

The March 19, 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.

March 17, 2025 Work Session Roll Call:

Eyerly – Absent	Formica – Present	Gallagher – Present
George – Absent	Grink – Present	Sharkey – Present
Sherrock – Present	Sullivan – Present <sup>1</sup>	

Also in Attendance during Work Session:

Gregory Olander – Director of Administration	Andy Nowak – Field Operations Manager
Attorney Joseph D. Ustynoski – Solicitor	Gene Zynel – Plant Operations Manager
Robert Dougherty, P.E. – RJD Engineering, Inc.	

March 19, 2025 Regular Meeting Roll Call:

Eyerly – Absent	Formica – Present	Gallagher – Present
George – Present <sup>1</sup>	Grink – Present	Sharkey – Present
Sherrock – Present	Sullivan – Present	

Also in Attendance during Regular Meeting:

Gregory Olander – Director of Administration	Andy Nowak – Field Operations Manager
Attorney Joseph D. Ustynoski – Solicitor	<sup>1</sup> Christopher Carsia – Director of Operations
<sup>1</sup> Rachel Govelovich, P.E. – Gannett Fleming	

<sup>1</sup> via phone or Videoconference

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**Grink & Formica** moved to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2025 Pension Meeting.

Passed: Aye-7, Nay-0, Absent-1

**Formica & Gallagher** moved to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2025 Regular Monthly Meeting.

Passed: Aye-7, Nay-0, Absent-1

**Directors' Report -**

**MONTHLY FLOW REPORT**

	<u>February 2025</u>		<u>Year to Date</u>		
	<u>Total</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>Average</u>	
<b>Total Flow</b>	<b>193,838,290</b>	<b>Gallons</b>	<b>400,539,008</b>	<b>Gallon</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>
<b>Total Flow Bypassed</b>	<b>2,484,831</b>	<b>Gallons</b>	<b>2,484,831</b>	<b>Gallon</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>
<b>Days Flow Bypassed</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>
<b>Total Flow Treated</b>	<b>191,353,459</b>	<b>Gallons</b>	<b>398,054,177</b>	<b>Gallon</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>
<b>Average Minimum</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>MGD</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>	<b>4.7 MGD</b>
<b>Average Maximum</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>MGD</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>	<b>9.0 MGD</b>
<b>Average Daily Flow</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>MGD</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>	<b>6.8 MGD</b>

During the Work Session, the Director of Administration, Gregory Olander, reviewed the wastewater flows for February 2025 as presented in the monthly flow report. He said the flow to the treatment plant was recorded at approximately 193.8 million gallons with 191.3 million gallons being treated. He also

stated that the average daily flow to the treatment plant for the month was 6.8 MGD. He then noted that the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR) were ready for submission to PADEP for February with no violations reported.

Gregory Olander then reported that the revenues for February 2025 were \$1,029,704.29 and the billing for hauled waste received in February totaled \$204,653.28. He stated that the customer collection rate for the month of February was 96.73%, which adjusted the fiscal year to date collection rate to 95.05%. He said delinquent collections begin in April and will continue through July so the normal uptick in customer payments is expected to be received. Gregory then reported that the cybersecurity assessment has been completed and a draft report is being reviewed by staff. He reported that the five-year arbitrage calculations must be completed for the Series 2020 Bond Issue. He said due to the higher interest rates over the past few years, an arbitrage liability has been generated for that tax exempt bond issue, which must be paid to the Department of Treasury. He stated that he has been working with Arbitrage Rebate Counselors to complete the calculations to determine the liability, which will be brought to the Board for approval once completed. He then reported that the programming of a new data collection and reporting program to replace the older treatment plant ODMS Program is ongoing.

Gregory then reported that two additional seals were ordered for installation in the Nitrification/Denitrification pipe galleries to control leaks if they begin to develop. He said the maintenance staff is preparing for remote pump station flow meter installations at the Stacie Manor and Diamond Avenue stations. He also reported on a proposal to purchase a replacement hauled waste receiving station that was distributed to the Board. He and Gene Zynel reviewed the highlights of the proposal with the Board and he noted that the purchase is on the agenda for the Board's consideration. Gregory then reported that a representative from Kingdom Technology Services was onsite to review the submittals in preparation for the rebuild of the existing UV Disinfection System including installation of new electrical and controls. He also reported that the concrete testing firm completed their draft report on the Biological Aerated Filter (BAF) structure and it is currently being reviewed by Gannett Fleming's Structural Engineers. Gregory then reported that problems have arisen with the new secondary effluent pumps that were installed less than two years ago. He said the maintenance department is working with vendors to get the pumps repaired and returned to service. He noted that another new pump was ordered in November 2024, but delivery is not expected until July 2025. He also noted that delivery of the second HPU for the sludge cake pump is expected in July 2025 for installation by the maintenance department with some outside assistance to run hydraulic lines.

