

The February 24, 2025 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.

February 19, 2025 Work Session Roll Call:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Eyerly – Present | Formica – Present | Gallagher – Present |
| George – Present ¹ | Grink – Present | Sharkey – Present |
| 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 | ¹ Christopher Carsia – Director of Operations |
| Laura Motel – Environmental Manager | ¹ Nick Sahd – Olde Forge Environmental, Inc. |
| ¹ Rachel Govelovich, P.E. – Gannett Fleming | Robert Dougherty, P.E. – RJD Engineering, Inc. |

February 24, 2025 Regular Meeting Roll Call:

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

Also in Attendance during Regular Meeting:

| | |
|--|--|
| Gregory Olander – Director of Administration | Andy Nowak – Field Operations Manager |
| Attorney Joseph D. Ustynoski – Solicitor | ¹ Christopher Carsia – Director of Operations |
| ¹ Rachel Govelovich, P.E. – Gannett Fleming | ¹ Nick Sahd – Olde Forge Environmental, Inc. |
| Laura Motel – Environmental Manager | |

¹ via phone or Videoconference

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Formica & George moved to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2025 Special Meeting.

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

Formica & George moved to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2025 Regular Monthly Meeting.

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

During the Work Session, Chairman Sullivan asked the Authority's Environmental Scientist consultant, Nick Sahd, to summarize the draft Temporary Discharge Authorization for the Valmont TCE Remediation Site with the Board. Nick reviewed the draft document with the Board highlighting the sampling frequency and discharge limits that would be imposed on EPA and their contractor to discharge treated groundwater to the Authority's WWTP for disposal. He said the concerns of the Board have been addressed in the document and he asked if any Board Members had additional questions on the contents of the temporary discharge authorization. Board Member Eyerly asked if a higher rate could be charged for treating this waste. Gregory Olander responded that the water being discharged will have very low solids and BOD and would not require much additional treatment. He said the Authority does not have a distinct rate for this waste and to maintain uniformity, the standard treatment fee would be charged as listed in the most recent rate resolution. Board Members Sullivan, George, and Formica instructed the Director of Administration to put a motion approving the temporary discharge authorization on the agenda for the Board's consideration.

Pension Committee Report –

Board Member Grink reported on behalf of the Pension Committee. He stated that the investments had a net gain of 7.5% in 2024 and so far in 2025, the year-to-date return is roughly 3%. He said the investments remain consistent with the approved funding allocation and the investment advisor did not recommend any changes at this time.

Gallagher & Formica moved to accept the Pension Committee Report as presented.

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

Directors’ Report -

MONTHLY FLOW REPORT

| | <u>January 2025</u> | | <u>Year to Date</u> | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------|---------------------|--------|----------------|
| | | | <u>Total</u> | | <u>Average</u> |
| Total Flow | 206,700,718 | Gallons | 206,700,718 | Gallon | xxxxx |
| Total Flow Bypassed | 0 | Gallons | 0 | Gallon | xxxxx |
| Days Flow Bypassed | 0 | Days | 0 | Days | xxxxx |
| Total Flow Treated | 206,700,718 | Gallons | 206,700,718 | Gallon | xxxxx |
| Average Minimum | 4.8 | MGD | xxxxx | xxxxx | 4.8 MGD |
| Average Maximum | 8.3 | MGD | xxxxx | xxxxx | 8.3 MGD |
| Average Daily Flow | 6.7 | MGD | xxxxx | xxxxx | 6.7 MGD |

During the Work Session, the Director of Administration, Gregory Olander, reviewed the wastewater flows for January 2025 as presented in the monthly flow report. He said the flow to the treatment plant was recorded at approximately 206.7 million gallons with all flow being treated due to the lack of significant precipitation events. He also stated that the average daily flow to the treatment plant for the month was 6.7 MGD. He then noted that the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR) were submitted to PADEP for January with no violations reported.

Gregory Olander then reported that the revenues for January 2025 were \$1,148,349.84 and the billing for hauled waste received in January totaled \$204,735.68. He stated that the customer collection rate for the month of January was 93.38%, which adjusted the fiscal year to date collection rate to 94.95%. Gregory then reported that the cybersecurity assessment on the operations network is continuing. He then reported that the programming of a new data collection and reporting program is underway to replace the older ODMS Program.

