

Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council

618 Main Street, Coventry, RI 02816

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Monthly Board Meeting

Warwick Wastewater Treatment Facility, Warwick

September 13, 2010

Board Members Present: Bob Nero, Ross Adrain, Fritz Benz, Jack Donovan, Scott Goodinson, Rita Holahan, Jack Lancellotta, Ginny Leslie, Paul Lockett, Mike Maddalena, Brian Manning, Carl Mattson, Ed Soltys, Gary Trott

Guest: Janine Burke, Executive Director, Warwick Wastewater Treatment Facility

Call to Order

Chairman Bob Nero called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. A quorum was present. Mr. Nero distributed the agenda and introduced Janine Burke and congratulated her and her staff on the great effort at getting the facility running again after the flood.

Report by Janine Burke

Ms. Burke reported that it took six days to restore preliminary treatment. The water was three feet above the levee, which was designed to be three feet above the 100 year flood level. When the river receded, the plant was dewatered and all tanks evacuated.

Getting temporary power was a major issue.

By early June, secondary treatment was re-established and by mid-June, tertiary treatment was up and running and the plant was meeting all standards. The plant is still struggling with phosphorus; they had been doing very well before the flood. Between insurance and FEMA, they will have a brand new plant with an upgraded aeration system. She reported that the plant will be installing energy efficient turbo-blowers which will help save \$300,000 a year in power costs.

Six pumping stations along the river went down; there are preliminary engineering plans to move the pumping station in Pontiac and move or elevate the one in Pawtuxet Industrial Park. The Warwick Sewer Authority is considering a higher levee around the plant, perhaps some kind of metal wall.

Work on converting from temporary to permanent power continues; this should be done by February or March. Additional improvements include a new sand filter for improved phosphorus treatment, the plans for which are to be finalized in December, 2011. This filter will filter out other pollutants as well and the effluent will be close to drinking water quality.

Additional areas of the city are being connected to the plant. The plant now handles about 5 million gallons per day and has a capacity

for 7.7 million; about 75% of the city is sewerred and 60 to 65% of houses are tied in.

Mr. Goodinson provided an update on the West Warwick plant. They expect to be fully back on grid power within two weeks. They also expect to be using ultraviolet again within that time frame; they are now chlorinating. All new wiring has been installed. They are meeting all water quality levels except for nitrogen. They are shooting for January 1 to be back to pre-flood conditions.

Approval of July and August, 2010 Meeting Minutes

The amended minutes for the July and August meeting were e-mailed to the members. It was agreed to review Roberts' Rules of Order regarding approval of minutes. It was agreed to table the approval of the July and August meeting minutes to the October meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

a. PRA Headquarters:

Mr. Nero reported that he has paid one month's rent and that the materials the landlord had stored there have been moved out. There is a serious issue with the floor, part of which has buckled. The area where this happened was covered by the landlord's items when we visited the site. Mr. Nero discussed the options.

On a motion by Mr. Benz, seconded by Mr. Soltys, the board voted unanimously to rent the facility; there were no abstentions. No target

date has been set to move in.

b. Bylaw Subcommittee Report

Ms. Holahan reported that the subcommittee had met and reviewed the bylaws, the statute creating the PRA and Rhode Island General Laws relating to indemnification and had also looked at the bylaws of other organizations. Attorney Chris D'Ovidio has urged the PRA to add an indemnification clause. Ms. Holahan distributed a draft section on indemnification, which is a composite of the policies of several organizations. She suggested that board members review it and e-mail any changes or suggestions to her, with the intent to vote on this clause at the October meeting. The subcommittee will report on other sections of the bylaws at future meetings.

c. FEMA and NRCS River Survey and Planning for River Clean-up

Mr. Nero reviewed information relating to the National Resources Conservation Service's request to the PRA to join in on a survey of the river to assess damage from the March flood. We are the sponsoring agency for all money to do a major clean-up. PRA members joined staff from FEMA and NRCS for a one-day survey of the river. Board members Adrain, Mattson, Leslie, Goodinson, Maddalena, Donovan and Nero gave reports of their trips. All reported many downed trees and others on the river banks in danger of falling in. There have been huge amounts of sediment deposited in many areas and also considerable erosion. There are areas where much debris has settled, including at Laurel Avenue and at the

Johnson Pond spillway, both in Coventry, and there is a huge logjam near Maisie Quinn School in West Warwick.

After reviewing the reports and photographs from the survey, FEMA and NRCS will revisit some areas and then set priorities. Mr. Nero did not know when clean-ups will begin.

d. Dam Removal Meeting

A public information meeting on the project will be held on Monday, September 20 at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Benz, seconded by Mr. Manning, the board voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 4 at a location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Leslie, Secretary