

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**GENESEE COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY**  
**APRIL 25, 2023**



A meeting of the Genesee County Water Resources Agency was held in the Legislature Chamber of the Old Courthouse, 7 Main Street, Batavia, NY 14020 on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 8:00 AM.

**Members Present:** Bruno DeFazio (chair), Diane Fowler (vice-chair), Shelley Stein, Christian Yunker, Steve Mountain, Gary Maha, Steve Ferry (GAM rep.), and Hiedi Librock.

**Members Absent:** Danielle Cummins

**Others Present:** Tim Hens, Genesee County Highway; Matt Landers, Genesee County Manager; Felipe Oltramari, Genesee County Planning; Tom Carpenter, Clark Patterson Lee (CPL); Brett Frank, City of Batavia Public Works; Justin Gerace, Genesee County Highway; Jim Wujcik, Genesee County Attorney; Rachael Tabelski, Batavia City Manager; Tom Phelps, Superintendent City of Batavia Bureau of Water & Wastewater; Nelson Weibel, Chief Water Plant Operator City of Batavia, Steve Savage and Chris LaManna, Monroe County Water Authority (MCWA).

Mr. DeFazio called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM.

- 1) **Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Ms. Stein to approve the meeting minutes of January 10, 2023, seconded by Mr. Ferry and carried.
- 2) **Phase 2 Construction Update** – Mr. Gerace said that the Golden Road pump station is 99% complete. Mr. Hens said the Churchville and Mumford pump stations have been in operation for over a year and at both locations MCWA has seen what appears to be corrosion on the pump impellers, or a buildup of debris. They have been going back and forth with the supplier, Patterson Pumps, discussing a warranty claim. MCWA looked into what alloy the impellers are made of and found that they were slightly off specs. The Golden Road pump station completion will be delayed by a couple of weeks while they make sure the impellers are the correct alloy. This pump station by itself does not help the water situation in Genesee County. We need to have the other four pump stations under construction working for the extra water. Mr. Carpenter said this is a strange problem. As the industry moves away from using lead in their brass alloys, new materials are introduced and have to be evaluated in the MCWA system. A third party will be used to assess the impacts of the new alloys in the system. Mr. Gerace said that CP Ward is on the cusp of construction for the four remaining pump station upgrades (North, Riga, Scottsville and Morgan). There is a meeting with MCWA to discuss pump station security access agreements and then CP Ward will begin with the Morgan Road pump station. May 15<sup>th</sup> is the beginning of the peak water season. Expected completion date for the four projects is June 1, 2024. Well C at the Batavia well field is in service since last year; only a few electrical issues are outstanding. As per non Phase 2 items, the Town of Bergen Water Improvement Benefit Area No. 1 is in service with just restoration work left to do this spring. Alexander Water District No. 6 is coming along. Mr. DeFazio asked if the problems with RG&E are

being resolved. Mr. Hens said that yes, they have executed an easement and gas service is in place at Golden Rd.

- 3) **City Water Plant Update** – Mr. Hens said that there have been several major issues occur at the plant this winter. In February, the water intake at the plant was clogged with some debris and was impacting how much creek water could be processed at the plant. At one point, it was limited to 400,000 gallons/day, which was a severe limitation. An emergency repair was done to the intake in a joint effort between the City and the County. A time/materials contract was done with Keeler who brought in Darling Drilling. We had to drive sheet piling into the creek to isolate the intake. NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Army Corps of Engineers were cooperatively involved. When we dewatered the intake we found pipes, broken crocks, cinder blocks and rocks in the vault. Sun Environmental came in and cleaned the vault, the pipe between the plant and the vault, and the clear well. The screen was rebuilt and a new gate was crafted to be able to shut off the intake if we need to in the future. The total project cost for this emergency was between \$170,000 and \$180,000. The project offset some work that would have had to been made anyway for the low lift pump replacement. So there will be hopefully a small offset on that future project. Likely as a consequence of having the creek water shutoff from the plant for a few days, there have been some downtime impacts on the plant. Within the last two weeks, a rumbling has been felt below the floor of the plant. A lift pump is believed to have thrown a bearing. So the next challenge is the 30 HP low lift pump that is the primary pump for creek feed is in need of repair. This is again an emergency because without the pump the plant is limited to 4 Million gallons per day headed into the peak season. Another time/materials emergency contract is in place and the contractor is in today pulling the pump out to make the repair. The contractor was selected on speed instead of cost because within the next four week we are entering the peak summer demands at the plant. The contractor has committed to machining the parts in order to avoid supply chain issues. Contingencies have been discussed including temporary pumps if the repairs are not done in time. Mr. Maha asked if the pump can be replaced or does it need to be repaired. Mr. Hens said that the repair lead time with ordering parts was 20 weeks, half the time of the pump replacement lead time of 40 weeks at about the same cost. Both of those timeframes do not work because they would go into the peak season, therefore the need to machine the replacement parts. The cost is going to be in the range of \$80,000 to \$85,000. There are a number of improvement still to be made at the plant. Eleven of the twelve filter media bay change out have been done. There is still work to be done with the lime slaker and the precipitator. That should be out to bid early this summer and those items can be worked on once peak season is over and hopefully will be ready for the summer of 2024. There are also plans to place a spare 30 HP pump in the pit this fall to act as a back up to the main pump. Right now there are two pumps, a 30 HP and a 15 HP pump. Mr. Carpenter said that all these stories are being documented to show the need that will be used in grant applications.
- 4) **Phase 3 Basis of Design/SEQR Update** – Mr. Carpenter said that CPL provided MCWA with drafts of the various charts/tables/figures for the Master Plan. MCWA provided comments and CPL is working through those. The Basis of Design report is being produced with the help of Arcadis to design details for the subprojects. There are some land acquisition needs for Phase 3. CPL has met with various property owners for the new North Road tank and Union Street Pump Station. So far, the responses have been generally positive with multiple options likely available for each. As for SEQR, there have not been many responses to the request for lead agency. The Town of Gates is the

