

## **PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING**

**JANUARY 10, 2023**

Commission President, Bob Stavran, called the meeting of the Rib Mountain Metropolitan Sewerage District (Metro) to order at 11:30 a.m.

**ROLL CALL** - Commission Members Present: Bob Stavran, James Strehlow, Craig Mortensen, and Keith Biedermann. Also Present: Eric Donaldson, Director; Andy Heise, Superintendent; Sandra Balz, Administrative Clerk; Randy Langer of Strand Associates and Jarod Grande, Town of Rib Mountain. Also, Dan Hekrdle of Village of Kronenwetter, Ryan VanDeWalle, & Tim Vergara of Village of Rothschild, and Diane Thoune of Clark Dietz on recorded Zoom webinar.

Commission Members absent: James Pauls, was excused.

**FACILITIES PLAN PHASE II - PUBLIC HEARING** – The Plan was discussed, and comments were made by Village of Rothschild regarding increased flows which, will be followed up by Eric Donaldson, Director. Mr. Stavran mentioned we are taking comments until January 18, 2023. Jared Grande, Town of Rib Mtn had a question regarding PFAs and how we are handling. Eric Donaldson addressed and explained our process.

**Note: Public comments are included for Commission review prior to January 24, 2023, meeting.**

### **FACILITIES AND GROUNDS UPGRADE**

Representative: Randy Langer of Strand Associates, gave a brief presentation on the New Facilities Plan draft document. Why it is needed and the schedule. This Wastewater Treatment Facilities Plan was prepared for the purpose of developing and overall plan for wastewater management at the RMMSD WWTP for the next 20 years. This Facilities Plan must be implemented to meet the requirements of federal and state regulations related to water quality in the Wisconsin River and to maintain the significant investment RMMSD has made at the WWTP.

The Facilities Plan additionally serves as the Final Compliance Alternatives Plan (FCAP) for RMMSD's Phosphorus Compliance Schedule.

This plan must be submitted to meet the requirements of the Water Quality Based Effluent Limits (WQBELs) for phosphorus detailed in RMMSD's Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit. Randy Langer stated the Facilities Plan addresses all the documented needs for the RMMSD WWTP and provides effective reuse of existing facilities along with appropriate modifications and additions to allow for successful operation for the next 20 years and beyond. The 3 main points for this upgrade:

1. Regulatory Compliance – More stringent phosphorus limits of the WI River (TMDL) requiring increased removal by chemical addition, filtration, or another solution.
2. Aging Equipment and Facilities – exceed typical design life of 20 yrs. and nearing 40 yrs. service.
3. Compliance with NFPA, Section 820. Standard for Fire Protection in WWTP.

Furthermore; this project helps meet phosphorus limits, effective January 2026 of 15lbs per day (monthly average) and future total nitrogen limits.

Based on the estimated increase in annual debt service required for the project, a total increase in revenue of approximately 60 percent is required. Projected O&M expense for 2023 are approximately \$1,718,963. Existing debt service is \$261,948 annually. New debt service associate with this project is anticipated to be approximately \$1,390,000, based on current interest rates.

The opinion of probable cost of Phase II improvements totals \$20,755,000. Anticipating an early 2024 bid date and inflation of 8 percent per year results an anticipated 2024 project cost of 22,412,000.

A reimbursement resolution will need to be passed in order to use CWF money that will be due in March 2023, with bid opening in April 2024 and begin construction in June 2024.

Questions and recommendations were made with lengthy discussion regarding, what next steps will be after the Public Hearing on January 18, 2023. It was recommended by Mr. Stavran, President that a special meeting will be held on January 24, 2023, at 11:30am.

A possible motion will be made at the January 24<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting to approve the "Facilities Plan" as presented and have it submitted to the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources (WDNR).

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Strehlow and seconded by Mr. Mortensen to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2022, Regular Meeting. Questioned and unanimously passed.

**CHECK REGISTER APPROVAL**

Mr. Strehlow made a motion to approve the following December checks and January Pre-paid Check Register, with Mr. Biedermann seconding the motion. Questioned and unanimously passed.

General Auto/Prepaid Checks	\$ 104,297.85
General Pre-paid Check # 29993-30009	\$ 45,617.91
General Checks #29981-29992	\$ 29,034.00
Total	\$ 178,949.76

**DIRECTOR/SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT**

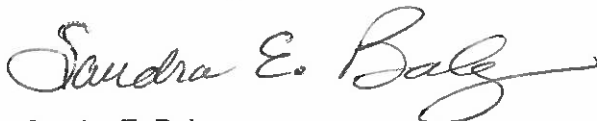
Budget Comparison Report - None

Asset/Replacement - Septage Receiving Station Upgrades; Has been tabled, at this time.

Plant Report – Eric updated, reviewed the December Report.

At 12:30 p.m. with no further business to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Mortensen and seconded by Mr. Biedermann. Questioned and unanimously passed.

A tape of the proceedings of the Public Hearing & Regular Meeting is on file at the Rib Mountain Metropolitan Sewerage District, 151401 Aster Road, Wausau, WI.



Sandra E. Balz  
Administrative Clerk

1/24/2023 Date