

**GREEN BAY METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT**  
**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSION**

Regular meeting of the Commission held via Zoom videoconference on March 24, 2021.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Hasselblad, Blumreich, Mainz, Tumpach, and Hoffmann

**ALSO PRESENT:** T. Sigmund, P. Wescott, N. Qualls, B. Vander Loop, J. Smudde, T. Brown, S. Thieszen, C. Thompson, B. Oldenburg, M. Pelishek, B. Weller-Titus, L. Sarau, P. Mentink, B. Angoli, B. Brown, S. Bartlett, B. Young, S. Georgel, T. Garrison, E. Houghton, B. Bartel, P. Smits, J. Cypinski, J. Van Sistine, J. Valenta, J. Smies–Legal Counsel

Commission President Hasselblad called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**1) Safety moment.**

T. Sigmund provided safety tips on preventing vehicle damage.

**2) Adopt Retirement Resolution for Chris Thompson.**

S. Thieszen stated that Chris Thompson has been employed with NEW Water, the brand of the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District, for almost 40 years. He began part-time in the Maintenance Department in 1981, and moved to full time in the Field Services Department in 1984. He has shown great leadership and teamwork during his time at NEW Water.

T. Sigmund read the Retirement Resolution.

C. Thompson thanked NEW Water.

The Commission expressed its gratitude for his years of service.

**Motion #21-017**

It was moved by Blumreich, seconded by Mainz, and unanimously agreed to adopt retirement resolution for Chris Thompson (Resolution #21-002 is on file at the NEW Water offices).

**3) Introduce the Lab Analyst I, Marta Pelishek.**

B. Oldenburg introduced Marta Pelishek, who began her employment with NEW Water in February 2021.

M. Pelishek stated that she graduated from a University in Poland with a master's degree in chemistry. She moved to the United States 14 years ago, and has 12 years of experience in a laboratory setting. She is excited to be working at NEW Water.

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The Commission welcomed her.

Commissioner Mainz departed at 8:39 a.m.

- 4) **Convene in closed session under State Statute 19.85 (1) (g) for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel for the Commission who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the Commission with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved:**
- a) **Litigation involving Bayview Interceptor**
  - b) **Potential litigation resulting from the failure of the granulated activated carbon system of the fluidized bed incinerator**
  - c) **Potential litigation resulting from wastewater spillage during construction of the Dutchman Creek Interceptor stream crossings**
  - d) **Potential litigation resulting from erroneous readings of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) analyzer**

**Motion #21-018**

It was moved by Blumreich, seconded by Hoffmann, and unanimously agreed to convene in closed session under State Statute 19.85 (1) (g) for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel for the Commission who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the Commission with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.

- 5) **Reconvene in open session.**

**Motion #21-019**

It was moved by Blumreich, seconded by Hoffmann, and unanimously agreed to reconvene in open session.

- 6) **Request Commission approval of the proposed settlement with Sustana Fiber of invoicing issue resulting from erroneous readings of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD).**

**Motion #21-020**

It was moved by Blumreich, seconded by Hoffmann, and unanimously agreed to approve the proposed settlement with Sustana Fiber of invoicing issue resulting from erroneous readings of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) as discussed in closed session.

- 7) **Approval of minutes of Commission meeting held February 24, 2021.**

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#### **Motion #21-021**

It was moved by Hoffmann, seconded by Tumpach, and unanimously agreed to approve the February 24, 2021 minutes as distributed.

#### **8) January and February financial update.**

A quarterly update will be given at the April Commission meeting.

#### **9) Request Commission approval of an extension of temporary modifications to NEW Water's paid leave policies.**

T. Brown stated that NEW Water is requesting an additional extension of the January 2021 paid leave policy. This extension will be through June 30, 2021.

Commissioner Blumreich asked if this will be the last extension. T. Brown replied this should be the last extension.

#### **Motion #21-022**

It was moved by Blumreich, seconded by Tumpach, and unanimously agreed to approve the extension of temporary pay practices through June 30, 2021 that provide up to 80 hours of paid leave at 100% of base wages for COVID-19 qualifying reasons and once exhausted, to provide additional paid leave at two-thirds of usual rate of pay with the remaining one-third of pay to be supplemented by employee use of accrued paid leave banks. In addition, approval is requested to continue wages for the same time period for employees excluded from on-site work as directed by NEW Water.

