

**GREEN BAY METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSION**

Regular meeting of the Commission held February 26, 2014.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Hasselblad, Blumreich, Tumpach, Hoffmann, and Mainz (via conference call)

**ALSO PRESENT:** T. Sigmund, P. Kaster, P. Wescott, B. Hafs, N. Qualls, B. Angoli, M. Diaz, B. Brown, J. Maas, B. Bartel, M. Urbancic, M. Erschnig, J. Kennedy, J. Czipinski, T. Brown, B. Vander Loop, J. Van Sistine, J. Nicks–Legal Counsel

Commission President Hasselblad called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

- 1) **Convene in closed session under State Statute 19.85 (1) (g) for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel for the Commission who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the Commission with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved:**
  - a) **Georgia-Pacific litigation**
  - b) **Fox River Fiber Complaint with Public Service Commission**

**Motion #14-008**

It was moved by Blumreich, seconded by Tumpach, and unanimously agreed to convene in closed session under State Statute 19.85 (1) (g) for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel for the Commission who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the Commission with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.

- 2) **Reconvene in open session.**

**Motion #14-009**

It was moved by Blumreich, seconded by Tumpach, and unanimously agreed to reconvene in open session.

- 3) **Approval of minutes of Commission meetings held January 17, 22, and February 17, 2014.**

**Motion #14-010**

It was moved by Blumreich, seconded by Tumpach, and unanimously agreed to approve the January 17, 22, and February 17, 2014 minutes as distributed.

Commissioner Hasselblad stated that item 6d will be moved up on the agenda due to time constraints with Commissioner Mainz.

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6) **Update of projects:**

d) **NEW Water Adaptive Management update**

B. Hafs reviewed the Adaptive Management efforts in the Lower Fox River/Green Bay, as follows:

- Contribution
- Cost
- Total Phosphorus Loadings
- Economics of Phosphorus
- Adaptive Management
- The Fox River Contributes 1/3 of All Nutrients to Lake Michigan
- Distinct Gradient of Water Pollution from Fox River to Clearer Water North of Little Sturgeon Bay
- Priority Sub Watersheds
- Phosphorus in the Basin
- Fox-Wolf Basin
- Sources of Phosphorus in Lower Fox River Basin
- Sources of Total Suspended Solids in Lower Fox River Basin
- Storm Water Runoff Management
- Wastewater Treatment
- Agriculture Runoff
- Lower Fox River Challenges
- Land Use Trends
- Livestock Concentration 1.54 Acres Cropland/Cow
- Hay Brown County
- Farm Evaluations Spring 2012
- Farm Inspection Results
- Silver Creek Pilot Project

Commissioner Mainz disconnected at 9:30 a.m.

- Buffer Strips – Before/After Installation
- Buffer Strip Results
- NEW Water Initiatives
- NEW Water Grants/Funding
- Future Steps
- Can We Protect Lake Michigan from Green Bay

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B. Hafs acknowledged the efforts of NEW Water, the brand of the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District, staff on this project.

Commissioner Hasselblad stated this was an excellent educational presentation, and congratulated staff on the collaborative effort on this project.

#### 4) Preliminary December financials.

M. Diaz reported total operating revenues for the month of December were favorable to budget by \$40,000. She stated leading the favorable results was other revenue from septage. Total operating revenues for 2013 were slightly unfavorable to budget by (\$31,000). She stated user fee revenues for 2013 were unfavorable to budget by (656,000) or 2%. Other revenues from septage waste from three cheese facilities and one additional project totaled \$628,000, which offset the unfavorable results from user fee revenues. She reported December's operating expenses were unfavorable to budget by (\$197,000) due to contracted services, salaries and benefits, and maintenance plant. Total operating expenses for 2013 were favorable to budget by \$1,500,000. She stated leading the favorable results were fewer chemicals required, less power usage, seven unfilled positions in salaries and benefits, contracted services projects planned but not yet completed, and less loads hauled for solid waste disposal. The net loss for the month of December was (\$2,200,000), primarily due from non-operating expenses from depreciation and loss on disposal of fixed assets and investment income. Overall net income for 2013 was \$1,800,000.

Commissioner Hasselblad asked about chemical usage. P. Wescott replied half of it was conveyance related chemicals and the other half was polymer. He stated NEW Water did not receive the solids that staff anticipated, so the polymer purchases were less. T. Sigmund stated the transfer of waste from the De Pere Facility to the Green Bay Facility is better in the winter months than the summer months for chemical usage.

Commissioner Hasselblad asked if the favorable result for power was due to electricity or gas. P. Wescott replied overall gas was very good and the favorable result was due to electricity. The Green Bay Facility annual electrical use projections exceeded actual by 1,500,000 kilowatt hours and staff has corrected that for 2014.

Commissioner Hoffmann asked about depreciation. M. Diaz replied NEW Water has recently updated its database with new projects, so it has to catch up on depreciation.

#### 5) Sewer plan approvals:

- a) **City of Green Bay 2014 Capital Projects; GBMSD Request 2014-01**

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B. Angoli reported the City of Green Bay has submitted its capital projects, and requests Commission approval and to delegate technical review to staff. He stated any new sewer plans or updates will be submitted separately.

**b) Village of Howard No. 13016; GBMSD Request 2014-02**

B. Angoli reported the Village of Howard is requesting a series of 8-inch sewers for development.

**Motion #14-011**

It was moved by Blumreich, seconded by Hoffmann, and unanimously agreed to approve the City of Green Bay 2014 Capital Projects and delegate technical review to staff, and the Village of Howard No. 13016 sewer plans subject to favorable review by Brown County Planning and final approval by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).

**6) Update of projects:**

**a) Resource Recovery and Electrical Energy (R2E2)**

B. Angoli reported staff has received the first set of shop drawings for review on the fluidized bed incineration system. Staff will provide comments back to the manufacturer. He stated staff and the consultant reviewed the pre-selection documents submitted on the centrifuge dewatering equipment and selected Centrysis in the amount of \$975,000. He stated the engineer's estimate was \$1,300,000. He reported three proposals were received on the biogas engine/generator equipment and are being reviewed by the engineer and staff. Bid opening on Contract 33 Primary Electrical Substation and Site Utilities Relocation will be March 14. Staff plans to bring the award recommendation to the March 26 Commission meeting.

**b) De Pere Facility UV Disinfection System Expansion**

B. Brown reported the construction work is moving forward on schedule. He stated progress is more visible now that the building is up and workers are currently installing the electrical infrastructure, mechanical fixtures, and some equipment inside the building. Miron Construction has scheduled off shift work to meet scheduling concerns due to the unusually cold weather. He stated there are three or four small concrete pours remaining. He stated effluent is now flowing in off-season mode, which bypasses the new UV channels and goes straight to the new discharge flume so staff can get a better idea of what is going to happen in the future. He stated the biggest challenge will be incorporating the equipment vendor and making sure that questions of the trades' people get answered. NEW Water has received the fifth pay request from Miron Construction, which results in a total billing to date of nearly 60% of the construction budget.

**c) Air construction permit update**

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J. Maas reported staff has been working on a construction permit to request some modifications with respect to NEW Water's carbon monoxide emissions in its air permit. NEW Water submitted an application to the DNR in November and the DNR came back with some questions regarding NEW Water's greenhouse gas emissions. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently included greenhouse gas emissions in its permit review process. She stated one of NEW Water's modification requests was to remove a limit that restricted its operating hours for each incinerator each month. The DNR asked NEW Water to perform a calculation to show if it falls into a major or minor source category. Staff worked with SEH and met with the DNR to show what NEW Water could potentially emit in greenhouse gas emissions, which was slightly over the major source threshold. However, looking at actual greenhouse gas emissions NEW Water was much lower than the 100,000 tons/year, so NEW Water accepted fuel use limits in its heating boilers so it could be a synthetic minor source and DNR seemed comfortable with that. NEW Water had an initial review of its draft permit, which included all of its requested modifications, and the draft permit was issued for public comment on February 22. Staff hopes the permit will be finalized and issued by the end of March.

Commissioner Hasselblad stated NEW Water is a stationary source and asked if it would be required to meet new source penalties that EPA imposed on utilities about five years ago. J. Maas replied no, because NEW Water is an existing source and is currently under the major source threshold.

- 7) **Operation report:**
- a) **Effluent quality for January**
  - b) **Air quality for January**

P. Wescott reported both facilities were in full compliance with effluent quality limits for January. He stated the De Pere Facility tied an effluent discharge record low for Total Suspended Solids with a daily average concentration of 1.0 mg/L.

P. Wescott reported there was one deviation notification submittal to the WDNR. He stated on January 3 an operator used a fire extinguisher to put out a small grease fire on an upper bearing on Incinerator #2. Staff shut down the center shaft cooling fan to assist in extinguishing the fire, which caused the emergency bypass damper to open for 25 minutes. He stated the upper bearings were replaced approximately 5 ½ years ago. Maintenance Mechanics shut down the unit and cleaned and patched the holes. Staff also removed the shrouding and inspected the upper bearing on Incinerator #1 and patched one hole to prevent a similar circumstance.

Commissioner Blumreich asked if staff routinely looks at bearings or other machinery that may overheat. P. Wescott replied yes. Staff routinely conducts vibration analysis and thermal imaging when staff senses a problem. He stated this is a very slow moving shaft and it is not part of the routine inspection. Staff did not have or sense any issues with this equipment.

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P. Wescott acknowledged the Treatment Operators, Maintenance Mechanics, and Field Services Group for their efforts round the clock to keep this plant and the De Pere plant operating in the bitterly cold month of January. Staff did a fantastic job.

Commissioner Hasselblad stated that anyone working outside in these conditions are doing a masterful job and deserves recognition.

**8) Executive Director's report:**  
**a) March Commission meeting**

The March Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 26, 2014, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

**b) WPDES Permit update**

T. Sigmund reported the comment period for NEW Water's WPDES permit for the Green Bay and De Pere Facilities ended January 29. He stated the only comment letter received by the DNR was from NEW Water. He stated NEW Water has been communicating its comments throughout the process, but went on record with some of its concerns. NEW Water has not received a response from the DNR. DNR's response will be submitted to the EPA. Staff expects the permit effective date will be July 1, 2014.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

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**Secretary**