

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CENTRAL BROWN COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Pursuant to §19.84 Wis. Stats, a regular meeting of the Central Brown County Water Authority **Technical Committee** was held on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at the Town of Ledgeview Community Center, 3700 Dickenson Road, De Pere, WI, and via video conference.

Members Present: Allouez – Sean Gehin, Mike Mahloch
De Pere – Scott Thoresen
Howard – Geoff Farr (video)
Lawrence – Kurt Minten
Ledgeview – Greg Potts, Andy Tenor

Members Excused: Bellevue

Also Present: Rob Michaelson – Manitowoc Public Utilities
Gary Rosenbeck – McMahan, Inc. (video)
Nic Sparacio, CBCWA General Manager

The July 13, 2021 Central Brown County Water Authority – Technical Committee Meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chair Greg Potts of Ledgeview.

Roll Call:

Attendance was recorded as shown above. (Attendees present via video conference are noted with “video.”)

Approval of Agenda:

1. Approve Agenda
Motion made by De Pere, seconded by Lawrence to approve the agenda.
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Approval of Minutes:

2. July 13, 2021
There were no revisions to the draft minutes.
Motion made by Lawrence, seconded by Ledgeview to approve the July 13, 2021 minutes as presented.
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Appearances:

3. None

Agenda Items:

4. Member and Water Authority operations – open discussion

Kurt Minten provided an update on progress with coordinating operation of their downstream chlorine analyzer. They will need to install an updated chlorinator/smart valve to complete the process. Mike Mahloch reported that the downstream analyzer in Allouez is functioning well. Nic Sparacio added that the pre-chlorination analyzers are due for 6-month maintenance, so he will order those kits.

Sparacio provided an update on public comments related to the proposed NR809 revisions. While the Water Authority did not feel it was necessary to submit written comments to WDNR on the economic impact assessment, Sparacio had received the comments submitted by several water industry organizations. They all noted the significant gaps in the assessment including the lack of potential treatment costs for reducing PFAS concentrations when found above the proposed Maximum Contaminant Level. Sparacio will continue to monitor this process.

Rob Michaelson reported on some recent challenges with chlorination at the Master Meter Station. He stated that they have solved the chlorine supply issue that led to a brief chlorine boosting outage in late July. MPU is also assessing the condition of the related equipment, and there may be some items that need replacing due to age.

5. Review status of AMI costs and agreements

Sparacio explained that the Towns of Ledgeview and Lawrence are currently planning for upcoming meter purchases. Ledgeview staff had asked him for information on the start-up costs experienced by the Members involved in the ongoing Sensus meter agreement. Additionally, it may be beneficial to hear from Sensus and other meter vendors at upcoming Technical Committee meetings. This agenda item is intended to help answer those start-up cost questions and to gauge interest in hearing from meter vendors.

Andy Tenor asked if any Members have had to replace their antenna or base station yet. Scott Thoresen responded that De Pere had a base station failure earlier this year that has been repaired, but they are planning to replace the equipment next year. Discussion continued on how the base stations interact to read meters across community boundaries. Mahloch reported that Allouez has been having some data collection issues recently. It was concluded that other Members may also need to start planning for base station replacement and that internet service also needs to be well maintained at each site.

Potts asked what the potential benefits are if Ledgeview joins the Sensus contract. Thoresen responded that Ledgeview may not have to install as many base stations if the signal propagation from the existing sites provides adequate coverage. Sparacio added that the contract with Sensus says that Lawrence or Ledgeview can join the agreement at no additional charge other than "a reasonable start-up fee." He has asked Core & Main to provide clarification on what that language actually means.

Discussion continued on performance of the AMI system and meters. There was a consensus that the Members are interested in having meter vendors, including Sensus, talk with the Committee at upcoming meetings.

6. Project status updates

a. **Emergency back-up supply study**

Rosenbeck presented three recent technical memoranda generated for this study. Project Memo 3 is an overview of the project, mainly for communication with the Green Bay Water Utility. This is intended to gain their support for requesting data from Hobart and Ashwaubenon related to potential emergency interconnections. We await their feedback on that Memo. Project Memo 4 details the flow availability for several potential interconnections directly with Green Bay. And Project Memo 5 details the potential flows for several alternative emergency interconnections with Green Bay for Allouez and Bellevue.

These data are showing that there are potential interconnections with Green Bay that could supply water to De Pere and Howard via Allouez and to Ledgeview via Bellevue. Rosenbeck discussed the infrastructure improvements that would be needed to facilitate these interconnections. The capacity of the potential interconnections between Green Bay and Bellevue is sufficient to serve Ledgeview through existing Bellevue watermains. The capacity of the interconnection between Green Bay and Allouez would be increased with watermain improvements along Webster Avenue in Allouez and with connection to the AZ-2 station.

