

**STEUBEN LAKES REGIONAL WASTE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2024  
24-9R  
6:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Craig Rice  
Jon Flaugh  
Rob Moreland  
Kelly Johnson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mike Miller  
Renee Clauss  
Abby VanVlerah

Also Present

Chris Nussbaum – Carson LLP  
Steve Henschen – Jones Petrie Rafinski

Rob Moreland called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Rob Moreland read the following statement: At the end of the meeting, the public will be given an opportunity to speak. In the interest of time, each person shall be limited to three minutes. Your comments will be part of the public record of the meeting, so we ask that you present them in a professional manner and speak only to the matters at hand.

**APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 2024 MEETING MINUTES CHANGES OR ADDITIONS.**

The Board presented minutes of the AUGUST 28, 2024, board meeting minutes for review and approval. Upon motion duly made by Craig Rice and seconded by Kelly Johnson, the Board unanimously approved the board meeting minutes AUGUST 28, 2024.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

The financial reports, check register, project check register, bank account report, and claims for AUGUST 2024 were presented for review.

The Revenue Report, Appropriation Report, Capital Expenditures, Accounts Payable Register, Fund Report with Investments, and Monthly Budget Report with Capital for AUGUST 2024 were presented for review. Kelly Johnson moved, and Jon Flaugh seconded the motion, to accept and approve the AUGUST 2024 financial reports not including item G which is the proposed operating budget as submitted, which motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of the 2025 Operating Budget: Bryan Klein addresses page 4, line-item Asset Replacement which is projected to be \$1,000,000.00 which is the total yearly transferred from Operating funds to Capital Funds. If the board moves forward with the proposed pump station replacement plan (that will be discussed later in the meeting) that number will drop to \$400,000.00. There will be no other changes to the budget. Workers' compensation insurance has increased

slightly. Kelly Johnson moved, and Jon Flaugh seconded the motion, to accept and approve the 2025 Operating Budget revision date August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, as submitted with the possible change in Asset Replacement, which motion was unanimously approved.

## NEW BUSINESS

- A. District asphalt maintenance -Tri-State Asphalt Sealing and Striping Quote: Bryan Klein addresses maintenance to the asphalt that had not been completed during the Filter Project or the asphalt work in recent years. This left areas of the original asphalt that still required maintenance. Tri-State did all of the crack sealing at no charge to us in preparation for the entire seal coat and re-striping. The estimate presented is in the amount of \$16,178.80. Craig Rice moved, and Jon Flaugh seconded the motion, to accept and approve the expenditure of the Tri-State Asphalt sealing and striping quote in the amount of \$16,178.80 as submitted, which motion was unanimously approved.

## ATTORNEY REPORT

N/A

## ENGINEERS REPORTS

- A. NED Phase 2 – Construction Update: Steve Henschen updates Contract A which is being done by Selge Construction for Lift Stations 1, 2, and 9. Contract time is advancing on Selge, and a time extension has already been granted for the part that was needed for the automatic transfer switch that was supposed to be here in September but has been delayed another 2 weeks. We are under construction on those three pump station project replacements, and we have an alternate plan to re-use the existing ATFs for the interim period until the new parts arrive. Estimating being at pump station 1 in late October/Early November.

Contract B which is being done by Niblock Excavating for the West service area collection system phase 1. Niblock has started work and force main line in along County Road 300 at the new lift station 31 at the Big Boyz Toyz location running North to State Road 120. They were ready to turn the corner onto 120 but there were multiple utilities there that were not anticipated. Locates of those utilities have been completed and INDOT has approved the new alignment as of yesterday. This is a no cost change. They expect to be back on-site next week to start drilling along State Road 120 heading East. The contractor doing the force main line, which is the larger 10” pipe, on County Rd 300 from lift station 31 heading South to lift station 10 expects to be here in October. That is when we will see traffic signals there and some delays to traffic. There will always be one travel lane open with portable traffic lights.

Contract C which is being done by Selge Construction for the East service area. No change orders this meeting. No activity yet. They will be moving into the area in January 2025.

- B. NED Phase 2 – Contract A Pay Application #5: \$71,250.00: Selge is requesting payment in the amount of \$71,250.00 for mobilization when they moved in the end of last month and some control panels that have come in and are materials being stored on site. JPR has reviewed and found their request to be appropriate.
- C. NED Phase 2 – Contract B Pay Application #7: \$359,211.75: Niblock is requesting payment in the amount of \$359,211.75. About \$100,000 of that requested amount is for pipe that was installed last month. The remainder is for control panels and other electrical gear that was delivered which are materials being stored on site. JPR has reviewed and found their request to be appropriate.

