

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**GENESEE COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY**  
**MARCH 26, 2024**



A meeting of the Genesee County Water Resources Agency was held in the Legislature Conference Room of the Old Courthouse, 7 Main Street, Batavia, NY 14020 on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 8:00 AM.

**Members Present:** Bruno DeFazio (chair), Shelley Stein, Gary Maha, Steve Ferry (GAM rep.), Danielle Cummins, and Hiedi Librock.

**Members Absent:** Diane Fowler, Christian Yunker, and Steve Mountain

**Others Present:** Tim Hens, Genesee County Highway; Matt Landers, Genesee County Manager; Tammi Ferringer, Genesee County Assistant County Manager; Felipe Oltramari, Genesee County Planning; Jason Foote, Clark Patterson Lee (CPL); Rick Henry, Clark Patterson Lee (CPL); Brett Frank, City of Batavia Public Works; Justin Gerace, Genesee County Highway; Mark Boylan, Genesee County Attorney; Nelson Weibel, Chief Water Plant Operator City of Batavia; Tod Ferguson, Monroe County Water Authority (MCWA); Mark Masse, Genesee County Economic Development Center (GCEDC); Caroline Pelton, Genesee County Health Dept.

Mr. DeFazio called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

- 1) **Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Mr. Ferry to approve the meeting minutes of October 10, 2023, seconded by Mr. Maha and carried 6-0.
- 2) **Phase 2 Construction Update** – Mr. Hens said we have been waiting for the Golden Road Pump Station to come online. The building and all site work has been completed and the issue with the impeller has been resolved. The pump startup is scheduled for tomorrow (3/27). MCWA provided a list of recommended materials to resolve the impeller corrosion exhibited at Mumford and Churchville. All rotating assemblies will be replaced and casings recoated at Mumford & Churchville. All recommended materials will be utilized for the existing pump station upgrades as well. Golden Road Pump Station pumps will remain for startup and undergo a 1 year warranty inspection next year. If corrosion is present at the time of inspection, all materials will be replaced. The Morgan Road Pump Station building addition is complete. As for materials, the main long lead items have been delivered or are scheduled for delivery. Completion date for the existing pump station upgrades is expected in June 2025. As for town projects that are part of Phase 2, Stafford Water District #12 had some difficulties crossing the NYS Thruway, but has been completed. Genesee County's share of the project is to upsize Prole Rd. Extension, Byron Rd., and Fotch Rd. at \$416,200. As for Alexander Water District #6, the Halstead Rd. Water Storage Tank (not really a Phase 2 project, but a nice to have) the bid has been awarded and will begin construction in April/May. Other non-Phase 2 town updates include Byron Water Improvement Benefit Area (WIBA)#1 - Rochester Pipeline and Pilon Construction scheduled to complete water main installation by the end of spring. LeRoy Water District #12 is moving through the water district formation process. They received a \$5 Million Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) grant for this district. MCWA is also moving ahead with the construction of

the Walker Rd. storage tank which should help LeRoy and Pavilion and the County as a whole by adding water storage to the 1070 hydraulic zone. MCWA is expecting the tank to be placed into service by November. Ms. Stein asked about the Town of Bethany. Mr. Hens said they also received a WIIA grant. Mr. Foote said they are going through the design and permitting process. Mr. DeFazio asked how many water districts are in the works in the County in total. Mr. Hens said about 8 or 9 and they are all districts that we have been planning for a long time.

