

The September 30, 2024 regular monthly meeting of the Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority was called to order by Chairman Sullivan at 6:30 PM. All participating in the meeting gave a pledge of allegiance.

September 25, 2024 Work Session Roll Call:

Eyerly – Absent	Formica – Present	Gallagher – Present
George – Present ¹	Grink – Absent	Sharkey – Absent
Sherrock – Present	Sullivan – Present	Zola – Absent

Also in Attendance during Work Session:

Gregory Olander – Director of Administration	Andy Nowak – Field Operations Manager
Attorney Joseph D. Ustynoski – Solicitor	Rachel Govelovich, P.E. – Gannett Fleming
Scott Armbrust, P.E. – Gannett Fleming	

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Sherrock – Present	Sullivan – Present	Zola – Present

Also in Attendance during Regular Meeting:

Gregory Olander – Director of Administration	Andy Nowak – Field Operations Manager
Attorney Joseph D. Ustynoski – Solicitor	Robert Dougherty, P.E. – RJD Engineering
¹ Christopher Carsia – Director of Operations	¹ Scott Armbrust, P.E. – Gannett Fleming
¹ Nick Sahd – Olde Forge Environmental	

¹ via phone or Videoconference

² Board Member Sharkey entered the meeting prior to the Directors' Report

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment received prior to or during the meeting to be presented.

Grink & Sherrock moved to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2024 Special Meeting.

Passed: Aye-8, Nay-0, Absent-1

Formica & George moved to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2024 Pension Meeting.

Passed: Aye-8, Nay-0, Absent-1

Formica & Grink moved to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2024 Regular Monthly Meeting.

Passed: Aye-8, Nay-0, Absent-1

Directors' Report -

MONTHLY FLOW REPORT

	<u>August 2024</u>		<u>Year to Date</u>		
			<u>Total</u>		<u>Average</u>
Total Flow	256,648,171	Gallons	2,302,108,341	Gallon	xxxxx
Total Flow Bypassed	20,227,498	Gallons	190,178,286	Gallon	xxxxx
Days Flow Bypassed	7	Days	57	Days	xxxxx
Total Flow Treated	236,420,673	Gallons	2,116,230,055	Gallon	xxxxx
Average Minimum	5.7	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	6.6 MGD
Average Maximum	14.9	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	15.1 MGD
Average Daily Flow	7.6	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	8.7 MGD

During the Work Session, the Director of Administration, Gregory Olander, reviewed the wastewater flows for August 2024 as presented in the monthly flow report. He said the flow to the treatment plant was recorded at approximately 256.6 million gallons with 236.4 million gallons being treated. He also stated that the average daily flow to the treatment plant for the month dropped to 7.6 MGD, which decreased the average daily flow for the calendar year to 8.7 MGD. He noted that the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR) were submitted to PADEP for August with effluent violations reported for instantaneous fecal coliform exceedances due to the scheduled maintenance and cleaning of the Biological Aerated Filters (BAF), UV Tank, and Final Effluent Tank when UV Disinfection was temporarily replaced with dosing of Sodium Hypochlorite. He said dosing chlorine for disinfection is not as effective when nitrification is occurring the aeration tanks.

Gregory Olander then reported that the revenues for August 2024 were \$1,115,364.43 and the billing for hauled waste received in August totaled \$232,308.98. He then stated that the customer collection rate for the month of August was 93.36%. Gregory then reported that we are still waiting for the fully executed sales agreement to be returned from Lancaster Area Sewer Authority for sale of up to 37,000 nitrogen credits as previously approved by the Board. He then reported that Waste Management reduced their per load hauling for 2025 from what was originally quoted for the one-year extension. He said the approval is on the agenda for the Board's consideration. He then noted that the annual financial audit is underway for fiscal year ended July 31, 2024. He said fieldwork will be conducted this week with follow-up from the auditors as needed until they present the statement to the Board at the October or November work session. He said one additional requirement this year due to receiving the ARPA Grant is a Single Audit, which is much more involved than our regular annual audits. Gregory also stated that he and Gene Zynel were reviewing the rate structure for hauled waste discharged at the plant. He said although the rates were updated in 2023, a few minor tweaks were needed to the rate structure for thicker sludges being discharged. He said once a new rate resolution was developed, it will be presented to the Board for consideration.

Gregory then reported that Rachel Govelovich and Scott Armbrust from Gannett Fleming were onsite for a detailed plant tour on September 11, 2024 for Scott to familiarize himself with the operation and equipment at the plant; particularly for options on Biotower #1, the UV Disinfection System, and plant capacity options as previously reported.

