

Burrillville Sewer Commission  
Special Meeting 10/25/05  
Board Room of the BWWTF

Members Present: Raymond D. George, Chairman  
Scott P. Rabideau, Vice Chairman  
Don C. Wolfe, Secretary

Also Present: Walter J. Kane – Attorney for the Commission  
William Skerpan Jr. – Beta Group, Inc.  
John E. Martin – Superintendent  
Peg Franklin – Office Manager  
Stacey Richard – Financial Aide

Mr. Raymond D. George opened the meeting at 11:20 A.M.

Mr. George asked the Superintendent, Mr. Martin, to speak about the draft discharge permit. Mr. Martin stated the document needed to be gone over to make sure it was factually correct. Mr. Martin stated, because the document had been received late, he called DEM to ask them to extend the deadline, which they did. Mr. Martin stated he has no problem with the information that is presented in the document. Mr. Kane asked if any comments needed to be submitted to DEM by this Friday. Mr. Martin stated no. They only item due this Friday is to state if the document is factually correct or not. Mr. Martin stated the copper is the most significant change to the permit. Some discussion followed regarding copper and how Harrisville and Pascoag Water Districts treat it. Mr. Martin stated if you accept the permit you are making the commitment that you can meet the limit. Mr. Rabideau asked Mr. Martin to see an analysis of his options for treating copper if he has one. Mr. Martin stated he does have an analysis but it does not address alternative treatments. Mr. Rabideau stated before the Commission goes into a public notice process they should have an idea of what the options are for treating copper. Mr. Martin noted that in the Wastewater Treatment field, he is not sure that any known technology has ever been applied. Mr. Rabideau stated the Commission may need to work with the Harrisville and Pascoag Water Districts to comply with the copper levels. Mr. Martin stated that the facility is roughly on 2/3 of Harrisville and Pascoag users and 1/3 on everything else. None of the 1/3 are getting treated. Mr. Kane noted the levels improved substantially when Pascoag started buying their water from Harrisville. Mr. Rabideau stated because Mr. Martin is saying this document is factually correct a letter should be sent to DEM stating we agree the document is factually correct and we will comment during the notice period. Mr. Rabideau asked the staff to provide him with a list of alternative technologies and an approximate cost; if there are none then he would like a memo stating that. Mr. Kane asked Mr. Martin if the Commission agrees that the document is factually correct does that mean the sampling technique, to determine copper level, is factually correct, will this waive the Commission's right to challenge. Mr. Martin answered that highlight of what he was intending to write was the only exception the Commission takes is the concentration of copper. Mr. Rabideau made a motion that the Commission allows Mr. Martin to respond in kind based on the discussion that took place at this Special Meeting to DEM, the response should state that the document is factually correct with exceptions of the Commission is looking for more data on the background levels of copper and how they were arrived at within Clear River and that all of Mr. Martin's individual telephone correspondences with DEM, that those changes were included in the final notification. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wolfe, so voted.

Before moving onto the next item on the agenda, Mr. George commented that the staff of the Wastewater Facility did an excellent job during the recent storm. Mr. George would like to let the staff know their hard work is appreciated. Mr. Kane suggested the Commission give the staff a half day off with pay at the discretion of the Superintendent to show their appreciation. Mr. Rabideau made a motion to grant 4 hours personal time to each employee who made themselves available during the crisis to be granted at the discretion of the plant Superintendent. Mr. Wolfe

seconded the motion, so voted. Mr. George noted that the personal time should go to the Superintendent down through to the office staff.

Mr. Wolfe asked Mr. Martin where all of the water came from. Mr. Martin answered every single manhole has a pick hole and by the time you put all those manholes underneath and you have almost like a garden hose flowing through there due to the flooding the water level goes up.