**3) City WTP Improvements Update** - Mr. Gerace said that the project is progressing but are still waiting on materials. The boiler was installed. Koester completed the filter media replacement project (6 filters total). The Lime slaker delivery is expected on Thursday (3/28). The Precipitator installation is expected to begin this fall. There will be a change order to the project. Mr. Weibel said originally the new back water pump was going to be kept for extra parts but decided on proactively replacing it instead. Brick repointing and roof replacement over the tongue going through the filter will take place this spring. Mr. Maha noted that the project has an overall budget of \$4.71M with Genesee County's share at \$2,450,920 and asked where the rest of the funding was coming from. Mr. Hens said that there is approx. \$2.5M from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) (Federal) funds, \$2.1M in WIIA (State) funds and about \$104k that the County and City are splitting for brick and mortar improvements. Ms. Stein asked about the wellfield 500,000 gallon decrease in capacity due to the current groundwater depth. Mr. Weibel said that today both Wells A and B are at 32 feet below the surface which is 16 feet lower than it was at this time last year. Normal recovery for the wells starts in February through the end of April. Last year we had an average of 17.8 feet recovery. This year we had 1.8 feet of recovery and recovery has ended. The last measurement shows decline. Today the level is even with what it was two weeks ago. Recovery will not start again until next spring. We average about 2 ft. drop per month and we have been conserving well water as much as we can, but it limits what we can do when the creek has sediment. Last spring, between all three wells, we had 3.2 million gallons per day (MGD). Currently, we can only get 2.7 MGD from all three wells in production. Hence the 500,000 gallon decrease in capacity noted in the handout. Two years ago when we were down to 36 ft. in Well A, that's when it started cavitating and we had to throttle it back. That seems to be the future for that well. Mr. Weibel said we need to come up and implement every possible solution to minimize usage and maximize other sources. This trend will not impact the summer so much but late fall/winter is when we will see the problems. We might be down below 2 MGD in capacity from the wellfield. Ms. Stein asked about potential solutions. Mr. Hens said first, we have been making it clear that there is no capacity for new draws to the system, including the HP Hood expansion. We will leave the Erie County connection open, like we did all of last summer. We may leave it open all through the winter months. Beyond those measures, we would have to implement the emergency water supply plan, including Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on water conservation, and then mandatory water restrictions. Mr. Hens also said that since last summer there has been some major recovery on lost water which is now a focus. Mr. Ferry asked if additional water could be brought in from the connection to Niagara County for STAMP. Mr. Hens said that the agreement with MCWA only allows water from Niagara County to feed the STAMP site, but that supply displaces water that would otherwise come from Genesee County. Bringing Niagara County water into other parts of the Genesee County system, even if temporary, would require the need to do a lengthy and expensive source supply change study. Mr. Ferry mentioned the possibility of bringing water from the Village of Alden. Mr. Hens said that they looked at the connection into Erie a few years back and there is supply there, but when you draw from there it creates hydraulic issues

into Erie County, all the way into Cheektowaga and beyond. The costs of mitigating those impacts was too high to make the connection feasible. Mr. Ferry also brought up the possibility of getting water from the Akron reservoir supply. Mr. Hens said that source would also violate the agreement with MCWA and would need to go through a source supply change study which is approximately a three year process. Mr. Ferguson said that process is regulated by NYS Dept. of Health. They would sign off on the change of source supply. Mr. Hens said that those rules changed after the Flint, Michigan situation. Mr. Weibel asked if meters for irrigation could be held back this year. Ms. Librock said she would bring the question back to the Town of Batavia. Mr. Weibel mentioned that using more creek water does not solve the issue because once you go past a 50/50 blend with creek/wellfield water, the disinfectant byproducts spike and that causes many more issues. Also, he noted that the wellfield levels are going to become a persistent issue because a normal spring recovery will only bring the levels back to where they are now. Mr. DeFazio asked if they spray parks need to be shut down for the entire year. Ms. Stein said that decision would create bad will because it is the only source of relief during the really hot times of the year and the municipalities have invested a lot into those facilities. Mr. Hens said that the County is investigating the costs associated with putting water recycling systems into the spray parks. The savings on water could justify County funding of the systems. The systems would have to be approved by the health department.