Craig Rice moved, and Kelly Johnson seconded the motion, to accept and approve Contract A Pay Application #5 in the amount of \$71,250.00 and Contract B Pay Application #7 in the amount of \$359,211.75 as submitted, which motion was unanimously approved.

- D. PS Replacement Project – update on evaluation and budget: We have been planning a pump station replacement project for some time now. We have submitted a PER to the State Revolving Fund, and they scored it. We requested about \$15,000,000. This was in 2022 and was prior to inflation. We then went through the NED Phase II project which raised the rates. The board is trying to fund the necessary repairs without raising rates. JPR was asked to take a detailed look at every pump station. Cole, Bryan, Steve, and Bruce have visited all 21 stations trying to find cost saving measures. JPR has put together detailed cost estimates for repairs or replacements of each pump station. The biggest cost-saving measure is using a high-tech lining on a majority of the existing concrete wet wells. This lining has been around for over ten years and has been holding up very well. This would save approximately \$100,000-\$300,000 per lift station depending on the depth of the wet well. The coating system on the larger wet wells would cost an estimated \$25,000-\$30,000 each versus the cost of \$200,000-\$300,000 each to replace. Steve Brock had previously submitted a one-page summary showing we could most likely fund a \$5,000,000-\$7,000,000 project without impacting the rates. Part of that would be paid for by decreasing the \$1,000,000 budgeted for Asset Replacement to \$400,000. We are starting with base bids and using alternate bids. The timing of this would be in line for the SRF's summer 2025 pool program as the Fall pool program for this fall is already booked full as is the Spring 2025 pool program. We would be anticipating bids going out in April 2025, returned in May 2025, and closing in June/July 2025. To qualify for the Summer 2025 program, we would need to let the SRF know by the end of next month, otherwise, we would be looking at the Fall 2025 pool program. Steve Brock would do a rate study after the first of the year and we would need another audit as the last year audited was 2022. We will have more to discuss next month. No motion made.

## OLD BUSINESS

N/A

## DISTRICT BUSINESS & OTHER GENERAL MATTERS

Incident at Lift Station #9: Bryan Klein addressed the overflow at lift station 9 that occurred on September 6<sup>th</sup>. During routine maintenance an aluminum fitting broke which caused an overflow of gray water onto the ground at Jimmerson Lake, Nevada Mills area. A temporary fix was done immediately, we remediated the sewage on the ground, and IDEM was contacted. IDEM said they would be on location later that day. No pictures were requested. The Bypass/Overflow Incident Report is submitted for the board's reference. A homeowner in the area driving by stopped and exited his vehicle and started screaming and cursing at our maintenance staff. He accused the staff members of purposefully dumping sewage into the lake. He immediately called his wife and instructed her to call the newspaper. A Health Department staff member came to the site and said the media had called regarding the situation. Although we are not required to contact the Health Department as it did not directly impact a homeowner or resident, we would always contact them for their reference of the situation. IDEM is who we are to contact in this situation. The Health Department staff member assured us that they are not concerned about the accusations they received as they are familiar with our operations. A reporter from the local media did contact our office and Bryan Klein discussed the situation. He was not concerned about the situation, and nothing was published. The Incident report with IDEM is the extent of our documentation on the matter as we do not receive any paperwork from IDEM unless there is a problem. The maintenance staff deserve our thanks for submerging themselves in gray water to fix this problem.

Craig Rice touches on the 22% increase proposed by NIPSCO as an example of how costs are increasing, and we are not the only utility that had to request an increase. That is a substantial increase that is unfortunately a part of doing business.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Devos 4273 W Orland Rd: Jim Devos, who resides at 4273 W Orland Rd is pleased with the new lift station #2 location as it is back off the road, but he would like the chemical feed tanks to be brown and not white or put a wall around it. The issue with paint is that it will not hold up very long, which would require future maintenance. The original chemical feed systems were constructed in buildings as the chemical being used then could not freeze. Because the current chemical being used does not have that freezing issue, it is a cost saving measure to not enclose those tanks in buildings. His request is not due to the view from the road being an eyesore but his personal view from his property. The board will consider this request. No motion made.

## MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Rob Moreland asked for a motion to adjourn. Such motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried; the meeting was adjourned.