Gregory then reported that the maintenance staff installed the trial secondary seal over a pipe penetration in the De-nitrification Pipe Gallery. He said the installation went very well and the maintenance staff are recommending the Authority purchase a few more seals to have available to control leaks as they begin to develop. He said the maintenance staff is also preparing for remote pump station flow meter installations at the Stacie Manor and Diamond Avenue stations. He then reported that the concrete testing firm completed concrete sampling and we are awaiting their report on the condition of the Nitrification and Denitrification structures. He also reported that Gene Zynel, Shane Boyer, and Steve Delman have been working with a manufacturer’s representative on a replacement hauled waste receiving station that would be a direct replacement for one of the existing units. He said a proposal should be ready for the Board to review at the next meeting. Gregory then reported that the purchase order was sent to Kingdom Technology Services to rebuild the existing UV Disinfection System including installation of new electrical and controls.

Gregory also reported on the incinerator air quality items noting that the 2024 Stack Test was conducted on December 5th and 6th 2024, results were received, and all parameters were passed except HCl. He said a retest for HCl is scheduled for April 3, 2025. He said operation changes were implemented immediately upon receiving the results based on recommendations from the scrubber equipment supplier. He said with a higher operating flow rate for tray cooler water and an increased caustic dose rate, the HCl should be removed at a greater efficiency. He then informed the Board of another meeting that took place with the stakeholder group for Pennsylvania Sewage Sludge Incinerators (SSI). He recounted the meeting with the Board and said he would keep them advised if there is any additional information or changes going forward. He then stated that all air quality reports due in February were submitted prior to the respective deadlines and the Annual Emissions Statement was being worked on for submission prior to the March 1, 2025 deadline.

Gregory then informed the Board that a utility location service was onsite at the treatment plant to locate utility and electrical lines at the back end of the plant for the purpose of finding a suitable location for a pump station to provide the WWTP effluent for use as non-contact cooling water for the data center campus being developed by NorthPoint. Attorney Ustynoski said they requested a Memorandum of understanding (MOU) from the Authority outlining the basics of a future agreement to provide plant effluent to the facility. He said details of the negotiation would be discussed in executive session.

During the Work Session, Andy Nowak reported that the Road Crew has been gathering more field data for the GIS Mapping Project in areas that have heavy foliage during the other seasons. He said they are also using the camera truck to locate laterals as needed for the Locust Street CSO Separation Project. He then reported that PennDOT will be milling and paving a section of Route 93 from Route 424 to Washington Avenue in West Hazleton and they indicated that they would install risers on the Authority's manholes if the Authority will provide the materials. He stated that the Locust Street CSO Separation contractor has begun fixing cross connections identified in Area 2B, which is on the west side of Poplar Street in the Heights section of Hazleton City.

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

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

Engineer's Report – During the Work Session, Robert Dougherty referenced a written report that was distributed to the Board. He reported on the Locust Street CSO Separation Project and noted that most pipe work in Area 3 is now complete. He said the contractor is now working on the sanitary sewer installations in Area 2A. He said there is a change order related to the contractor hitting an unmarked water line that was believed to be abandoned, but it was still active. He said the contractor is also working on correcting the thirteen (13) sanitary sewer to storm sewer cross connections in Area 2B with four (4) corrections made to date. He said dye testing for roof drain removals will resume when the snow melts and weather improves. He then recommended the Board approve Change Orders #48 through #50 along with Ronca Payment Estimate #15 in the amount of \$194,391.65. He then reported that the Amcor subdivision work has been completed and the documents needed for subdivision approval at West Hazleton Borough were sent to Amcor for signatures. He also reported that design work has resumed for the Area 10 (Phase 2) Separation Project with plan views and profiles completed. He said once the weather improves, manholes will be opened to get pipe inverts so design work may be completed.