Gregory then reported that the incinerator annual RATA test report was certified and submitted to the state and federal regulators as required. He said we are currently waiting for the agreement between Gannett Fleming and Jasmine Lee's new firm to be finalized so Jasmine and her staff can begin supporting air quality compliance with the Authority's permit. He said, once approved, Jasmine's firm will work as a subcontractor to Gannett Fleming. Gregory then notified the Board that Gene is preparing Authority staff, vendors, and equipment manufacturers for the annual incinerator shutdown scheduled for the first week in October.

Gregory also reported on the developer proposing to reuse the GHJSA treatment plant effluent for cooling water. He said following the Board's approval on September 18, 2024, staff is preparing information to develop and send the requested "Will Serve" letters to the developer.

During the Work Session, Andy Nowak reported that delivery of the 96" outfall pipe to be installed along the HASD Career Center parking is not scheduled yet, but it is anticipated sometime in October. He said installation is expected to take about 2 months to complete. He said the Road Crew staff are continuing with GIS data collection for development of the mapping system. He said about 40% of the system has been collected, but many of the manholes are buried and need to be opened to get the pipe inverts to complete the mapping. Rachel Govelovich noted that for the CSO flow study being developed for submission in February 2025, a smaller area needs to be completed with pipe inverts for the flow model. She said depth of all pipes would be needed for the Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP).

Andy then reported that the Allen Ridge LLC engineer has been working to complete the Water Quality Management Part II Permit as required by PADEP. He said the permit application will be in the Authority's name, so Gannett Fleming will be reviewing the information in the application prior to submission to PADEP. He then stated that activity has resumed at the Hazleton Creek Logistics site, so it appears they are once again moving forward with that warehousing development. Andy then noted that he gave a set of maps showing Authority sewer lines to the HASD and notified them that they cannot build within the Authority's easements for those lines.

During the Regular Meeting, Gregory Olander informed the Board that letters were received from Keystone Landfill and CES Landfill increasing the tipping for \$5.00 per ton for calendar year 2025. He said this is a 9% increase and it seems to be the trend each year. Andy Nowak requested that the Board change the October meeting dates from the 16th to the 23rd for the Work Session and the 21st to the 28th for the regular meeting. He said if there are no objections the meeting change will be approved with the approval of the Directors' Report and the date change will be advertised as required.

During the Regular Meeting, Nick Sahd reported that he had a telephone conversation with Frank Klancher of USEPA relative to the Valmont TCE Remediation Site. He said an email summary of that conversation was distributed to the Board, but he wanted to give a brief summary of the conversation in this report. He said, in reference to discharging the treated remediation water to the storm sewer system, Frank indicated that there were follow-up discussions with Hazle Township and the Municipal Authority of Hazle Township. He said discharging into the storm sewer system is essentially a direct discharge to the Black Creek, which would require an NPDES Permit from the State. He said this can be a longer process to get permitted and Frank indicated that his superiors are not interested in direct discharge as an option because it was initially investigated and determined not to be cost effective or the best disposal option. He said Frank noted that the project is going out to bid next week and USEPA intends to hold a

public availability session in December 2024 to get a message out to the public about the project. He said following the public meeting, USEPA will be formally requesting the Authority accept the treated discharge from the site. Chairman Sullivan asked Nick if USEPA had a Plan "B" in the event the Authority votes not to accept the discharge. Nick responded that he told Frank that they need to look at other options.

Gallagher & Grink moved to accept the Directors' Report and to have the written report on diverted flows made a permanent part of the record.

Passed: Aye-9, Nay-0, Absent-0

Engineer's Report – During the Work Session, Rachel Govelovich introduced Scott Armbrust from her firm to the Board Members. Scott then gave a brief summary of his engineering experience as it related to water and wastewater facilities. Rachel then referenced a written Engineer's Report that was distributed to the Board. Rachel reviewed the air quality reports and their due dates for the upcoming year noting that the next report due is the 3rd Quarter 2024 CEPS Report. She then stated that the agreement with Jasmine Lee's firm is being finalized and should be signed shortly so her firm can begin work on air quality issues.

