

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, September 6, 2022 at the Village of Allouez Village Hall, 1900 Libal Street, Allouez WI, and via video conference.

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

Excused: Bellevue
Howard

Also Present: Rob Michaelson, Manitowoc Public Utilities
Gary Rosenbeck, McMahon Assoc.
Tony Kappell, McMahon Assoc.
Nic Sparacio, CBCWA General Manager

The Central Brown County Water Authority – Technical Committee Meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chair Sean Gehin of Allouez.

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 Lawrence, seconded by Ledgeview to approve the agenda.
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Approval of Minutes:

2. August 9, 2022
There were no revisions to the draft minutes.
Motion made by Ledgeview, seconded by Lawrence to approve the August 9, 2022 minutes as presented.
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Appearances or Communications:

3. Tony Kappell of McMahon Associates was introduced. As part of the Water Authority’s Strategic Plan initiative for continuity planning, Kappell will be shadowing Gary Rosenbeck to learn more about the services McMahon provides to the Authority.

Agenda Items:

4. UCMR 5 sampling requirements for consecutive systems

Nic Sparacio explained that there have been some questions among the Members as to how the upcoming Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule sampling requirements should be applied to consecutive systems like the Water Authority Members. The questions center around whether it makes sense to keep sampling the same water source for compounds that will be same throughout the system. Rob Michaelson reported that he found EPA documentation from the public comment review stage of the UCMR 5. This question has been posed to EPA, and the EPA has responded with its reasons for requiring consecutive systems to each sample for all communities that buy wholesale water from the same source.

Mike Mahloch added that based on previous UCMR process, there might be some confusion around how the Water Authority Member systems work. In the past, the UCMR standard process required both entry point and distribution samples to be taken, even though they came from two different sources – the emergency back-up wells versus purchased water from the Authority. When he explained this to the EPA in the past, he was then told that sampling the emergency back-up wells was not required. After that clarification, Allouez only had to sample the purchased water entry point. Discussion continued on the cost of sampling, the DNR response to this question, and the difficulties of reaching the right EPA staff. Given the past confusion, there was a consensus that it would be worthwhile to at least pose the question to EPA. Sparacio, Michaelson, and Mahloch will work to set up a call with EPA staff.

5. National Rural Water Association class action registry for PFAS cost recovery

Sparacio stated that there were requests from Committee Members to place this item on the agenda for discussion. He understands the request from the Wisconsin and National Rural Water Associations is to join a class action lawsuit against manufacturers of PFAS compounds for the purpose of cost recovery for damages. The Committee discussed the timing of the lawsuit, the current lack of PFAS sampling data, and the lack of knowledge of any potential damages within the Member communities.

Greg Potts noted that the emphasis on joining now is based on the unknown date of any potential settlement. If a settlement is reached, any utilities not registered at that point would not be included in cost recovery. Potts also stated that staff in Ledgeview discussed this, and their hope is that the Water Authority Members would remain unified on any response to the invitation to join the class action. Erika Thronson reported that the Village of Denmark discussed the request and had decided not to join the class action after reviewing the retainer agreement from the law firm. There was a consensus that the Authority Members should not join the class action at this time, therefore, no action was taken.

6. Proposal from NIS for Test Station Repairs

Sparacio reported that the test station repairs proposal has been finalized and is ready for review. The necessity of each scope item has been verified along with resolving some

questions on locations for various system elements. He then provided an overview of the scope of the proposal. Scott Thoresen noted that the mobilization cost seems high. Rosenbeck responded that he asked NIS for details on the mobilization cost and he shared that response with the Committee. Sparacio stated that NIS's track record has been to have actual costs come in below their estimates. Thoresen stated that this would be a greater concern if the cost was lump sum but should not be an issue as a time and materials proposal.

Sparacio then stated that we have worked through some concerns with NIS, and he is now able to recommend approval of the proposal. Gehin asked if there are other contractors that provide this type of service. Rosenbeck explained the history of our work with NIS and that there are very few contractors that do this type of work. Gehin requested a motion on the proposal.

Motion made by De Pere, seconded by Allouez to recommend approval of the proposal from NIS for test station repairs at a cost not to exceed \$19,895.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Project status updates

a. **Cell-to-cell pipe survey**

Sparacio explained that the survey report was just recently received and is now under review. A meeting with NIS and McMahan will be scheduled soon to discuss the findings. The report and findings will then be shared with the Committee. Discussion continued on the expectations for any follow up investigations that may be needed.

