

**STEUBEN LAKES REGIONAL WASTE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
MARCH 26, 2025  
25-03R  
6:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Rob Moreland  
Craig Rice  
Kelly Johnson  
Renee Clauss  
Judy Rowe  
Mike Stephenson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Abby VanVlerah

Jon Flaugh is no longer a board member.

**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 MARCH 26TH MEETING MINUTES CHANGES OR ADDITIONS.**

The Board presented minutes of the MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2025 board meeting minutes for review and approval. Upon motion, duly made by Kelly Johnson and seconded by Mike Stephenson, the Board unanimously approved the MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2025 board meeting minutes.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

The financial reports, check register, project check register, bank account report, and claims for MARCH 2025 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 MARCH 2025 were presented for review. Kelly Johnson moved, and Craig Rice seconded the motion, to accept and approve the MARCH 2025 financial reports as submitted, which motion was unanimously approved.

## NEW BUSINESS

- A. Cross Connections: The night of April 2<sup>nd</sup> we received 3" of rain. There were several service calls, and we found ground water being pumped into our tanks at multiple addresses. It was hard for the pumps to keep up. We had to make multiple trips with the pumper truck and staff overnight to pump out tanks and unload at the lift station down the street. We had to size the pumps in order to avoid flooding the downstream lift stations. While pumping out and hauling with the pumper truck, we received 8 service calls in the area of Lift Station 5. We replaced floats in most of these service call tanks and walked from each tank's alarm to the next to silence and worked on each tank. This rain event with cross connections at individual homes doubled our flow in those 24 hours at the treatment plant which spiked our ammonia levels and caused a permit violation. Phosphorus & TSS (Total Suspended Solids) was doubled as well but did not cause a permit violation. It took three days to get levels back to normal levels. Wes has noted the substantial rain event and cross connection issues in the reports for IDEM. Steve Henschen ran the calculations and said for example, if there were 100 customers with sump pumps hooked up to the sewer system, running at 20 gallons a minute (normal rate) for 3 hours, that is 360,000 gallons. So, if we have 100 out of our nearly 5,000 customers with sump pumps hooked up, it is a small percentage but a big problem with this rainfall situation. Rainfall should not affect our system in any way as there should be no clear water going into our system from downspouts, sump pumps, etc. With lift stations having flow meters, we can see on the lift stations during rain events what area has an increase in flow meaning the customers in that specific area are the once with cross connections. We will send a letter to customers to disconnect any cross connections to avoid this issue in the future. We will also upload this information with picture examples on the website. We assume many do not know they are connected illegally. Ultimately, if this issue persists and increases, we will have to allocate funds to put in a big EQ Basin or a larger treatment plant which would cause rates to increase. We are trying to solve this problem to avoid a rate change.
- B. SBR Decant Pipe Repair: There are two flex joints on the decant pipes and one flex joints support brackets were broken which torqued the flex joint and disfigured the flange that it connects to on the pipe. Wes discussed replacement schedule 80 plastic pipes with Aqua Aerobics but they no longer make them. They offered for us to custom order with them. We priced the custom order as well as the stainless option they offer. It was more cost effective to go with the stainless with flex pipe on either end. We did have to hire a crane service to logistically remove the 20' long pipe and reach the components needing repaired. It was outside of our capabilities. Craig Rice moved, and Kelly Johnson seconded the motion, to accept and approve the decant pipe repair costs of 39,030.00 to Carlin Construction, Aqua Aerobics, and Straeffler Pump & Supply as submitted, which motion was unanimously approved.

## ATTORNEY REPORT

- A. 160 Ln 890 Snow Lk & 15 Ln 890B Snow Lk: Chris addresses a delayed sewer connection agreement for approval. We have an owner of two neighboring properties. One is a rental

and the other is their home. They are tearing down the rental and do not need both properties connected. Their rental agreement runs longer than our current construction schedule. The proposed agreement will allow the home that is to remain to be connected to the new system during the project and the rental that is to be torn down to stay connected to the old system and then the homeowners will be required to abandon the old system. They agree that after September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the rental will be incapable of producing sewage and they will abandon the old system. Craig Rice moved, and Kelly Johnson seconded the motion, to accept and approve the special connection agreement as submitted, which motion was unanimously approved.