During the Work Session, Rachel Govelovich referenced a written Engineer's Report that was distributed to the Board. Rachel stated that Incinerator stack testing was completed December 4th and 5th and due to the HCl exceedance, a retest is scheduled for April 3, 2025. She reviewed the list of air compliance

reports due in 2025 and their respective deadlines. She said as reported by the Director of Administration, several reports have been submitted in January and February prior to the deadlines with just the Annual Emission Statement remaining, which is due March 1, 2025.

Rachel then reported that PADEP resumed review of the change orders from the Incinerator Project and they approved more of the remaining change orders. She said there are six (6) electrical change orders remaining so hopefully we will be in a position to move forward with final inspection and close-out in the near future.

She then reported on the PENNVEST funding for the Locust Street CSO Separation Project. She said change orders are being uploaded electronically to the PENNVEST site and RJD Engineering is sending hard copies to PADEP for their review and approval. She said a meeting was held with PADEP, GHJSA staff, and RJD Engineering to discuss the change order submissions. She said RJD Engineering would be sending a few change orders to PADEP for their review and comment before amending the remaining change orders as requested by PADEP. She also reported that Construction Payment Request #5 is being prepared for submission to PENNVEST. She then reported that additional information was sent to the consultant for Luzerne County relative to close out of the ARPA Grant.

Rachel then reported on the Act 537 and Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) activities. She said the Flow Study is being drafted for submission to PADEP prior to the February 28th deadline. She then reported on the LTCP items noting that two (2) separation studies (Locust Steet CSO and Area 10) listed in the NPDES Permit are also due February 28, 2025. She said drafts of those 2 studies were sent to Authority staff and RJD Engineering for review and comment with the expectation of submitting the reports to PADEP prior to the February 28, 2025 deadline. She then reported that GIS mapping continues; however, progress has slowed due to the winter weather conditions.

Rachel then reported that as part of the Act 537 Plan, letters were sent to the municipalities and their engineers within the Authority's service area requesting them to provide information needed to compile the Act 537 Plan. She said confirmation of receipt has been received from Penn State, Can Do, Sugarloaf Township, Jeddo Borough, and the Municipal Authority of Hazle Township. She said Hazleton City, West Hazleton Borough, Butler Township, and Hazle Township were contacted a second time regarding the request for information, which is needed to move the Act 537 Planning process forward.

Rachel reported that her firm continues assisting with Northpoint Development for reuse of treatment plant effluent, Allen Ridge Development for review of construction cost estimates, as well as the review of documents for the proposed discharge of treated groundwater from the Valmont TCE site.

She then reported that her firm is still awaiting results from testing of the concrete in the Nitrification and Denitrification tanks, which should be available sometime in March. Rachel also reported on the upgrade to the ODMS system that captures the laboratory and operational data to generate reports for submission to PADEP. She said a kickoff meeting was held on January 29th with Authority staff to work out the details of the new program with programming now underway. She also reported that work on the required annual Chapter 94 Report, CSO Status Report, and Industrial Pretreatment Report continue with submission anticipated prior to the March 31, 2025 deadline.

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

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

Solicitor’s Report – In addition to what was reported in executive session during the Work Session, Attorney Ustynoski reported that he had nothing additional to report.

Gallagher & Grink moved to accept the Solicitor’s Report. Passed: Aye-8, Nay-0, Absent-1

BILLS AND CREDITS

Formica & Sharkey moved to approve payment of Gannett Fleming, Inc. invoices and requisitions from December 28, 2024 through January 24, 2025, totaling \$35,375.12 as listed in the following table:

| <u>Requisition#</u> | <u>Invoice #</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Operating Fund | 051153.A*47684 | Annual Service Work | \$ 3,378.81 |
| Operating Fund | 051153.B*47685 | Attending Authority Meetings | \$ 609.39 |
| Operating Fund | 051153.C*47686 | Chapter 94 Report | \$ 786.90 |
| Operating Fund | 051153.D*47687 | Pretreatment Program | \$ 1,750.00 |
| Operating Fund | 051153.E*47688 | CSO Flow Model & LTCP Studies | \$ 16,464.82 |
| Operating Fund | 051153.C0*47691 | PENNVEST Admin (Incinerator) | \$ 1,159.62 |
| Operating Fund | 051153.42*47678 | 2024-2025 Air Compliance | \$ 6,190.01 |
| Operating Fund | 051153.43*47679 | Act 537 Plan | \$ 2,706.58 |
| Operating Fund | 051153.46*47680 | GIS Mapping Project | \$ 660.02 |
| Operating Fund | 051153.47*47681 | Locust St PENNVEST (Const) | \$ 1,391.11 |
| Operating Fund | 051153.50*47682 | ODMS/PMBS Upgrade | \$ 277.86 |
| Total | | | \$ 35,375.12 |