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

Sparacio reported that he and Rosenbeck have met to begin discussion on how to best wrap up the related Task Order. Further discussion is needed before he is prepared to provide a recommendation to the Committee.

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

Michaelson reported that Midwest Meter has not yet scheduled the connection station meter testing. He will reach out to them again. The Committee discussed concerns with meter accuracy and the various available testing methods. This round of testing will be the first time this particular method is used, so it will provide another data set to assist with decision making on how to proceed.

Rosenbeck asked Michaelson to share the findings of the tank drawdown test at the Finished Water Pump Station in Manitowoc. Michaelson described the process for testing the 48-inch magnetic meter at the FWPS. An error of 3.1% was identified, and the appropriate calibration was applied to correct it. With that calibration, the FWPS meter should again read very close to the Master Meter Station meter and the sum of the Connection Station meters. The Committee discussed possibilities for using reservoir drawdown or filling as a similar method of testing the connection station meters. Rosenbeck stated that we can now continue the conversation on whether the FWPS meter can again be used as the MPU revenue meter.

d. Manitowoc pump station optimization

Michaelson reported that the motor protection relays have now been installed for the new VFD. The new equipment can now be fully tested, and he expects the new pump configuration to be running soon. Discussion continued on the VFD installation process and how the new equipment will be used.

e. Door replacements

Sparacio reported on the status of the project. LaForce has replacement weather stripping on order, but they are not sure when it will arrive. Once they have the materials, they will work to finish the doors and ensure that all are weather-tight. Although we await the completion of work on several of the doors, Sparacio plans to send the Member invoices soon so that everyone knows what their local cost-share will be.

f. SPLASH Study implementation

Sparacio provided an update and noted that he is working with Green Bay Water to set the next SPLASH implementation meeting for late September or early October.

g. Asset management planning

Sparacio reported that the draft Request for Qualifications was approved by the Board and was then released for consultant responses. It was sent to 12 firms, and responses are due by October 10th.

h. Village of Denmark water supply connection

Sparacio reported that we continue to work on the best placement of the Authority's meter relative to the change in ownership of equipment between Denmark and the Authority. We are leaning toward keeping the meter location as planned and resolving the issue with a change to the Denmark contract. Kappell reported that DNR review of the project is nearly complete.

8. Report on 2023 budget, rates, and capital improvement program

Sparacio reported that the Board reviewed the preliminary 2023 budget, and no changes were made to the proposal. The budget hearing is set for September 28th. There were no further questions from the Committee on the proposed budget. He encouraged the Members to attend the budget hearing and to let him know if any of the Member governing bodies would like him to present the proposed budget locally.

9. Water sales report through August 31, 2022

Sparacio reported that August water consumption was typical for the time of year, and the year-to-year comparison remains very flat. Total water use for the year is now about 1% above the total for this same time last year. The year-end take-or-pay projection is now down to zero, but this could change as water use starts to decline in the fall.

10. Member and Water Authority operations – open discussion

Sparacio reported that the Sensus TGB base-station repair is complete. The unit is stored at his office and is available to the applicable Members as needed. He then stated that annual servicing by Hawkins of the chlorine system automatic shut-offs is scheduled for September 21st. He also explained that there is a warranty recertification program through Halogen that we may want to consider for 2023 or 2024.

Michaelson reported on the status of the FWPS reservoir inspection from last year. Repairs have been made to the baffles, and work continues on addressing some maintenance needs for the roof. He anticipates adding a membrane covering to the structure to extend its service life. There have been no water quality issues related to these maintenance needs. The Committee discussed various methods for addressing the roof maintenance.

Kurt Minten noted that Northeast Water Professionals Association is meeting on September 21st. He will forward the information to the Committee. The Committee also discussed performance of the chlorine analyzers and practices for calibration.

Old Business:

11. None

Next Meeting:

Agenda Items for the Tuesday, October 11, 2022 Meeting

Potential items for the October meeting include:

- Report on DIP cell-to-cell survey results

Adjourn:

Motion made by De Pere, seconded by Lawrence to adjourn at 2:50 p.m.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,
Nicolas Sparacio