

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Northeast Texas Municipal Water District
Board of Directors
February 22, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

The Board of Directors of the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District met in an open meeting on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. The meeting was held at Northeast Texas Municipal Water District’s Executive Office located at 4180 Farm Road 250, Hughes Springs, Texas 75656. Notice of the meeting was legally posted. A quorum was present. An opportunity was provided for public comments before any action was taken by the Board of Directors.

Present: Jack Salmon, Jr. - Avinger
Robyn Shelton - Hughes Springs
Patrick Smith - Pittsburg
Saundra Wexler - Lone Star
Stan Wyatt - Daingerfield
Joseph W. Weir, III - Ore City
George Otstott - Jefferson

Staff: Walt Sears, Jr.
Pete Wright
Dominic Sobieraj
Robyn Goodson
Robert Speight

Guest: Deborah Posey - Sister of Jenny McKinney
Steve McKinney - Husband of Jenny McKinney
Glenn Hobbs - Tryon Road SUD

President Robyn Shelton called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Jack Salmon gave the invocation. Mrs. Shelton led the directors in the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag and the Texas flag. The seating arrangement was spacious enough for everyone in attendance to be more than 6 feet apart.

The contributions by Jenny McKinney were recognized. The Board and General Manager mentioned Jenny’s infectious attitude and unwavering faith. Memories were exchanged among the group and Jenny’s family in attendance. Saundra Wexler made a motion to approve the Resolution in honoring Jenny McKinney for her services and invaluable contributions. Stan Wyatt seconded the motion. Motion carried, all voting aye.

On a motion by Saundra Wexler and a second by Stan Wyatt minutes of the January 25, 2021 meeting were approved. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Jack Salmon, Jr. made a motion to approve the monthly investment report, to approve financial reports on all current accounts and funds, and pay invoices for professional services. Sandy Wexler seconded the motion. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Mr. Sears informed the Board of Directors that there was no Lake O’ the Pines Southside Project meeting this month due to the historic winter weather event of ice, snow and multiple days below freezing.

Water Production Operations Report was made by Dominic Sobieraj:

- Temperature fluctuations and rainfall keep affecting raw water quality for both Tanner and Pittsburg plants while we are continuing to treat and produce water meeting all district, state, and federal standards.

PITTSBURG PLANT

- We have received our second/spare mixer motor for Pittsburg plants from warranty repair,
 - We now have 1 fully working spare unit for this crucial part of Pittsburg plant treatment process
- Quincy Compressor performed warranty repair on our new compressor at Pittsburg plant,
 - We had some difficulties getting warranty help from Quincy
 - After some talks with upper management, we successfully received all the help and repairs we needed
- Waiting for an update from KSA on Pittsburg raw water pump status,
 - This is directly related to new rebuilt motor for that pump
- Daily Electric Motor finished rebuilding on the motor for Pittsburg raw water pump and allowed us to store it at their location until we have pump ready to install,
 - Daily Electric Motor have appropriate storage capabilities – motors need to be in a controlled environment to prevent corrosion and possible damage if they are not powered up.

TANNER PLANT

- COVID continuing 12h shift rotation with observing CDC guidelines,
 - No exposures or infection that we are aware of
- Due to power surge our raw water meter from Endress & Hauser has been acting up, we are in the process of fixing/replacing it. The flow is being monitored by filter effluent,
 - We installed power surge protector with battery backup for this or any future meter
- We are updating our Sonic Wall VPN/FIREWALL internet connection at the Tanner Plant,
 - (DFS) is purchasing a new unit for us and will assist in programing and integrating with all DFS systems: Scada, Communication, Dataflow, and Monitoring
 - New Sonic WALL VPN hardware will improve cyber-security and reliability of network/internet connection
- We have finished review and assessment of District's fire extinguishers and performed required hydro testing on all units which needed it,
 - We have purchased several units for "must-have" areas as well as for each of the district's fleet vehicles
 - We are up to date and in compliance on all fire extinguishers
- Getting ready to take down and clean basin #2 of Tanner plant,
 - After drain we will perform assessment of needed preventive maintenance
 - Will implement repairs, if needed
 - Remaining basins are fully capable of delivering required amount water for treatment to meet District's needs
- We are performing preventive maintenance with weekly Generator testing,
 - All our generators are fully fueled and ready in case of power interruptions due to possible severe weather conditions
- Tree fell down and blocked road to raw water intake, two of our operators did an outstanding job clearing it out,
 - We have full access to our raw water intake
- Our discharge permit has expired on February 1st, however after consulting with KSA on Feb 2nd and reviewing TCEQ regulations, we are allowed to continue to discharge under our permit while we are waiting for final approval and renewal,
 - We also received hard copy confirmation that all required administrative steps for permit renewal have been completed

Board of Directors Minutes
February 22, 2021
Page 3

- Dominik will assist Sigi West from KSA with all data and help needed to finish AWIA Cybersecurity assessment required by federal law,
- We are working to complete and submit annual reports to TCEQ and TWDB due March 1st,
- We are working on updating and revising Monitoring Plans for Tanner and Pittsburg plants,
- On Tuesday Feb 2nd we had pre-construction meeting with D&G Quality Roofing and work has began Monday February 8th with expected completion within 6 working days from February 22nd,
- We have received information from our insurance company that additional payment will be issued to the District upon completion of the Roof project and submittal of the paid invoice, and
 - That additional amount will lower total “out of pocket” cost for the District which also lowers the Tryon Road and Diana portion of the bill.

