office Building, South Manheim Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.

Board members present at the meeting were Jerry Weiss, Matt Gruber, Ryan Achenbach, and Mike Flynn Jr. Also, in attendance were Nancy Wesner (PCMA Office), Joe Zerbe, Jamie Lorah (SSM Engineering), Matthew Crump (Precision Operations), and property owners Joe Haggerty and David Mengel.

Ryan Achenbach called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

The minutes for the June 2024 meeting were accepted by motion of Jerry Weiss, seconded by Matt Gruber, carried by all.

The Treasurer's report for June 2024 was reviewed and accepted by motion of Matt Gruber, seconded by Jerry Weiss, carried by all.

Matthew Crump (Precision Operations) submitted a written manager's report to the Board prior to the meeting: There are no drinking water or wastewater permit violations for the month of June 2024. Copies of the following information have been submitted by Precision Operations to PA DEP on the authority's behalf – Discharge Monitoring Report and Supplemental Reports.

In water operations, Matthew Crump (Precision Operations) reported that:

- Marked, inspected, and responded to PA One Calls.
- The water tank level is lower than normal due to trouble with Well 6 water quality. Have been able to keep it at a working level and we are currently implementing a new routine to address the tank level and keep Well 6 qualities high. Alternating Well 6 into and out of the system on every other day.
- Water meter readings were performed for the quarter and the main focus of this month.
- 6/10/24 Repaired a leak on the service line from the main to the curb stop. This was the original service line that was replaced with K Copper and corp stop. The curb stop for the home was also replaced.
- 6/22/24 Emergency callout over the weekend as there were multiple complaints about cloudy water. Arrived on site and after doing some troubleshooting found that Well 6 raw water quality had deteriorated. Removed Well 6 flow from the system and flushed hydrants at the problem areas (Sarsi Cove, Blackhawk Drive, and Lone Star Drive).
- 6/23/24 When arriving at Well 3 it was tripped out on an undervoltage alarm. The voltage was significantly out of balance and also lower than it should be. Performed some troubleshooting to ensure that the issue did not seem to be on our side of the system and verified that the voltage the submonitor was reporting was correct. Called PPL and put in a ticket for them to take a look. Later that day got a call from a PPL tech and explained the location and issue. After he did his checks, he confirmed it was PPL's side and due to heavy load from heat and AC units. They increased voltage and we were able to restart the Well the next day.
- 6/24/24 Consult with engineer (Jamie Lorah) on issues with Well 6 and how best to proceed given the cloudy water that continued to appear after introducing it to the system. Formed a plan to flush for a week and collect samples and review results of both. Extensive flushing did not seem to correct the issue, and we are currently still waiting for results from the testing lab.

- 6/27/24 Wells 1, 6, and 8 all were found tripped on undervoltage alarms. This greatly reduced the tank level. All seemed to be okay, and all were restarted.
- Three – four Wells are currently running in June (1, 3, 6, 8).
- Booster Station: Booster pump 2 in operation.

In sewage operations, Matthew Crump (Precision Operations) reported that:

- Power outage caused the blower to shut off. Restarted blower.
- There were 40 pumps done (18 HT and 22 Septic) for the month of June 2024.

Matthew Crump (Precision Ops) said he got two quotes for the doors at the Booster Station and Well No. 1 but was waiting for the third one which he hopes to have for the next meeting.

Matthew Crump (Precision Ops) said they finally got the test results back for Well No. 6 so we could do some troubleshooting. Jamie Lorah (SSM) said the testing shows in raw water, not the finished water, you have iron-reducing bacteria that is formed, and it causes the water to look dirty and also smelly. Jamie said she suspects that the cleaning could have added to the issue, or even caused the issue and she has been in touch with the folks that did the Aqua Freed treatment. They said sometimes it can happen if there is a lot of naturally occurring iron and manganese. Jamie said she will be talking to one of SSM's senior water operation specialists and we may have to dose it with a little bit of chlorine. Jamie said you add the chlorine and let it sit in the Well casing, it kills the bacteria, you can then flush it, and put it back online. You can also do more than one treatment. Jamie said we have not had a lot of rain, and she thinks that is also part of the issue.

Ryan Achenbach said the only concern he had tonight was the issue with Well 3 and the bubbly water. Ryan said it is worse than before. Matthew Crump (Precision Ops) said part of the reason it is worse is usually we are able to cut back on Well 3 when it gets pretty bad but with the problems with Well 6 right now, he has not been able to do that and Well 3 has been constantly running. Matthew said this is the first time he has heard actual reports of sputtering from air in people's lines. Matthew said he has an air release valve at the Well (right at the source water), so it comes up and hits the air release valve and then goes into the system, but the bubbles are so fine that there is no air that gets released. Matthew said he has gone, and spot flushed in those areas to make sure there are no pockets of air in the water mains. Jamie Lorah (SSM) said we can do a Well scope – put a camera down there to see where the bubbles are being created and if it is in a certain area. Jamie will get a Well driller's proposal together for a new Well site for next month's meeting for the Board's consideration.