Rachel then reported that there has been no change from PADEP or PENNVEST regarding the Incinerator Installation change orders, which still have not been reviewed. She informed the Board that she will be attending a virtual meeting with Mr. Olander and the consultant for Luzerne County relative to closeout of the ARPA Grant now that all monies have been received and allocated. She said depending on the outcome of the meeting, it may be necessary to use \$100,000 in Authority funds as the 5% for the grant if they will not accept PENNVEST federal equivalency funds as an allowable match. She said for the next payment requests, the change orders will need to be removed because they have not yet been reviewed for approval by PADEP. She said if the payment requests contained any unapproved change orders, it would hold up approval of the payment request by PENNVEST. She also noted the PA Small Water & Sewer Grant funds for the Area 10 (Phase 2) Separation Project would need to be expended by September 2026.

Rachel then reported on the Act 537 and LTCP activities. She said flow meters that have been deployed continue to capture flows at the CSO discharge points so the required flow study can be completed before the February 28, 2025 deadline. She then reported that the Authority staff has been collecting data for about 90 days, which is about 40 features per day and 1,700 to date. She said they were doing a good job capturing the required data, but the biggest stumbling block is that many of the manholes are paved over so it is time consuming to open them to get pipe inverts. She said a priority list of manholes that need to be opened will be sent to the Authority so the Flow Study can be completed. She noted that a full hydraulic model would be difficult without inverts completed in the mapping system.

She then reported on the Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) items noting that two (2) separation studies listed in the NPDES Permit are due in February 2025. She said those 2 studies are being worked on for submission prior to the deadline. She said Bob Dougherty will be contacted to provide necessary information on the two study areas, Area 2 & 3 (Locust Street basin) and Area 10 (Terminus of Black Creek basin) so the reports can be completed.

Rachel reported that her firm is assisting with both the Allen Ridge, LLC development and the Northpoint Development for reuse of treatment plant effluent. She then reported that a Structural Engineer from her firm made a site visit on September 11th to investigate the ongoing concrete cracking issue in the Nitrification/Denitrification structure. She said they are recommending getting core samples and doing additional testing to include non-destructive testing, corrosion testing, and other tests as listed in the engineer's report. She said they will get a quote for the concrete testing and provide next steps for the Authority. Rachel also reported on the activation of Denitrification Cell #5 and a project to upgrade the size of the Sough Industrial Line (SIL) crossing Black Creek. She said both items were discussed and viewed with Scott during the September 11th site visit. She said the Structural Engineer also checked the truss support for the SIL where it crosses the creek and noted that the truss appears to be in relatively good condition, but due to rusting a recoating is recommended, which poses some problems because of the creek below. She said a cost to recoat vs. complete replacement will be provided to the Board.

Rachel then reported that Gannett Fleming and Authority staff held a virtual meeting to discuss options to transition away from the obsolete data management program that has been in use since 1999. She said a programmer will be reaching out to staff to meet onsite to view new SCADA system and integration of data into that database for recordkeeping and reporting. She said a scope and budget will be provided to the Board for their consideration.

During the Work Session, Robert Dougherty referenced a written report that was distributed to the Board. He gave an update on the Locust Street CSO Separation Project noting that the main line installation on Church Street from Beech to Noble Streets is now complete with ongoing sidewalk restoration. He said the Church Street crossing at Chapel Street is also complete and trench restoration for the remaining areas West of Church Street is set to begin. He said full milling and paving west of Church Street is scheduled for October. Bob then reported that a sewer easement is needed along the YMCA frontage on Church Street to run a line to serve the Blue Comet property. He said this would allow the sewer main to be installed along the property rather than under the state highway, which would be a cost savings. He then recommended the approval of change orders #35 through #39 resulting in a net negative amount of \$103,198.28 as well as approval of Payment Estimate #10 in the amount of \$195,699.26, which includes the change order noted above. He said roof drain removals, tagging, dye testing, and investigation in Areas 2 and 3 is now complete and follow-up inspections and second tagging of properties is ongoing. Chairman Sullivan asked when the project was expected to be completed. Bob responded that the contractor is only about 2/3 complete with the project even though they have used two crews at times. He said they will not meet their original schedule of a November 2024 completion. He said that he would get an updated schedule from the contractor and inform the Board of the most likely completion date.

Gallagher & Formica moved to accept the Engineer's Report.

Passed: Aye-9, Nay-0, Absent-0

Solicitor's Report – In addition to what was reported in executive session during the Work Session, Attorney Ustynoski stated that he reviewed the YMCA Easement as reported by Mr. Dougherty under the engineer's report. He asked the Board to approve the easement, including additional language he added, along with approval of the Solicitors Report.