Gregory also reported on the incinerator air quality items noting that the 2024 Stack Test was conducted on December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 2024, results were received, and all parameters were passed except HCl. He said a retest for HCl was moved up to April 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated that a penalty letter was received from PADEP relative to issues with the Stack Test for HCl that was performed in December 2023. He said a meeting has been scheduled with the Air Quality Compliance representatives at PADEP to discuss items that generated the penalty.

Gregory then informed the Board of a meeting with another potential industrial user planning to build in Sugarloaf Township along the Tomhicken Road within the Authority's service area. He said the facility is a plastics recycler that will be operating a bioreactor to convert the plastics back to raw chemicals. He said Federal Categorical Pretreatment Limits are set for that type of industry so they would require an Industrial Pretreatment Permit. He said the Authority's Environmental Manager, Laura Motel, will be working with Nick Sahd to develop discharge limits the facility must meet to discharge their pretreated waste. He said that he also has an update regarding negotiations with the developer requesting the

Authority's effluent for use as non-contact cooling water, which will be discussed in executive session under the Solicitor's Report.

During the Work Session, Andy Nowak reported that employees of the Road Crew continue to gather more field data for the GIS Mapping Project. He said the other employees have been flushing and televising sewer lines in the service area. Andy then stated that negotiations with a developer for ownership transfer of a sewer line will be discussed in executive session.

During the regular meeting, Gregory reported that there was a plant water line break at the head of the Aeration Tanks that was repaired by the Road Crew.

**Sherrock & 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-7, 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 the main line on Buttonwood Street was being completed today and lateral connections to that line will begin. He said the contractor has now completed all sanitary sewer removals from the storm lines in Area 2B. He said follow-up inspections for roof drain removals in Areas 2 and 3 have begun. He stated that the remaining construction work for the project includes installation of new sanitary mains on Wyoming, Pine, and Cedar Streets and paving of streets on the eastside. He then recommended the Board approve Ronca Payment Estimate #16 in the amount of \$254,081.87. He then reported that the Amcor subdivision work has been completed, and the documents needed for subdivision approval at West Hazleton Borough are still at 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 some of the GIS data that was recently gathered will be merged into the plans.

During the regular meeting, Rachel Govelovich referred to a written Engineer's Report that was distributed to the Board. Rachel reported on air quality issues noting that the Annual Compliance Report and Annual Emissions Statement were completed and submitted prior to the deadline.

Rachel then reported that there has been no activity on Incinerator Project reviews since her last report. She said there are still six (6) electrical change orders remaining so hopefully we will be able to move forward with final inspection and close-out in the near future once they are approved.

She then reported on the PENNVEST funding for the Locust Street CSO Separation Project. She said Construction Payment request #5 was submitted and Request #6 is being prepared for submission to PENNVEST along with an engineering payment request.

Rachel then reported on the Act 537 and Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) activities. She reported on the LTCP items noting that two (2) separation studies (Locust Street CSO and Area 10) listed in the NPDES Permit were submitted prior to their February 28, 2025 deadline. She then reported that the Flow Study was in review prior to submission, and it was noted that the flows being recorded through some of the meters at the CSO locations were overreporting flow amounts. She said to identify the problem and complete the report it was necessary to request an extension from PADEP. She said they approved an extension to July 1, 2025. She then reported that GIS mapping continues, and some requested information was provided to Bob Dougherty for inclusion in the Area 10 (Phase 2) Project plan set.

Rachel then reported that as part of the Act 537 Plan, information request 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 there has still been no response from Hazleton City and West Hazleton Borough. After some discussion, Chairman Sullivan asked staff to provide the contact names at the municipalities after the meeting.

Rachel reported that her firm continues assisting with Northpoint Development for reuse of treatment plant effluent, review of industrial pretreatment work relative to the industrial wastewater flow that will be returned to the treatment plant, permitting requirements, and UV modifications. She said site investigations were performed by an underground utility locator to find a suitable location for the pumping station near the plant effluent tank. She said a meeting was held with PADEP on March 21, 2025 to discuss the proposed change to wastestream that was submitted, potential impacts to the Authority's NPDES Permit and wastewater capacity in the South Industrial Line. She said a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NorthPoint was being worked on by her firm, Authority staff, and the Solicitor, which would be discussed with the Board before being sent to the developer.