The next item was a report from the Superintendent regarding the severe weather/flooding over the weekend of October 15-16, 2005. Mr. Martin reported the only issue that has still come up over the severe weather is possible sewage on Eccleston Field. Mr. Martin stated he tried to call the Department of Health and was told it was not their issue. Mr. Martin stated he will call back to DEM and ask them for any guidance as to what he should or should not do. Mr. Martin stated he feels it is certainly a misrepresentation to say that there was a raw sewerage overflow on Eccleston Field. Up until the point where the station was shut off there was no evidence that there was raw sewage in all of that water. Mr. Skerpan asked if any of the manhole covers were blown off. Mr. Martin answered no. Mr. Skerpan stated he finds it difficult to believe that there were solids of any sort escaping from the sewer system. Mr. Martin stated the only evidence of sewerage was on Sunday morning when the waters receded. The top of the field was just starting to move far enough down and the station was almost dry. Emergency Management was contacted along with Pascoag Utility and asked them to come out to turn the station back on. At that point there you could see some evidence of sewerage coming out of the pick holes, along the manholes at the front of Eccleston Field. Once the station was put online Mr. Mike Young was used to take the collection system back down to normal. The station was put back into normal operation so at that point the system was completely normal. Mr. Martin stated that was probably by noon time, the latest. Then Mr. Young picked up any standing water around the manholes. The next morning the employees of the BWWTF went out and limed the entire sewer line from one end of the field to the other end of the field and also treated with bleach in a 25 foot circle around each one of the manholes. Mr. Skerpan stated from his experience if a manhole cover is blown off as a result of a hydraulic hit he would say there is a discharge but because those covers did not come off it was highly unlikely there was a discharge. Mr. Skerpan stated there was probably some leakage up through the covers on the downstream side by the station but percentage wise it is unlikely there was a discharge. Mr. Rabideau stated to contact DEM and let them know that the Commission is getting inquires and should we put out an advisory. Mr. Martin stated he would make the call. Mr. Martin stated when the station was taken offline that day, that's implying there was going to be a spill; he immediately called the emergency hotline for DEM and notified them of that condition. Mr. Martin also stated within five day of the event a report needs to be filed with DEM and basically the same memo the Commission has is the same one he gave to DEM.

Mr. Martin stated the only station that will need to be looked at is Eagle Peak because it will exceed its capacity. Mr. Kane asked what would need to be done to upgrade a station like Eagle Peak. Mr. Skerpan stated that station is an ejector and it is the largest they make. Anything larger would be a submersible station.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to accept the report from the Superintendent. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rabideau, so voted.

The final agenda item was a report of the Engineer regarding the severe weather/flooding over the weekend of October 15-16, 2005. Mr. Skerpan reported that himself, Charlie Barrassa and the two contractors came out to the Glendale area during the flooding event. Mr. Skerpan stated the water was almost level with Joslin Road when he arrived. As far as the sewer trenches itself, there was a trench about 100 feet or so on Joslin Road that water got under the temporary pavement and washed it down. The only thing they could do with it was barrel it off. On Monday

morning the contractor went out and excavated the temporary pavement, recompact the trench and put pavement back on. Mr. Skerpan also stated on the lower end of Joslin Road there was some discussion with the DPW Director, the Town Manager, and Mr. Kane. Mr. Skerpan reported that in his opinion the river itself eroded areas along the roadway, along the guardrail in particular. Mr. Skerpan stated there is some discrepancy between what caused that erosion. The DPW Director has indicated the fact that because there are hay bales lining the river side of Joslin Road, that they were the cause of the erosion. Mr. Skerpan stated he does not agree with that because he was there and saw what was happening with the river. Mr. Skerpan also stated he called the DPW last Monday and indicated to them that it was his opinion that the damage on the lower portion of Joslin Road was not sewer related, although it was on the road that they had been working on. Mr. Skerpan stated he spoke with Kevin Cleary and indicated to him since we had the contractor and resources it might be wise for the town of utilize them to repair the road. Mr. Skerpan stated he did make it clear that he felt this was not a sewer related problem therefore the Sewer Commission would need some assurances that the contractor would be paid by the town. Mr. Skerpan stated there was a meeting last Wednesday with himself, Richard Bernardo, and Mike Wood, and Mr. Kane to discuss how to get the road fixed and fully opened up again. At that meeting it was agreed that the contractor, South Shore, would do the work on a time and materials basis to repair the settlements along the roadway and it would be tracked and paid for by the town and hopefully reimbursed through FEMA. Mr. Skerpan stated there was a discussion as to the restoration of the road because the Sewer Commission does own a portion of that road. The town would own have of the binder cost. That work is to begin on this Thursday morning.

Mr. Skerpan reported on Spring Lake Road as well. Mr. Skerpan stated the new culvert did have one sinkhole as a result of a banking that had not been stabilized as of yet. That has since been fixed and boulders would put along the western side to stabilize that bank on a permanent basis. The reason it had not been done prior to that was because the guardrail was going in. Mr. Skerpan stated downstream on a culvert that was not replaced he did go under it and there was a high flow and velocity coming down across the road, maxing out the culvert and crossing the road. Mr. Skerpan stated he asked the contractor to open up a spill way of sorts to get the water diverted away from a gentleman's garage. Mr. Skerpan reported that this gentleman stated to him that this was not the first time this had happened to him. Mr. Skerpan stated they were successful to get the water to go into the stream rather than into the gentleman's garage. Mr. Skerpan stated the gentleman did suffer quite a bit of damage in his driveway. Mr. Skerpan stated he does not feel that this is the responsibility of the contractor or the Sewer Commission. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to accept the report from the Engineer. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rabideau, so voted.

Being no further business to come before the Commission Mr. Wolfe made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Rabideau seconded the motion, so voted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey Richard  
Financial Aide