only agency that requested that we meet with them to provide information on the project. The expectation is that a Negative Declaration will be issued in May by the Legislature. This will be a big step in the process as this, in conjunction with a bond resolution, will allow us to begin to apply for funding this summer. CPL will also create a funding report which is a condensed down version of the Master Plan Report that can be used for funding applications. Discussions will also be had regarding bonding with Monroe County and MCWA. Monroe County bonding takes place in October/November so that timeline will result in missing some funding opportunities this year. There was a discussion regarding USDA loans and their limitations.

5) **Phase 3 Source Supply Study** – Mr. Hens said that the first step in this process, an inventory of the water suppliers in the county, has been completed. The County had asked Arcadis to prepare a proposal for the next step which involves the lab testing and desktop evaluation of what the water chemistry does to the different items as they are exposed per the Lead and Copper rules. The Arcadis proposal was received. The lab testing and preparation of the water quality sampling memos is about a 35 week process at a cost of \$195,000. Mr. Hens said he will ask the County Attorney to review the contract, but asked that the Agency recommend to the Legislature that the proposal be accepted. The source supply study is the longest lead item to move into Phase 3, so we would like to move this along. Depending on the results of the study, there may be another step after the lab testing. This could involve a full bench demo where you would submerge a lead service in water with the same chemistry as the proposed system for 12 to 18 months. That would be on top of the 35 week study. Mr. Carpenter said that the results of this testing also impacts the phasing of Phase 3. There was a discussion about the ramifications of treating the water to comply with the Lead and Copper Rules and the City's process for meeting those standards. **A motion to recommend the contract be approved by the Legislature was made by Mr. Ferry, seconded by Mr. Mountain and carried 8-0.**

6) **Grants and Funding** – Mr. Hens said so far we have Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) grant, received through a City of Batavia application. This grant is helping pay for the water plant improvements. We have also secured funding from the Intermunicipal Grant (IMG) program. This is for a joint project between the County and MCWA for the remaining pump station upgrades. There is a meeting later today relating to this grant with NY State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) to answer some of their questions. We have also secured a fiscal year 2023 earmark through Congressman Jacobs office which is now being delivered through the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) program to fund the North Road storage tank in LeRoy. Richard Sutherland from the Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council will be assisting with the grant administration. The County just submitted a letter of intent to apply for 2024 funding from the Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC). Earmark requests were made to Senator Schumer and Senator Gillibrand for the Macomber Road project and to Congresswoman Tenney for the Prole Road main in Stafford. Congresswoman Tenney's office did notify the County that the requested earmark had been included in the final proposal to the congressional committee. We also have an \$85 Million Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) authorization with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The process for this funding is not as complex as we thought. We basically have to work with our congressional representatives to fund the authorization but make sure that the congressional earmarks are not used to fund the WRDA authorization. We would like it to be separate/additional funding. According to USACE, this could be a \$3 Million annual pot of

funding. Another round of WIIA and IMG funding will be opening in the first week in May. To set up those grants we need to have SEQR done, get the bond resolution done, switch the Intended Use Plan (IUP) from multi-year listing to annual listing with EFC (deadline to switch is June 16), and then submit our grants, for WIIA and IMG. IMG is the preferred program because the maximum grant amount is \$30 Million versus the \$5 Million maximum under WIIA. The deadline for these grants will likely be the end of July. Mr. Maha asked if we have seen a benefit from contracting with Carpi & Clay and Katie Hohman. Mr. Hens said that yes, both contracts have been very beneficial for us to have. Carpi & Clay have been helpful in crafting the messaging in press releases and grant applications, and Katie Hohman's office has been fantastic in getting us inroads into agency meetings and has brought people to tour the water plant.

7) **Supply and Demand Forecast** – Mr. Hens said that we are coming up into our peak water usage season and we are in the same situation as last year. We are hoping to squeak by, but we have a plan in place in case something goes wrong at the plant or there is creek flooding. Well C being in service will help us this summer. The demand has not really changed much. We do have Alexander District No. 6 and Bergen Water Improvement Benefit Area No. 1 coming online, but those are mainly residential with low relative usage. Looming in the future is the Town of Bethany's district which does have a significant agricultural component, however Phase 2 should be completed before that district comes online. Byron has a townwide benefit area coming online, however that has been delayed in concert with the Phase 2 delays. Mr. Carpenter said that most of the delays in Town districts are due to pandemic cost increases. Towns have been going back to funding agencies for additional funding to make the projects affordable again. Mr. Hens said that the plan to meet the summer demand is, if need be, use Erie County water to supplement the supply and when that measure is exhausted, reach out to the industrial users to ask them to curtail their usage. Ms. Stein asked when should we put out the water conservation message to the public. Mr. Hens said probably after Memorial Day. Mr. Landers said that they will work with Steven Falitico of the County Manager's office to craft a more realistic and positive message. Mr. Hens said that it does make a difference. We have seen up to a 300,000 gallons per day drop in usage. Mr. Mountain asked how the groundwater levels are. Mr. Hens said that the groundwater levels have gone up substantially in the last month and we are just about back to normal. Ms. Stein asked when are we going to have a better understanding of the impacts of the Seneca Powers site. Mr. Hens said he thinks the judge has to rule in their case by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

8) **Next Meeting:** July 11, 2023

9) **Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Maha, seconded by Mr. Ferry and carried.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 AM.