She then reported that results from testing of the concrete in the Nitrification and Denitrification tanks were received and will be discussed with Authority staff once the structural engineers complete their review of the report. Chairman Sullivan stated that this is such an important issue, the report must be explained to the entire Board at a meeting. Rachel agreed and said a special meeting could be set once comments are submitted on the draft and the final report is received. Rachel also reported that programming work continues on the upgrade to the ODMS system that captures the laboratory and operational data to generate reports for submission to PADEP. 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.

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

Passed: Aye-7, 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.

**George & Gallagher** moved to accept the Solicitor's Report. Passed: Aye-7, Nay-0, Absent-1

## **BILLS AND CREDITS**

**George & Sharkey** moved to approve payment of Gannett Fleming, Inc. invoices and requisitions from January 25, 2025 through February 21, 2025, totaling \$35,376.42 as listed in the following table:

<b><u>Requisition#</u></b>	<b><u>Invoice #</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Operating Fund	051153.A*48514	Annual Service Work	\$ 3,760.65
Operating Fund	051153.B*48516	Attending Authority Meetings	\$ 707.77
Operating Fund	051153.C*48517	Chapter 94 Report	\$ 1,530.52
Operating Fund	051153.D*48518	Pretreatment Program	\$ 2,170.00
Operating Fund	051153.E*48519	CSO Flow Model & LTCP Studies	\$ 17,571.22
Operating Fund	051153.42*48513	2024-2025 Air Compliance	\$ 3,979.73
Operating Fund	051153.48*48512	Development - Allen Ridge	\$ 228.75
Operating Fund	051153.50*48515	ODMS/PMBS Upgrade	\$ 5,427.78
Total			\$ 35,376.42

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Sharkey-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes (Passed 7-0-1)

**Formica & Sherrock** moved to approve payment of RJD Engineering, Inc. invoices from February 2025 totaling \$25,606.00 as listed in the following table:

	<b><u>Invoice Date</u></b>	<b><u>Project Description</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Operating Fund	2/28/2025	Area 2/3 - Locust St CSO	\$ 18,492.00
Operating Fund	2/28/2025	Area 10 (Phase 2) Separation	\$ 5,642.00
Operating Fund	2/28/2025	Collection System Engineering	\$ 1,472.00
Total			\$ 25,606.00

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Sharkey-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes (Passed 7-0-1)

**Gallagher & Formica** moved to approve Requisition No. C271, payable to Michael F. Ronca & Sons, Inc., totaling \$254,081.87, for Payment Estimate #16 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 \$4,958,708.75, which leaves a balance of \$482,781.28.

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Sharkey-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes (Passed 7-0-1)

**Formica & Sherrock** moved to authorize payment from the Operating Fund for Operating and Administrative Expenses (\$774,801.45); Construction in Progress (\$250,079.47); Debt Service Series 2020 Bond (\$338,600.00); Debt Service Series 2021 Bond (\$502,000.00); Debt Service Series 2018 Bond – BB&T (\$18,362.29); Debt Service PENNVEST Loan #27906 (\$11,152.44); Debt Service PENNVEST Loan #71468 (\$922.72); Debt Service PENNVEST Loan #77114 (\$377.12) from the month of February 2025.

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Sharkey-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes (Passed 7-0-1)

**Formica & Sharkey** moved to approve issued credits report totaling \$4,760.18 from the month of February 2025.

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Sharkey-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes (Passed 7-0-1)

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Formica & Grink** moved to approve the purchase of one (1) Huber Technology, Inc. Sludge Acceptance Plant (ROTAMAT Ro3.3 780/6) through Sherwood Logan & Associates, Inc. (COSTARS Account #3885498) for a total cost of \$284,186.25 including freight and startup services as outlined in the Huber Technology, Inc. Project #515034 Proposal (revision 4) dated March 7, 2025.

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Sharkey-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes (Passed 7-0-1)

Board Member Formica reminded the Board that the PMAA Region 2 & 3 Dinner Meeting will be held on May 22, 2025 at Sand Springs. He said a flyer is in the packets and the main speaker is Representative Dane Watro. He said all other arrangements have been finalized and he looks forward to seeing a good turnout from our Board for the event.

**Gallagher & Grink** moved to adjourn.

Passed: Aye-7, Nay-0, Absent-1

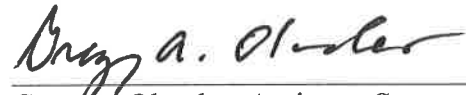
The regular meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM

The next scheduled Work Session will be Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 6:30 PM

The next scheduled Regular Monthly Meeting will be Monday, April 28, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

**Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory A. Olander", written over a horizontal line.

Gregory Olander, Assistant Secretary