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Sharkey-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-absent (Passed 8-0-1)

Gallagher & Grink moved to approve payment of RJD Engineering, Inc. invoices from January 2025 totaling \$14,493.00 as listed in the following table:

| | <u>Invoice Date</u> | <u>Project Description</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Operating Fund | 1/31/2025 | Area 2/3 - Locust St CSO | \$ 13,464.00 |
| Operating Fund | 1/31/2025 | Collection System Engineering | \$ 1,029.00 |
| Total | | | \$ 14,493.00 |

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Sharkey-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-absent (Passed 8-0-1)

Formica & Sharkey moved to approve Change Orders #48 to #50 totaling a net addition to the Locust Street CSO Separation & Force Main Replacement Project contract with Michael F. Ronca & Sons, Inc., in the amount of \$18,172.79, as presented and recommended by the engineer and listed in the table below:

LOCUST STREET CSO SEPARATION FORCE MAIN PROJECT
CHANGE ORDER 48 to 50 SUMMARY

| CHANGE ORDER | AMOUNT |
|--------------|------------|
| 48 | \$8,727.47 |
| 49 | \$4,578.91 |

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| 50 | \$4,866.41 |
| NET CONTRACT CHANGE | \$18,172.79 |

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Sharkey-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-absent (Passed 8-0-1)

Formica & Sharkey moved to approve Requisition No. C270, payable to Michael F. Ronca & Sons, Inc., totaling \$194,391.65, for Payment Estimate #15 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 #50 in the amount of \$170,490.03 for a total contract price of \$5,441,490.03. The total of payments made to date including this payment is \$4,704,626.88, which leaves a balance of \$736,863.15.

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Sharkey-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-absent (Passed 8-0-1)

Gallagher & Formica moved to authorize payment from the Operating Fund for Operating and Administrative Expenses (\$795,463.96); Construction in Progress (\$705,508.80); Debt Service Series 2018 Bond – BB&T (\$18,362.29); Debt Service PENNVEST Loan #27906 (\$11,152.44); Debt Service PENNVEST Loan #71468 (\$618.05); Debt Service PENNVEST Loan #77114 (\$377.12) from the month of January 2025.

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Sharkey-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-absent (Passed 8-0-1)

Grink & Gallagher moved to approve issued credits report totaling \$4,055.41 from the month of January 2025.

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Sharkey-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-absent (Passed 8-0-1)

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Grink & Formica moved to approve Resolution 001 of 2025, which authorizes the Chairman and Secretary to enter into a non-reimbursement agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) for minor adjustments of sanitary sewer manholes to be incorporated into PennDOT’s construction contract for resurfacing State Route 93 in the City of Hazleton and West Hazleton Borough. The Authority shall supply all necessary material and PennDOT shall provide for all labor required for the manhole adjustments.

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Sharkey-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-absent (Passed 8-0-1)

George & Formica moved to approve issuance of a Temporary Discharge Authorization (TDA) dated February 18, 2025 to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), as presented and reviewed by the Board, for acceptance of treated remediation system effluent from the Valmont TCE Remediation Site as outlined and stipulated in the TDA and the Table 1 attachment listing the discharge limit requirements.

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-no, George-yes, Grink-yes, Sharkey-no, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-absent (Passed 6-2-1)

Gallagher & Grink moved to adjourn.

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

The regular meeting was adjourned at 6:42 PM

The next scheduled Work Session will be Monday, March 17, 2025 at 6:30 PM

The next scheduled Regular Monthly Meeting will be Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority



Gregory Olander, Assistant Secretary