- 4) **Phase 3 Master Plan/BOD/Source Supply Change Updates** – Mr. Hens said the master plan update and Basis of Design (BOD) report are very close to completion. The concept has been approved for Phase 3, but the details for each individual subproject have to be worked out. Mr. Gerace said that the source supply change sampling plan is still being reviewed at the State level. Ms. Stein offered to reach out to State elected officials for them to inquire on the delays at the State level. Mr. Gerace will send the plan information to Ms. Stein for her request.
  
- 5) **Phase 3 Funding** – Mr. Hens said we received notification of congressionally directed spending of \$1.75M through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the Prole Road Transmission Main. The County submitted funding requests for 2024 from Sen. Schumer/Gillibrand for the Golden Road Suction Main (US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and EPA) and Macomber/Galloway Rd Water Mains (EPA). Also submitted a request to Rep. Tenney for the Golden Road Suction Main (USACE). Mr. Hens also said they had a very good meeting with the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) as we look for more funding for the Prole Rd. Transmission Main. It is a very competitive program, only \$7M through 20 accounts of which only 40% goes towards infrastructure. We are asking for \$1M. We will continue to apply for funding through this program. The biggest item for us moving forward is progressing with USACE on the Water Resources Development Acts (WRDA) \$85M allocation. We will be asking all of our congressional representatives to direct their funding through that allocation. Ms. Stein said she learned that USACE knows of us and our allocation. The allocation has allowed for a very different conversation to take place at our representatives' offices. Our letter of intent is in and USACE has accepted it. Carpi & Clay have a strong connection to USACE and Rep. Tenney's office understands that the first \$10M of the allocation is our first money into the project. The state of readiness of the project is critical for us to explain and express. They understand that our request is not competing with any of their other communities' requests. Ms. Stein said they also met with Gov. Hochul and thanked her for the \$30M and let her know that we will be coming back for more funding. Mr. Maha said they also met with Katie Hohman while in Albany and she is also doing a good job for us looking for funding. Mr. Hens said that the updated total Phase 3 cost

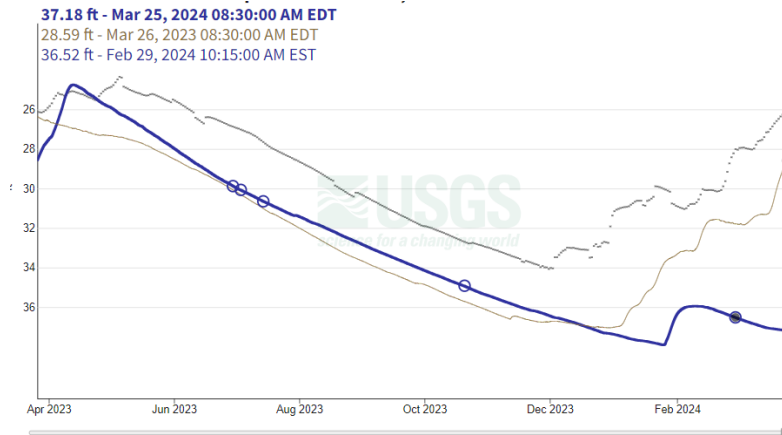
is \$153M. Mr. Landers added +/- \$20M. Ms. Stein said that getting the full \$85M allocation along with the \$30M from the State would be optimal, but we have no choice to proceed with the project either way. Mr. Ferry asked under what scenario would the County use property tax to fund Phase 3. Ms. Stein said that property tax is not tenable because not everyone is benefiting from the project.

- 6) **Water Capacity Discussion** – Mr. Hens referred to the chart in the handout. USGS has a monitoring well at the DeWitt Recreation Area which picks up the groundwater levels adjacent to the wellfield area. The water depth is at the lowest point it has been at this time of the year since monitoring began in 1996. This evidence supports the observed drought conditions that the area has been experiencing for the past few years. Our winters have not been as cold in the past few years and therefore the creek has not frozen and produced the ice jam flooding of the Tonawanda floodplain that helps to recharge the aquifer. All the weather projections are calling for higher temperatures with lower precipitation this year. Mr. Landers noted that the County has discussed the idea of creating a committee that would review and issue recommendations for projects that were projected to use 10,000 gal/day or more as a way to curb unsustainable demand for public water. This would allow for a more thorough and formal review process than what is currently in place. He has asked Pam LaGrou, the County Compliance Officer, to draft a structure for the committee. Once the draft is created, it will be brought to the Agency for a recommendation to the Legislature. Mr. Hens said that MCWA has a similar process that we are trying to emulate. There was a discussion on the HP Hood proposed expansion. The County and the City have asked the Town to reject the project because of water and also sewer capacity concerns. Mr. Ferguson said MCWA has the ability to throttle HP Hood’s water consumption.
- 7) **Next meeting** – July 9, 2024 - 8:00 AM at County Building 2 Large Conference Room. Mr. Oltramari said the new location allows for better acoustics, parking and teleconferencing.
- 8) **Adjournment** - **A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Maha, seconded by Ms. Librock and carried.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 AM.

## Water Resource Agency Meeting

3/26/2024

### Aquifer Status



- No more than 3 feet of recharge experienced to date
- Median Water Depth = 26 feet
- 2023 Water Depth = 28.6 feet
- **2024 Water Depth = 37.2 feet**
  - Over 11 feet below the average water depth per USGS's monitoring well east of Dewitt Park

### Phase 2

#### Golden Road Pump Station

- *Building and all site work has been completed*
- **Pump startup is scheduled for tomorrow (3/27)**

#### Existing Pump Station Upgrades

- **Critical items:**
  - **CPL is currently finalizing comments obtained from Xylem for the pump submittals for all four pump stations**
  - **Detailed bypass pump and sequencing schedule generated from CP Ward and Concord currently being finalized for MCWA review**
  - **Materials:**
    - **Morgan Rd VFD delivery – 8/16/2024 (all other VFD's have been delivered)**
    - **North Rd generator delivery – 4/30/2024 (all other generators have been delivered)**
- Morgan Road building addition is complete
- Concord Electric continues to install conduit at all four pump stations, in addition to various transfer switch/generator/VFD components

- Completion date: June 2025

### **Pump Station Impeller Corrosion**

- July 2022 – VFD fault at pump #2 at the Churchville BPS
  - October 2022 - Impeller was inspected and cleaned by Patterson/Pioneer
- August 2023 – VFD fault at pump #1 at the Churchville BPS
- **2/14/24 – MCWA provided a list of recommended materials to resolve the impeller corrosion exhibited at Mumford and Churchville. All rotating assemblies will be replaced and casings recoated at Mumford & Churchville. All recommended materials will be utilized for the Existing Pump Station Upgrades as well. Golden Road PS pumps will remain for startup and undergo a 1 year warranty inspection next year. If corrosion is present at the time of inspection, all materials will be replaced.**

### **Water Source Supply Change Evaluation**

- *Executed Contract with Arcadis: effective June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to perform Water Source Change Evaluation for Genesee County*
  - *Agreement includes regulatory meeting coordination, sampling plan development, water quality sampling memo, and a desktop Corrosion Control Treatment (CCT) Analysis*
- **Water Sampling Plan**
  - **Arcadis has submitted the plan to NYSDOH – no update from the state**
  - **Once approved, sampling will commence and extend for approx. 6 months**
- *Total scope of services is approximately 35 weeks including the desktop CCT analysis*

## **CITY OF BATAVIA PROJECTS**

### **Wellfield**

- Well A
  - *Moody's completed their change order scope of work as of December 2022 (well rehab and pump replacement)*
- Well C
  - *Frey completed pump replacement on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023*
  - *Radio communication install completed on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023*
  - *Well C is fully operational*
- City has reported an approximate 500,000 gallon decrease in capacity at the wellfield due to the current groundwater depth.

### **Batavia WTP**

- Improvement Project
  - Overall Budget - \$4,710,000.00
  - Genesee County's Share - \$2,450,920.00
  - Boiler installed
  - Precipitator installation expected to begin this fall
  - Lime slaker delivery expected for Thursday (3/28)
- *Koester completed the filter media replacement project (6 filters total)*

- *February 23 – March 23 = Emergency Water Intake Project*
  - *Initial inlet obstruction triggered the emergency work*
  - *Sun Environment cleaned the wet well and intake vault of debris/sediment build up. Also jettted the water intake pipe from the creek to the plant (pipe was actually relatively clean)*
  - *A new gate valve was installed on the exterior of the intake vault to help control flow for future projects/maintenance*
  - *New gates and fencing were installed to secure the vault hatch*
  - *Total Cost = approx. \$180,000*
- *April 23 – July 23 = Low Service Pump*
  - *30 HP Pump began showing signs of deterioration mid-April*
  - *Multiple Contractors were called (W2O, Corrosion Products, Siewart, Moody's)*
    - *W2O = \$78,000, 20 weeks or \$86,000, 40 weeks for full replacement*
    - *Siewart was ultimately chosen to perform the work after ensuring they could start work immediately - \$68,000.00*
  - *Siewert completed the pump install on July 14th*
    - *Dramatically increased the efficiency at the plant (estimated 3 MGD pump capacity)*

## **TOWN PROJECTS**

### **Alexander WD#6**

- *Sergi's Contract - County funded portion of the water main installation is complete - \$2,679,207.00 (approx. \$100k remaining in work)*
- *Randsco Contract (\$5,500,130.00)*
  - *All water mains have been installed*
- *Halstead Rd Water Storage Tank*
  - *1.6 million gallons*
  - *County cost: \$2,189,500.00*
  - *Construction to begin in April/May*

### **Stafford Water District #12**

- *Contractor: Sergi Construction*
- *Began construction August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024*
- *Total contract amount = \$3,567,107.96*
- *Genesee County Share to upsize Prole Rd Extension, Byron Rd, and Fotch Rd - \$416,200.00*
- *Only water main installation remaining includes the Fotch Road master meter vault, all other water mains have been tested, and approved to be placed into service*
- *Substantial completion date: 8/5/2024*

### **Byron WIBA #1**

- *Construction in-progress*

- Rochester Pipeline and Pilon Construction scheduled to complete water main installation by the end of spring
- **Ongoing dispute with Rochester Pipeline for damage observed on Byron Road surface**

### LeRoy Water District #12

- Upcoming water district
- NYS DOH issued their endorsement of the engineering report on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Walker Road Storage Tank – Pavilion

- Contractor: DN Tanks
- 1.63 million gallons
- Tank construction set to begin early April
- MCWA is expecting the tank to be placed into service by November

## Grants

- **Existing Pump Station Upgrades:**
  - NYS EFC IMG Award = \$1,213,600.00
  - Disbursement and contract holds have been lifted as of 3/22/24, disbursement requests are now eligible to be submitted
  - Project to be completed by May 2025
- **North Road Water Storage Tank:**
  - FY23 Community Grant through EPA = \$2,000,000
  - Grant admin still in progress
- **Phase 3 – Countywide Water Project:**
  - NYS EFC IMG Award = \$30,000,000
  - Grant admin not started
- **Prole Road Transmission Main:**
  - FY24 Community Grant through EPA = \$1,750,000
  - Grant admin not started
- **Projects submitted in 2024 for funding:**
  - FY25 Community Grants
    - Schumer/Gillibrand – Golden Road Suction Main (USACE and EPA) & Macomber/Galloway Rd Water Mains (EPA)
    - Tenney – Golden Road Suction Main (USACE)
  - NBRC
    - Prole Road Transmission Main
  - NYS EFC
    - No requests after receiving \$30M grant for Phase 3