Last week, we had a historical weather event with multiple days below freezing, ice and snow. Mr. Sobieraj provided an update on what the Tanner and Pittsburg plant did to keep our customers and member cities with water. Mr. Sobieraj noted the significant contributions of Will Hobbs from Tryon Road SUD provided during the extreme weather episode.

Extraordinary weather conditions created unprecedented water demand accompanied by an array of problems and challenges for both NETMWD plants. Mr. Sobieraj thanked all NETMWD Board and personnel for helping during this episode. He noted that both plants provided much more water to all communities compared to what is normally produced.

Pittsburg plant:

- Due to active leak on raw water line and to prevent plant and pump station from hard freeze, it was a necessity to run a continuous 24/7 shift,
- We are coordinating with City of Pittsburg on the demand and flow rates to assure continuous supply,
- Record high production levels. The production was 650 gpm which is about four times larger than normal and about 78% of total plant capacity.

Tanner plant:

- We are operating on a continuous 24/7-hour operation. We are dealing with power outages, equipment malfunctioning, breaks, and freeze,
- Dealing with interruption of SCADA communication and telemetry at the plant and remote tank and pump sites,
- Assuring fuel deliveries to our generators,
- Driving for several hundreds of miles under extreme roads conditions,
- Reaching record high flows and production levels for the plant with flows as high as 7.2 mgd (5,000 gallons per minute),
- Dealing with disinfectant shortage and application limitations,
- SUCCESSFULLY maintained 100% uninterrupted production and delivery of water while meeting all State and Federal regulations, and
- Communicating with member cities, providing and exchanging help and information as needed to assure adequate potable water to all communities.

Walt Sears presented the District’s Personnel Policy Manual’s annual review revision adjustments which included changes to: direct deposit payments to employees, vacation leave impacted by pandemic implications, and adjusting the use of sick leave. Jack Salmon, Jr. made a motion to approve the revisions to the District’s Personnel Policy Manual. Stan Wyatt seconded the motion. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Board of Directors Minutes
February 22, 2021
Page 4

Robert Speight presented the 2020 On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF) report. Mr. Speight noted increased permit activity in 2020 despite COVID-19. Mr. Speight noted:

- 260 permit applications, with Upshur County having the most permit applications at 202,
- 46 complaints worked, with Upshur County have the most complaints at 33.

Mr. Speight updated the Board of Directors on the recent spraying of Giant Salvinia located in Lake O' the Pines. Mr. Speight stated that 72 hours of freezing temperature can kill Giant Salvinia. Last week we had over 72 continuous hours of freezing weather, so the expectation is that both spraying and cold weather will significantly reduce the amount of Giant Salvinia in the lake.

Saundra Wexler made a motion to authorize an additional lump sum payment of \$25,000 to NETMWD's TCDRS retirement account. Stan Wyatt seconded the motion. Motion carried, all voting aye except Patrick Smith voting no.

Mr. Sears updated on regional flood planning. Mr. Sears informed the Board of Directors that Sulphur River Basin Authority has a new General Manager and they are interested in how we run our Clean Rivers Program. Robert Speight and others are helping to improve the program in the Sulphur River Basin.

Mr. Sears informed the Board about the meeting with North Texas MWD and industrial water users of water in Lake O' the Pines. The next meeting is set for April 9, 2021. The main topics for the next meeting are anticipated to be: 1) refinement of the volume needed by NTMWD, and 2) pricing of the water under consideration, and 3) the legal roadmap forward.

Mr. Sears spoke about the possible Luminant contract for water to be stored in the Tankersley Creek watershed. The project is about storing the water in a previous mining area in Titus County for strategic release in low flow conditions. Having additional stored water will help on many levels: 1) supplying water to our member cities in a weather event, and 2) during times of drought.

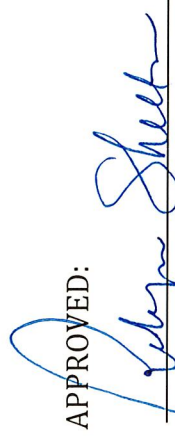
During the General Manager's report, Mr. Sears reported on the following:

- Upcoming virtual meeting of TWCA, and
- Brief legislative update, noting that there is no resolution yet on the topic of possibly having live online videos of board meetings.

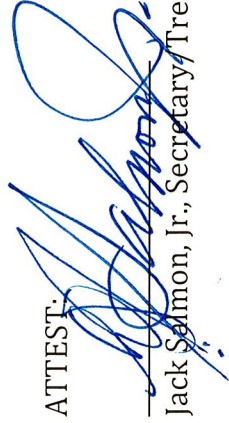
On a motion by George Otstott and a second by Joseph W. Weir, III, the next meeting of the Board of Directors was set for March 22, 2021. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Motion to adjourn was made by Joseph W. Weir, III with a second from George Otstott. Motion carried, all voting aye.

APPROVED:


Robyn Shelton, President

ATTEST:


Jack Salmon, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer