

Date: July 13, 2023

Subject: Engineering Committee Meeting  
Minutes **Thursday, July 13, 2023**

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To: Board of Directors

From: Engineering Committee and  
Arthur G. Simonian, Executive Director

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**Engineering Committee  
July 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

The Engineering Committee met Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. and was held remotely.

Present at the meeting was Chairman, John Dunham, and Committee Members David Bauer, Don Naples, and Liam Mitchell. Also, present were Executive Director - Arthur Simonian, District Engineer - Michelle Ryan and Administrative & Finance Manager - Kim Pierpont. Committee Member Bonnie Anderson did not attend. There was a quorum.

Following is a summary of the July 13th Engineering Meeting:

**1) Odor Modeling Monitoring Equipment Bid Waiver**

Executive Director, Art Simonian mentioned the Scentroid presentation that took place on June 27<sup>th</sup>. He reviewed how the equipment uses wind direction, measures odor pollutant parameters, and calculates/generates an odor monitoring graph over an area using EPA recommended calculations.

The equipment is being proposed for use onsite at the plant and secondary units would be offsite as mobile units. These units would help us determine where the odors are coming from. All data captured would be uploaded to the Cloud and the District would have access to the data. There has been no discussion yet as to how the data will be used and/or whether the District would be making the data public.

The cost would be \$46,345 for the stationary equipment that includes a weather station and \$34,475 for the mobile unit. These prices would also include Cloud service and staff training.

Further discussion took place regarding this equipment/subscriptions not being budgeted for and Executive Director, Art Simonian assured the Committee Members that there is funding available in reserve accounts to cover the expenses.

Committee Member, David Bauer mentioned that the cost of the equipment and annual maintenance for something that is not required by the regulators in CT was concerning. He also asked what was motivating us to consider these options for odor control and monitoring when we already have equipment in use that is considered to be the best. Executive Director, Art Simonian mentioned that our equipment is still in compliance and we are not exceeding OSHA limits. This was merely an opportunity to explore other options to monitor odors and identify where they are coming from. He went on to mention that the committee did not have to move on this today and fully supported their concerns of gathering additional information to justify the cost of this separately funded project.

Committee Member, David Bauer made a recommendation to put the proposal aside until such time a consultant can be hired to research best practices for the District. Chairman, John Dunham and Committee Members Don Naples and Liam Mitchell agreed.

**Mr. Bauer motioned to postpone approval of Scentroid's proposal and reconsider the bid in four (4) months. All committee members were in favor. Motion carries.**

## **2) QBS-RFQ, Qualifications Review**

Executive Director, Arthur Simonian reviewed the scoring and ranking sheets for the QBS-RFQ consultants. A screenshot of the sheet showed the average scores for each consultant as well as their rank. The six (6) highest ranked consultants were highlighted and discussion of the format of the interview process and interview questions were discussed.

**Mr. Naples motioned to set up interviews for the six (6) firms listed on the ranking sheet. Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion.**

**Discussion: Interviews will be in two (2) sessions of three (3) with a 45-minute presentation and 15 minutes for questions.**

**All committee member were in favor. Motion carries.**

**3) Flow Meter Investigation**

Executive Director, Art Simonian provided a summary of District Engineer Michelle Ryan's July 11<sup>th</sup> memo regarding ADS temporary flowmeters showing the flows from the Berlin Pump Station impacting the capacity and laminar flow of the District's trunk sewer. District Engineer, Michelle Ryan reviewed a detailed schematic that showed where the temporary flowmeters are located. She went on to explain that the velocity of the maximum flow volume into the trunk sewer is more than double the velocity of the flow in the trunk sewer when the trunk sewer is flowing full. This means that there is not only turbulence in the sewer but the flow cannot proceed downstream.

Due to the need to better understand the technical issues and specifics of the discussion, as well as time constraints, further discussion on the flow meter investigation will be held at the next Engineering Committee meeting.

**4) Centrifuge Gearbox GEA Proposal & Bid Waiver**

Executive Director, Art Simonian explained that a gear box that malfunctioned in early 2022 needs to be replaced and will serve as a spare. The District is requesting to purchase a reconditioned unit without the core to replace the spare that was installed in 2022.

**MOTION:** The Engineering Committee approves a bid waiver to purchase a GEA Westfalia Reconditioned Gear unit without core return from The Maher Corporation of Rockland, MA in the amount of \$71,261.00 and would be in the best interest of the District.

**Moved:** Don Naples; **Seconded:** Liam Mitchell; **Approved:** Unanimously;

**5) Related Business and Staff Updates – Nothing to Report.**

**Adjournment:**

**Mr. Naples moved, no second necessary, and the committee approved unanimously to adjourn at 4:12 PM.**