

TECHNICAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Minutes - Monthly Meeting
WTRRF Conference Room - 700 Doty Street
Tuesday 1:30 PM, October 15, 2019

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Roll Call – Present were Jordan Skiff, Paul DeVries, Cody Schoepke, Ben Propson, Nick Leonard, Mitch Vis and Eric Otte.

Approval of September Minutes– A motion was made by Paul DeVries and seconded by Cody Schoepke to approve the September 2019 meeting minutes. The motion carried.

Communication Session

Reports on:

- **Correspondence Relating to the Regional Wastewater System
LaClare Family Creamery**

◇Cody received communication from Larry, informing him that the manhole base is in place but still needs a top hatch before pouring the pad around the top of the manhole. They will also be pouring the pad for the sample hut. WTRRF will be relocating the sample hut from Saputo to this location. The flow meter needs to be installed and telemetry connected.

◇Eric said that Kathy Diederich, formerly from Schenck & Associates, will assist Calumet in determining the surcharge rates that will be used for LaClare.

Other Correspondence – Calumet By-Passing/Pumping from Station

◇Cody received a phone call from the Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Department alerting him to a pumping truck off-loading into a manhole on Fisherman's Road in Calumet, around midnight. After investigation, and according to Bob Depies, it was determined that this was a normal practice for 15-20 years. This has been done when their system is surcharging and experiencing back-ups during high flow events. In order to relieve the pressure on the system, sanitary waste is being transferred from their pump station and transferring it by hoses, downline to Taycheedah.

◇The Sheriff's Department contacted the WDNR and Cody also spoke with our Sanitary Basin Engineer, Mark Stanek.

◇Cody said some of this waste is by-passing the meter because they're taking it from the pumping station. Eric said that Calumet tracks the number of loads and Taycheedah and Calumet work it out from there.

◇Eric said there are plans for this lift station and the force main to be upgraded. There are easements that need to be obtained before this can begin.

◇While this is not considered by-passing, Cody would still like to be notified when this occurs.

Anammox

◇Nick wants to see what makes up the \$2.9 million dollar project, such as the bid tab with, change orders, etc. He'd like an accurate number before releasing that information to the

OSG. They will need that for budgeting purposes. Cody will forward that information to Nick.

- **Records Exchange – Update of Contact List**

◇None

- **Sewer or System Improvements Anticipated, in Progress or Completed (Extensions or Rehabilitations)**

◇Paul reported that all sanitary reconstruction work has been completed. Paul would like to get the pipe lining contract completed and bid out this year. Spot excavations will be performed by an outside contractor.

◇Mitch is working on a plan for televising in 2020, working off aerial photographs to identify a list for sump pumps that are discharging outside or elsewhere. The aerial photographs illustrate where the sump pumps discharge outside because you can see the green grass compared to brown out areas elsewhere.

◇Paul said these aerial photos have been used to identify wet areas and standing water.

- **FP or RSAP Amendments Anticipated, in Progress or Completed**

◇None

- **Metering and Sampling**

◇Randy Langer, Strand Associates, assessed the issues at Empire #3. In addition to the flow exceeding the flume because the flume is too small, and the manhole having a bend in it, he discovered that the next manhole down the line from there has the same issues. He did say that the manhole next to that one does have a straight run. Randy will prepare an estimate to correct what's there presently and also estimate the cost to change the monitoring location.

◇Cody reported that the conduit underneath the road has been replaced in Rolling Meadows Drive. A separate conduit was installed for the sample line to streamline sampling procedures. Since that work was completed the signal from that station has not dropped off.

- **Clearwater Reduction Fund Status and Party Activity**

◇None

- **Receive Sewer Project Closeout Records and Shared Sewer Cost Calculations**

◇None

- **Distribute Updates to Regional Sewer Design and Construction Standards and TGM Revisions**

◇None

- **Review Prior Activity**

◇None

Technical Session – Consent Agenda

Review as needed:

- **Review and evaluate new products and technology for incorporation into the standard specifications.**
- **Monitor the assessment, accumulation and use of the Clearwater Reduction Funds**
- **Maintain procedures and protocol for compliance with the Agreement**
- **Review and recommend proposed changes, revisions, clarifications, and amendments to the Parties regarding the Agreement and the TGM**
- **Consider and decide requests for specification waivers**
- **Prepare appropriate specification amendments**
- **Review shared sewer cost calculations for compliance with TGM procedures Conduct review of proposed revisions to the 2000 RSAP to identify potential regional impacts**

Additional Items

- **WTRRF Operations Update**

◇Ben reported that the OSCAR control of the aeration basins is on-line and fully operational. The system is showing excellent ammonia removal. SCADA connections need to be made yet.

◇The drying pad for the Vac Combo truck is near completion. Van Wyks will be working on adding to the height of the walls and C & M personnel will be paving the approach after the walls are complete. This will also serve as an on-site spill containment area.

◇Anammox continues to operate very well. Flows were increased from 80 to 125 gpm and it's meeting its targeted set point.