Discussion continued on whether an improved watermain along Webster should be facilitated within the local distribution pipes or whether it should be an independent main. Further discussion is needed on this. Sean Gehin discussed the upcoming street projects being planned for 2022 through 2025 along Webster. Thoresen added that De Pere continues to install 16" watermains along Erie Street which would eventually reach Webster Avenue. Rosenbeck will continue to provide updates as he makes progress on the study.

b. **Chlorine analyzers and solenoids**

There were no updates in addition to the discussion under the operations open discussion agenda item.

c. **Automatic chlorine shut-offs calibration and maintenance**

Sparacio reported on the maintenance service provided by Hawkins earlier this month. Most of the work is complete, but one additional replacement battery has been ordered for LW-1. Sparacio confirmed that the intent with the shut-offs is to have this equipment ready for service at all times regardless of whether a given station is dosing chlorine regularly. If chlorine is added in an emergency, then the shut-offs are necessary for safety.

d. **Meter accuracy and process for calibration**

Sparacio stated that the results of the new round of meter tests are still being reviewed by MPU and the Water Authority, but he wanted to share the information with the Committee right away. Michaelson reported that the July round of Water Authority

meter tests was performed by Midwest Meter, which came highly recommended. Unfortunately, the results are inconsistent with what we have seen in the past for many of these meters. Thoresen asked whether we should draw conclusions about whether Members are being overbilled or underbilled based on these results. Michaelson responded that he does not trust these results.

Sparacio stated that we need more time to seek a deeper understanding of the meter testing results. He then displayed the comparative volumes being metered for the year to date. At the large scale, the Master Meter Station, the Finished Water Pump Station, and the sum of the Connection Station volumes are tracking very closely with some variations at higher flows that look similar to previous years. While the individual station meters seem to be having issues, the metered volumes on the whole do not appear to have changed much in terms of variability. Sparacio and Michaelson will report back as they learn more.

e. Manitowoc pump station optimization

Sparacio stated that the VFD for the Finished Water Pump Station has been ordered. Michaelson added that releasing the installation bid is the next step.

f. Door replacements

Sparacio reviewed the potential door replacement list as received thus far. He confirmed with Minten that all the doors on LE-1 can be reviewed, but they may not all need to be replaced. The building is owned by the Town of Lawrence, so it will be their decision. He then asked if there are any other water utility facilities with potential door replacement needs. If there are other doors that the Members want reviewed, please forward that information. Geoff Farr stated that he will add the information for the Village of Howard.

g. SPLASH Study implementation

Sparacio asked that the Members share with him any updated contracts for cross-connection control services. It would be helpful to review whether there are any savings that resulted from contract realignment. He reported that the next SPLASH Implementation meeting has been set for September 1st and reviewed the main agenda items for that meeting.

7. Water sales report through July 31, 2021

Sparacio reported that water consumption was very strong again in July. Annual water use remains at about 3% above this time last year. The current year-end projection is for zero take-or-pay charges. August will likely be a lower water use month due to the high precipitation.

8. 2022 preliminary budget highlights

Sparacio verified that all the Members are comfortable with their flow projections for the preliminary budget. He then reviewed major elements of the preliminary budget including

projected water consumption, the capital improvement program, and changes to typical operational costs and revenues. The net result is a decrease in the water purchase rate.

Sparacio continued that the preliminary budget is projecting a substantial unrestricted cash balance, so he is proposing to restore reserve fund balances and set aside funds for future capital. He also considered a Member rebate as an alternative, but transferring funds to reserves should help smooth any swings in the rate as water consumption and capital costs change again in 2023. Thoresen responded that it would be his preference also to restore reserve balances rather than issue Member rebates.

Sparacio then presented the details of the preliminary 2022 rate and estimated Member costs for the year. He reminded the Members that, due to the 9th Amendment to the Member Water Purchase and Sale Agreement, certain elements of the monthly charges will vary by month based on the volume of water use.

9. Report on water use/supply for Ledgeview structure fire

Potts reported on the potential volume of water used in response to the structure fire that occurred in June. There is some disagreement on the actual volume used, but SCADA reports indicated about 180,000 gallons of additional water use that day. Tenor stated that Ledgeview Public Works verified during the incident that there were no limitations related to available water volume or pressure.

Old Business:

10. None

Next Meeting:

Agenda Items for the Tuesday, September 7, 2021 Meeting

Potential agenda items for the September meeting include:

- Status of the 2022 budget and capital improvement program
- Appearance/presentation by a meter vendor

Adjourn:

Motion made by Ledgeview, seconded by De Pere to adjourn at 3:20 p.m.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,
Nicolas Sparacio