#### **10) Request Commission approval to enter into an agreement with Outagamie County to provide landowner payments on newly installed buffers (filter strips) in the Ashwaubenon Creek and Dutchman Creek watersheds for the NEW Watershed Program in the amount of \$268,000 and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.**

E. Houghton reviewed the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant details and contract details with Outagamie County Land Conservation Department. The grant money received will go through Outagamie County to land owners for the implementation of buffers. NEW Water does have its own additional cost share dollars that are being budgeted for and being spent on these practices. This grant will be used to supplement some of the implementation costs.

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**Motion #21-023**

It was moved by Blumreich, seconded by Tumpach, and unanimously agreed to approve entering into an agreement with Outagamie County to provide landowner payments on newly installed buffers (filter strips) in the Ashwaubenon Creek and Dutchman Creek watersheds for the NEW Watershed Program in the amount of \$268,000 and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreement.

**11) Request Commission approval to award the De Pere Facility Tertiary Filtration and Service Water Project to Miron Construction Company in the amount of \$8,660,816.**

P. Mentink stated the current filters at the De Pere Facility have been in use since the plant was built in the 1970's. These filters do not have sufficient hydraulic capacity to treat the flow with one unit out of service, which is required by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). The filtered effluent is also used as a source of service water throughout the plant. Donohue and Associates prepared the construction documents for the replacement of the filters and the service water system. The documents went out for public bid and three contractors responded: C.D. Smith Construction Inc., Miron Construction Company, and Staab Construction Corporation. NEW Water staff and Donohue have reviewed the bids and determined that Miron Construction Company is the lowest cost, responsive, and responsible bidder.

T. Sigmund added that being able to reuse some of the existing filter building and equipment at the facility has allowed the cost of the project to remain low.

**Motion #21-024**

It was moved by Hoffmann, seconded by Tumpach, and unanimously agreed to award the De Pere Facility Tertiary Filtration and Service Water Project to Miron Construction Company in the amount of \$7,873,469 with a 10% contingency of \$787,347 under the authority of the Executive Director for a total project amount of \$8,660,816.

**12) Sewer plan approvals:**

- a) Village of Howard Project #21009; GBMSD Request #2021-09**
- b) Village of Howard Project #21006; GBMSD Request #2021-10**

B. Angoli stated that the Village of Howard has submitted two requests, one for Hazel Crescent Hills Subdivision and the other for Hazel Estates. Staff recommends approval of the Village of Howard sewer plans.

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#### Motion #21-025

It was moved by Blumreich, seconded by Tumpach, and unanimously agreed to approve the Village of Howard sewer plans subject to favorable approval recommendations from Brown County Planning and final approval by the WDNR.

#### 13) **2020 Pretreatment enforcement summary.**

S. Georgel reported there was one significant industrial user (SIU) that was in significant noncompliance for the year 2020, and NEW Water is required to publish the SIU in the Green Bay Press Gazette. Three other SIUs were in noncompliance in 2020 and received a Notice of Noncompliance. All facilities have taken or are in the process of taking corrective action in order to return to full compliance.

#### 14) **2020 Industrial Achievement Awards.**

S. Georgel stated this is the 10th year NEW Water has administered the Industrial Achievement Awards. Twenty-eight of the eligible 44 SIUs received either a gold, silver, or platinum award this year.

#### 15) **2020 Aquatic Monitoring Program update.**

S. Bartlett gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2020 Aquatic Monitoring Program, as follows:

- NEW Water Sample Locations
- Yearly Average Total Phosphorus 1986-2020
- Yearly Average Total Suspended Solids 1991-2020
- Monthly Distribution of Total Suspended Solids
- NASA Sea Prism Collaboration
- CyanoHABs and Cyanotoxins Grant
- 12,953 Samples

#### 16) **2020 Watershed Monitoring Program update.**

B. Young gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2020 Watershed Year in Review, as follows:

- Green Bay Precipitation
- 2020 Watershed Sampling
- Silver Creek: WQ Total Phosphorus Concentrations
- Ashwaubenon and Dutchman Creeks Monitoring

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- Ashwaubenon and Dutchman Creeks Total Phosphorus
- Pilot Project and Program Partners
- Aerial Mapping of Green Bay Facility and De Pere Facility
- Headwater Turbidity Monitoring
- 2021 Field Season

#### 17) Update of projects:

##### a) **Contract 35 Solids Building 300 Demolition**

B. Angoli stated the Contract 35 Solids Building 300 Demolition Project is almost complete. The outstanding issues on the material costs have been resolved.