In legal matters, Joe Zerbe said he had nothing to report except routine matters.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) submitted a written monthly engineer's report to the Board prior to the meeting.

Booster Pumping Station - UPDATE: Kohl Bros. has been approved to begin ordering the equipment for this project following PENNVEST closing. Coordination occurred relative to the flow meter this past month.

Well Water: UPDATE: samples were taken at each of the Wells (raw water and finished water), as well as the Storage Tank, for Iron and Manganese. Samples will be taken on a Quarterly basis with adjustments made to the Klenphos addition as needed. Additional work has been tabled for now, due to improvements in water quality. Well No. 6 has had some water quality issues since putting it back online this past month. Samples have been taken, and we are currently awaiting results from the lab. We are recommending raw and treated water sampling at each of the Wells for Iron and Manganese on a quarterly basis.

Upon request, SSM has provided a proposal in the amount of \$11,500 for the Iron and Manganese Removal Study project for the Board's consideration.

This is a study that will provide an Iron and Manganese Treatment Evaluation and Conceptual Design Report for review and comment by the Board. The report will include consideration of the treatment systems and options for possible treatment.

PP&L 3-Phase Power: RECAP: On May 1, 2024, SSM submitted work orders for the conversion to true 3-Phase Service at the other Wells and the Booster Station. From review of the bill for Well No. 6, it appears that only the March bill was higher in cost. Additional bills are necessary to determine if this is just an issue of increased usage or if it is a rate increase. The electric generator and supplier rate is consistent between the three (3) invoices, but the March invoice had a much higher electric usage. This pump may have been used quite a bit in the month of March. The electrical bills have increased over the past month, most likely due to increased water consumption within the community.

Well No. 6 – UPDATE: Well No. 6 AquaFreed Treatment was completed last month, and the Well Pump was replaced with a pump that can supply 100 Gallons per Minute (GPM) of water. Unfortunately, Well No. 6 has a 4-Log restriction that allows for a pumping rate of 77 GPM. It was determined that the Chlorine Contact Tank is undersized for the current requirements, and additional Chlorine Contact time is needed.

A Permit Application was submitted for increased Chlorine Contact time by way of adding approximately 20 Linear Feet of 24" diameter contact piping, to be installed just upstream of the Contact Tank. This work was awarded to LB Industries last month in the amount of \$55,550.52, which includes labor, equipment, and the purchase of materials. As stated, a Public Water Supply Permit Application for this 4-Log treatment was prepared and submitted to PADEP on June 20th for the modifications to the contact time.

UPDATE: The Authority requested pricing for low- and high-level alarms at the storage tanks, control wiring, and an auto dialer for the booster station. Kohl Bros. was awarded the work for the installation of a pressure sensor on the suction piping in the booster station, indirectly measuring the level of both tanks simultaneously, in the amount of \$11,000. This included the purchase of the pressure sensor, panel with display, relays for alarms and outputs, wiring, conduit, installation, a data logger, and an auto dialer for the alarm system.

UPDATE: Effluent Filter Backwash Pump - This Backwash Pump was delivered in boxes in June, but it was not installed. This is the correct Pump, and we have recommended payment be made to Slaymaker for this pump.

Act 537 Planning - UPDATE: The Alternatives Analysis was awarded to Barry Isett. A kick-off meeting was previously held to review the information needs, the history of the project, etc. The documentation from AM Septic was scanned and forwarded to Isett this past month for them to begin the Alternative Analysis.

PENNVEST Funding Application - UPDATE: The Authority was required to set up an ACH account for pay request disbursements and complete the ACH form, as well as obtain a Bank Account Verification Letter, voided check, and signature card for each authorized signatory. These documents have been provided to PENNVEST via an encrypted email, and a conference call with the PENNVEST Finance Team was held on July 10th to discuss the disbursement and financial statement submittal process.

Water System GIS Digitizing -

UPDATE: SSM had provided the Authority with a proposal to digitize the water system in GIS, which was approved by the Authority last month. This work just recently began.

Lead Service Line Inventory

UPDATE: There is a requirement by the PA DEP to provide an inventory of the PCMA's water service lines in order to show the PA DEP that there are no lead-based (or lead-containing) water service lines within the system. In June, we obtained copies of all of the leak reports in order to provide this inventory to the PA DEP by the October 16th deadline. SSM had provided the Authority with a proposal to prepare the GIS database for the water services and to show DEP where the water services have been replaced over the past 10 years or so; this proposal has been approved. SSM has received the Authority's customer count and has started processing this data. We are requesting a list of the Lead and Copper Sampling sites that are currently used by the Authority.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) asked when the last time the tapping fees were evaluated was. Nancy (office) will check on this and send Jamie the documentation.

Joe Haggerty asked if there were any surprises from the study that was done by Allan Madeira. Jamie Lorah (SSM) said it went better than she expected. Jamie said there were some suspected malfunctions.

There being no further business, Matt Gruber motioned for adjournment, Mike Flynn seconded the motion, carried by all. Ryan Achenbach adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

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