Grink & Gallagher moved to accept the Solicitor's Report. Passed: Aye-9, Nay-0, Absent-0

BILLS AND CREDITS

Formica & Gallagher moved to approve payment of Gannett Fleming, Inc. invoices and requisitions from July 27, 2024 through August 23, 2024, totaling \$36,153.51 as listed in the following table:

<u>Requisition#</u>	<u>Invoice #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Operating Fund	051153.A*41082	Annual Service Work	\$ 8,024.03
Operating Fund	051153.B*41086	Attending Authority Meetings	\$ 591.09
Operating Fund	051153.D*41077	Industrial Pretreatment Program	\$ 197.03
Operating Fund	051153.E*41096	CSO Work (Flow Study)	\$ 17,304.86
Operating Fund	051153.T*41087	NPDES Permit Application	\$ 140.00
Operating Fund	051153.42*41065	2024-2025 Air Compliance	\$ 415.87
Operating Fund	051153.43*41067	Act 537 Plan	\$ 1,444.48
Operating Fund	051153.46*41069	GIS Mapping Project	\$ 7,412.88
Operating Fund	051153.47*41070	Locust St PENNVEST (Const)	\$ 623.27
Total			\$ 36,153.51

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Sharkey-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-yes (Passed 9-0-0)

Formica & Gallagher moved to approve payment of RJD Engineering, Inc. invoices from August 2024 totaling \$15,004.00 as listed in the following table:

	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Operating Fund	8/31/2024	Area 2/3 - Locust St CSO	\$ 14,344.00
Operating Fund	8/31/2024	Collection System Engineering	\$ 660.00
Total			\$ 15,004.00

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Sharkey-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-yes (Passed 9-0-0)

Gallagher & Formica moved to approve Change Change Orders #35 to #39 totaling a net deduction to the Locust Street CSO Separation & Force Main Replacement Project contract with Michael F. Ronca & Sons, Inc., in the amount of \$103,198.28, as presented and recommended by the engineer and listed in the table below:

LOCUST STREET CSO SEPARATION FORCE MAIN
PROJECT
CHANGE ORDER 35 to 39 SUMMARY

CHANGE ORDER	AMOUNT
35	\$8,328.12
36	\$7,013.60
37	(\$60,070.00)
38	(\$9,100.00)
39	(\$49,370.00)
NET CONTRACT CHANGE	(\$103,198.28)

On the question: Board Member Zola asked what brought about the negative change orders. Bob Dougherty responded that there were different reasons for each, but essentially it was elimination of either manholes or pipe runs, which removed work and lowered the overall cost of the project.

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Sharkey-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-yes (Passed 9-0-0)

Formica & Gallagher moved to approve Requisition No. C265, payable to Michael F. Ronca & Sons, Inc., totaling \$195,699.26 for Payment Estimate #10 of the Locust St CSO Separation & Force Main Replacement Project as recommended by the engineer. The original contract price was \$5,271,000.00. Add for Change Orders #1 through #39 in the amount of \$210,290.89 for a total contract price of \$5,481,290.89. The total of payments made to date including this payment is \$2,942,099.89, which leaves a balance of \$2,539,191.00.

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Sharkey-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-yes (Passed 9-0-0)

Sherrock & Formica moved to authorize payment from the Operating Fund for Operating and Administrative Expenses (\$743,512.20); Construction in Progress (\$321,549.37); Equipment/Office Equipment (\$156,917.50); Debt Service Series 2018 Bond – BB&T (\$18,362.29); Debt Service Series 2020 Bond (\$338,600.00); Debt Service Series 2021 Bond (\$502,000.00); Debt Service PENNVEST Loan #27906 (\$11,152.44); Transfer to PENNVEST 2 Account to open account (\$1,000.00) from the month of August 2024.

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Sharkey-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-yes (Passed 9-0-0)

Formica & Grink moved to approve issued credits report totaling \$119.55 from the month of August 2024.

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Sharkey-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-yes (Passed 9-0-0)

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Gallagher & George moved to approve a one-year extension from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 to the current Sludge Hauling Agreement with a rate of \$775.00 per load Monday through Friday and \$900.00 per load on Saturday delivered to any of the Authority's approved landfills.

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Sharkey-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-yes (Passed 9-0-0)

Zola & Grink moved to adjourn.

Passed: Aye-9, Nay-0, Absent-0

The regular meeting was adjourned at 6:49 PM

The next scheduled Work Session will be Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at 6:30 PM

The next scheduled Regular Monthly Meeting will be Monday, October 28, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory A. Olander". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Gregory Olander, Assistant Secretary