##### b) **Effluent Reuse Pump Station and Force Main**

B. Angoli reported the project is moving along. The pumps have been up and running, but there are still issues with solids plugging the filters at the Green Bay Packaging (GBP) site. NEW Water is working with GBP and consultants to come up with a resolution.

##### c) **De Pere Facility Electrical Distribution and Emergency Generator**

P. Mentink stated all onsite construction at the De Pere Facility is complete. The new gear and generators have been tested. Hands on training for the generators will be completed in the near future.

##### d) **Bayview Interceptor Replacement**

P. Mentink reported the project is going well. Contractor has started installing 48" interceptor sewer. Excavation on the east and west sides has also started.

N. Qualls noted that there is an outstanding issue involving the contractor spilling oil. The oil did not enter the waterway. Contractor has cleaned up the site, and is awaiting soil testing. The contractor has provided the appropriate documentation and filed it with the regulatory agencies.

##### e) **Dutchman Creek Interceptor Rehabilitation**

B. Brown reported that most of the work is finished. The new pipe was installed and the Dutchman interceptor returned to normal operation in early December of 2020 (for the year). There will be some follow up restoration work in the spring. The outstanding issue of the CIPP liner failure has not been resolved yet. The issue of bubbling water in the area where new pipe was installed has been evaluated. After review, the observed water is not wastewater and the results have been reported back to the Village of Ashwaubenon.

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#### f) **Regional I&I Reduction Program Project update**

L. Sarau gave an update on the Regional I&I Reduction Program Project, which was previously approved by the Commission at the October 28, 2020 Commission meeting. Brown and Caldwell has been moving forward with the project. Project highlights include a kick off meeting with the stake holder advisory group, a customer survey and information request has been sent out, and a website page was launched to keep the public up to date on NEW Water I&I efforts.

A work shop is scheduled on March 25, 2021 for NEW Water to inform its customers on ways to reduce I&I.

#### 18) **February 2021 Operations report.**

P. Wescott reported both facilities were in compliance with all effluent limits for the month of February. The Green Bay Facility was in compliance with air quality limits. For the month of February the solids processing facility generated 1,324 megawatt hours of electricity through digestion utilizing 94% of biogas. Total bio-gas volume recovered was 198,503 CCF. NEW Water received 1,998,380 gallons of high strength waste in February.

P. Wescott stated there was a scheduled week long solids processing system shutdown. All systems have returned to service. February also included 12 consecutive days when the daily temperature was below zero degrees. Between NEW Water's locked in natural gas pricing and the planned outage, NEW Water was not affected by the high natural gas pricing.

Commissioner Hasselblad asked how often the granular activated carbon needs to be replaced. P. Wescott responded about every two to three years.

#### 19) **Executive Director's report:**

##### a) **April Commission meeting**

The April Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, beginning at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom videoconference.

##### b) **COVID-19 paid leave statistics**

An update on the utilization of the COVID-19 related leave was provided in the Commission packet.

##### c) **COVID-19 update**

As of March 1, 2021, NEW Water staff has been eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. NEW Water strongly encourages staff to receive the vaccine.

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**d) Duane Fish accepted a Field Services Technician position**

D. Fish has accepted a Field Services Technician position.

**e) Wisconsin Water Week**

NEW Water staff participated in Wisconsin Water Week.

**f) Brown County United Way recognizes NEW Water**

NEW Water was recognized by the Brown County United Way for a special giving campaign.

Commissioner Mainz rejoined the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

**g) Targeted Public Service Announcement**

NEW Water will be participating in a targeted public information program and will be encouraging people to stop flushing their dental floss.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

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Secretary