

Date: August 19, 2024
September 17, 2024 (Revised)

Subject: Engineering Committee Meeting
Minutes Thursday August 15, 2024

To: Board of Directors

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

AGS

REVISED

**Engineering Committee
Thursday, August 15, 2024
Meeting Minutes**

The Engineering Committee met Thursday, August 15, 2024, at the District Offices, 245 Main Street, Cromwell, Connecticut.

Chairman, John Dunham called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. Present was, Committee Members – Bonnie Anderson, Liam Mitchell and Don Naples. Also, present were Executive Director – Arthur Simonian and District Engineer – Michelle Ryan. There was a quorum. Also present were Joe Laliberte and Jose Alvarez from CDM Smith and Mr. Al Waters.

The August 15th Engineering Committee Meeting was held to discuss:

- 1) **On-Call Consultant Projects – CDM Smith – Odor Control Equipment Assessment and Improvements** - The consultants discussed the various locations for sampling and analysis used, including sensory testing, and the limitations of the odor monitoring units used for fugitive odor detection. Jose also provided an update on the odor control project sampling work and schedule.

Jose identified critical sampling locations and explained the purpose of collecting the samples. Liam mentioned the presence of propane tanks from Daniel's propane and potential odors that could contribute to hydrogen sulfide readings.

Jose also discussed the odor study approach and elaborated on measuring H₂S and airflow from the chemical treatment units, explained odor characterization, the methodology used, and highlighted the importance of weather conditions that impact odor transport. Jose explained that random sampling would also be beneficial for future modeling.

A detailed PowerPoint presentation was given outlining the sampling methodology, showing the specific target areas, the sampling locations, and discussed the analysis and the future Report. A DRAFT Report should be ready for staff review by early October.

Engineering Committee Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2024
Page 2 of 3

2) Incinerator Heat Exchanger Installation Proposal & Annual Shutdown Inspections and Repairs – Bid Waiver and Approval in the amount of \$187,360

MOTION: Approve a bid waiver to utilize S.H.D. & Associates, LLC of Windsor, CT for prep work for secondary heat exchanger removal and installation and annual shutdown inspections and repair in the amount of \$187,360 (including 10% contingency) if necessary and refers this recommendation to the Board of Directors for their review and approval.

Mr. Naples moved, Ms. Anderson seconded and the Committee approved unanimously.

3) Primary Tank No. 2 Auto Skimmers Change Order No. 1-Discussion & Bid Waiver and Approval in the amount of \$1,157,960

MOTION: Approve a bid waiver to utilize Kovacs Construction Corporation of Oxford, CT for the Primary Tank No. 2 Automatic Skimmers Project in the amount not to exceed \$1,157,960 (including 10% contingency) if necessary and refers this recommendation to the Board of Directors for their review and approval.

Ms. Anderson moved, Mr. Mitchell seconded and the Committee approved unanimously.

Notes: There was a discussion regarding the skimmer system, including the cost of the project compared to being competitively bid, and Kovacs being the existing on-site contractor currently on-site completing the tank no. 1 project, and low bidder of the tank no. 1 project.

Due to the potential increase in costs due to inflation, the critical materials order and shipment timeframe and difficult coordination with plant operations during the project, it is in the best interest of the District to utilize the previous contractual bid for tank no. 1 contract documents and authorize a Change Order for this low bidder, Kovacs Construction, to perform this new scope of work under the existing contract. There is a memo from our District Engineer analyzing and justifying this decision.

Engineering Committee Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2024

Page 3 of 3

4) Influent Rags Grinders for Head works – Discussion only

There was a discussion to support the decision to install a grinder system for rags generated at the plant head works and avoid high costs at landfills that are closing. Once the design drawings are complete, and we receive a construction cost budget estimate, we will approach the Engineering Committee for approval.

5) CDM Smith Proposal for Plant Flood Vulnerability Assessment- Discussion only

The Committee supports the decision to move forward with the vulnerability assessment and grant funding application scope of work utilizing CDM Smith as our on-call consultant. The fee is not to exceed \$61,800.00. The District will move forward with engaging CDM Smith for a vulnerability assessment study with a proposed scope of \$61,800.00.

6) Berlin Meeting Agenda- Discussion on meeting with the Berlin Officials, Water Control, EPA and CTDEEP for September 12, 2024, regarding trunk sewer backflow and infiltration/inflow issues impacting the District NPDES permit.

7) Related Business and Staff Updates – The District Engineer discussed the need to replace our aging old technology plunger pumps in the primary gallery to improve efficiency and reduce maintenance costs. Existing pumps are energy inefficient and require frequent rebuilding. The new pumps will be environmentally cleaner, not requiring oil baths, and more energy efficient. The District will be provided with two (2) pumps, one for the primary gallery, and one for sludge storage, by the manufacturer, at no cost to the District for a 90-day trial period before purchasing. The Committee supports trying out the new Penn Valley pumps.

Adjournment:

Mr. Naples moved, no second necessary, and the committee approved unanimously to adjourn at 7:05 PM.

C: Board Members not on the Engineering Committee