## ENGINEERS REPORTS

- A. JPR General Project Update Memo: Progress continues moving along. Most of the mainline pipes are in the ground now.

Pump Station Replacement Project: We are nearing the final design. This project is being set up through Steve Brock for an amount somewhere between \$6,000,000 and \$7,500,000 without a rate increase. The hope is to rebuild between 4 and 8 pump stations with those funds. We would be looking at a loan through the SRF program. We are also taking \$600,000 of the \$1,000,000 that was scheduled to transfer from operating funds to capital funds for the year and allocating those funds to the Pump Station Replacement project. Replaced individually or grouped they will still be replaced out of capital funds either way. We have in the base bid, pump stations 12, 14, 23, and 6. We have in the alternate bids pump stations 4, 19, 16, 8, and 18. The idea is since we are working towards a dollar amount, we are going to do a smaller base bid with a bunch of alternates so we will award as much as we can to take advantage of that \$6,000,000 to \$7,500,000 range that will not impact our rates. If we take that project together as a whole, we are looking at \$9,000,000. We would like to request the board to approve this project going up for bid once the final design is completed and reviewed by the District. It is likely going to be next month. The intent is to close on this in the late summer/early fall of this year. We will need a current audit in order to qualify for financing. Bryan has reminded Steve Brock to check on the status of an audit. Kelly Johnson moved, and Renee Clauss seconded the motion, to accept and approve JPR to put the Pump Station Replacement Project out for bid as submitted, which motion was unanimously approved.

- B. NED Phase 2 – Construction Update – Steve Henschen updates:

*Contract A* which is being done by Selge Construction for Lift Stations 1, 2, and 9. Station 9 went online last Wednesday and today marks a full week of operation. We were slightly underperforming on pump performance. Working with District staff to make sure area ARV's are cleaned out. Sludge found in the bottom of the force main due to running below velocity for years. We suspect that may have been part of the problem. Today the District did a flushing event. The flow numbers in the force main are slowly creeping up and we think once that sediment is flushed out completely, we will be where we want to be. They are moving on to stations 1 and 2 in the next couple of weeks. Hoping to have

them up and running by next month's meeting. Estimated remaining days until completion is 73 days. Estimated to be 90.5% complete at this time.

*Contract B* which is being done by Niblock Excavating for the West service area collection system phase 1. About 78.4% complete around the North area of Otter Lk with an estimated completion date of November 26, 2025. Niblock may ask for a time extension in the future due to their own staffing and manpower issues. Niblock is not quite ready to start installing grinder stations, however, they are close to starting those installations.

*Contract C* which is being done by Selge Construction for the East service area. has an estimated completion being the end of 2025 or Spring of 2026, with a contract end date of September 18, 2026. Estimated to be 43.9% complete at this time. Selge has started installing grinder stations this week.

County Rd 300: The subcontractor for Niblock is back out and working. They have the road down to one lane with traffic lights.

C. Pay Apps:

1. NED Phase 2 – Contract B Pay Application #13 in the amount of \$307,080.08: Niblock Excavating is asking for payment in the amount of \$307,080.08.
2. NED Phase 2 – Contract C Pay Application #7 in the amount of \$690,101.85: Selge Construction is asking for payment in the amount of \$690,101.85.

Renee Clauss moved, and Craig Rice seconded the motion, to accept and approve the NED Phase 2 Contract B Pay Application #13 in the amount of \$307,080.08 to Niblock and the Contract C Pay Application #7 in the amount of \$690,101.85 to Selge as submitted, which motion was unanimously approved.

D. Change Orders:

NED Phase 2 – Contract C Change Order #6 in the amount of \$9,306.50: Selge Construction is asking for a change order in the amount of \$9,306.50 due to minor alignment changes and equipment location changes for property owners.

Renee Clauss moved, and Kelly Johnson seconded the motion, to accept and approve the NED Phase 2 Contract C Change order #6 in the amount of \$9,306.50 to Selge as submitted, which motion was unanimously approved.

JPR has reviewed all pay applications for work completed and change order requests and found them to be appropriate. These are to be paid from project SRF funds.

OLD BUSINESS

N/A

## DISTRICT BUSINESS & OTHER GENERAL MATTERS

N/A

## PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

## 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.