◇Ben distributed a flow chart from the rain event on October 2. Blending of 5 million gallons occurred from approximately 12:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Flows rose to 55 mgd and remained there for some time. The chart illustrates how quickly flows increased, how long they remained at that level, and how long it took for the flows to decrease to near normal levels. It took 5 days to get down to 12 mgd, still above the normal flow of 8 mgd.

- **Clearwater Reduction Fund – Continued Discussion from September Meeting**

The conversation focused on responses to the nine questions that were listed in the September meeting minutes. This item will remain on the agenda for the November meeting.

1. **Who would monitor the exceedances?**

◇Cody suggested that this be the responsibility of WTRRF personnel since flows are checked on a monthly basis, with the information being verified by someone in the OSG.

2. **Who would monitor the system improvements that would be made?**

◇This would be the responsibility of the TSC members and made part of the monthly meeting, as a standing agenda item. Paul and Nick agreed with this idea.

3. **What will the calculation be based on? Flow or perhaps a flat fee for each exceedance?**

◇Cody mentioned that if the major concern is that most sanitary district budgets can't support a calculation based on flow, that perhaps a flat fee would make more sense.

◇Nick said there are two trains of thought: that a certain amount of a district's budget, 5%, for example, be spent on I/I, and the other is the exceedance charge.

4. **What will happen when districts can't fund the improvements?**

◇Jordan supports the idea that there has to be a mechanism to pay for exceedances, even if districts invest in the system but not show results. It's not fair to district's that are working on improving their I/I when other districts are not.

◇Eric believes the majority of the sanitary districts are being proactive about I/I. He says that Calumet has all PVC pipe and precast manholes. They know where their trouble spots are and get frustrated when they undertake projects and don't see results.

5. **How do we meet the phosphorus limit without dealing with I/I? What about consequences from the WDNR?**

◇Cody said there are a couple of different options to consider. Filtration, to address wet weather flows, and/or water shed work. When specifically looking at Water Quality Trading it can be difficult to acquire enough credits to achieve phosphorus limits. From the experience of other communities the only way to acquire long term credits is through the purchase of large areas of land and taking that land out of production.

◇Ben said in some areas of the state entire farms are being purchased and taking the land out of production.

◇Jordan reiterated the concern about spending rate payer dollars to address issues outside our service area to address problems that aren't ours.

◇Nick is leaning for the continuation of the variance process.

◇Cody notes that our concentration limit is higher during high flow events because the plant is stressed and Bio-P is lost and that there's more to addressing I/I than excessive flow causing issues at the plant. There are health issues that need to be considered throughout the service area.

◇Meeting the TMDL could be a 20+ year goal. Nick feels that as long as I/I is being addressed and districts are held accountable for their I/I that it's a step in the right direction.

6. Should the City be looking at private property I/I during street reconstruction?

◇Jordan mentioned that the City is looking to perform a pilot study in neighborhoods, in conjunction with street projects, in the next 1-2 years. The City would be working with private property owners to replace lead water service lines, line sanitary laterals, install sump pumps where necessary, eliminate foundation drains and connect to storm laterals if available.

◇Nick asked if the City Sewer Ordinance would be changed, specifically to address the replacement of sewer laterals, at the homeowner's expense. Jordan replied that there are legal and financial concerns that would need to be considered before that would occur.

7. Should each district have a Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study (SSES) performed to identify their I/I sources? Districts could begin funding for a comprehensive SSES in order to help with planning.

◇Nick doesn't think that a SSES is always the best bang for the buck, depending on who does it and the data that gets returned.

8. Should the standards be modified to include replacement of sub-par laterals to the house?

◇Nick said North Fond du Lac has language that states when a street project occurs and sewer main is replaced that all private laterals that are connected to that main, that are considered to be sub-par, will be replaced at the homeowners expense. Nick said most of the members on the OSG board understand the importance of this language

◇Nick said inspections are done from the inside and televised. Nick is confident that roof drains have been eliminated but still hasn't seen significant results.

◇Jordan thought that changing the City's sewer ordinance and getting OSG compliance could be difficult and challenged by the OSG, but Eric didn't think so because most all of the laterals in the sanitary districts are already PVC.

9. Would districts that don't have an identified I/I problem be forced to set aside funds, suggested 5% of their budget, to spend on a problem they don't have? Would these districts be exempt from funding the suggested 5%?

◇Cody thinks that if a district has an exceedance then they would be required to contribute the estimate of 5% of their budget, and if they don't have an exceedance then they wouldn't be required to do so.

- **Struvite Sequestration**

◇Cody said the design was complete in September, which qualifies WTRRF for a Clean Water Fund Loan and principal forgiveness. WTRRF is waiting for WDNR approval. After approval, the project will go out for bid, with work to commence in 2020. Most of the work for this project will be above ground so work could begin immediately.

- **Questions to Think About Before Next Meeting**

◇Should there be a combination of a certain dollar amount spent on I/I and still maintain the exceedance charge?

◇Would the number of exceedances come into play in determining the funding for improvements?

◇Would there be a consequence for not making improvements?

◇Should districts look to their rate structure to fund improvements if they aren't able to contribute the estimated 5% of their budgets for improvements?

Adjournment

◇A motion to adjourn was made by Cody Schoepke and seconded by Nick Leonard. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2019.