

MINUTES

SEWER ADVISORY BOARD (SAB) MEETING
JUNE 22, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Upper Allen Township Sewer Advisory Board was held on June 22, 2023, in the Upper Allen Township Municipal Building, 100 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.

MEMBERS

Dan Hower
Bob Haines, Vice Chairman
Karen Overly Smith, Chair
Kathleen Ferrari

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Jim Cochran, Commissioner
Jeff Walter, Commissioner, Absent
Rick Castranio, Commissioner
Barry A. Cupp, Sewer Department Director
Kodi Hockenberry, WWTP Supt./Asst. Sewer Dept.
Director

GHD ENGINEERING SERVICES

Joel Kostelac, P.E.

Karen Overly Smith, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all. Roll Call was taken by Barry A. Cupp, Sewer Department Director.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
FEBRUARY 23, 2023

Ms. Overly Smith called for approval of the Minutes of the February 23, 2023, meeting. Kathleen Ferrari made a **MOTION** to approve the Minutes of February 23, 2023; **SECONDED** by Dan Hower. The Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Overly Smith had several questions/comments she wanted to address to the Board. She asked about the 2022 Chapter 94 Report, specifically looking at the report for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. On the five-year measured projected hydraulic loads, she wondered why the graph showed that the plant went over capacity one time and if anybody remembered what happened in October of 2021 to cause this. Mr. Kostelac stated that on Halloween of 2022, the area received 3½ or 4 inches of rain, and that was why it went over capacity.

Ms. Overly Smith further noted in the Sewer Department Report for April 2023, that there was an article published in *The Sentinel* on April 13th highlighting Upper Allen Township's WWTP and noted she was proud of that.

Ms. Overly Smith also commented whether anyone could speak on the topic of methane gas production within wastewater treatment processes, how the gas is measured and its effect on climate change. Mr. Kostelac answered by stating that the process at the Township's WWTP is aerobic, so there is minimal production of methane in this type of process. Other facilities that utilize anaerobic digestion processes produce much more methane which is traditionally either burnt off in a flare or reused to produce heat which commonly heats digester tanks, boilers, etc. Therefore, in terms of greenhouse gases, it is not really the methane that is the problem, but rather the CO or CO₂ that is being created as a result of the burning of the methane. It is often not sampled or measured but can be quantified by calculation. Quantifying the amount normally occurs if applying for some type of credit or to show carbon neutrality. Ms. Overly Smith confirmed with Mr. Kostelac if what she was hearing is that our treatment process produces minimal methane discharge and we don't have any flares, Mr. Kostelac confirmed. Mr. Kostelac added that this topic comes up sometimes in regard to collection systems, which may produce sulfur dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases. But can you imagine a world where you had to do something about the emissions from every manhole in your system? Mr. Kostelac found Ms. Overly Smith's question interesting.

Ms. Overly Smith questioned an article in the newspaper about Act 72 and asked if anyone was familiar with the legislation. Mr. Kostelac stated he didn't have any knowledge off the top of his head. Ms. Overly Smith said the article talked about construction companies and the classification of their workers. For example, do they make them 1099 people or W-2's, and misclassification. It is Pennsylvania legislation, and as far as compliance goes, she figured somebody on the state level monitors that. In case there was non-compliance or something like that, is the Township responsible in any way for that? Mr. Kostelac stated that he didn't know. If it is anything like prevailing wage and those kind of things where the contractor has an obligation to report it as they are applying for payment and so forth I think we often just collect that documentation for the record. If they are audited by L&I or something like that, it is usually, as he understands it, between L&I and the contractor. Mr. Kostelac is not familiar with Act 72. Ms. Overly Smith wanted to make sure that the Township does audit that for compliance. Mr. Kostelac responded by saying he said nobody that he has ever been around does it. He thinks there is a little bit of danger in performing that because of pay specific allocations/labor certifications receive certain prevailing wages. The Township extent is receipt and filing of pay certifications from contractors, there is no review of the paperwork to check for accuracy/correctness. Mr. Kostelac thinks that if we are taking responsibility on accuracy of the documentation then that can present more of a problem than just saying thank you. The Township's stance places responsibility on the contractor to make sure their company is complying with certain labor regulations. Mr. Cupp stated he and Ms. Overly Smith had discussed this in part earlier. Upper Allen Township does receive payroll certifications from all of the contractors and their subs, and we keep those on file in case anyone ever requests those documents. Mr. Cupp said that in past contracts, he has been asked for those and has produced them to the proper agency. Mr. Cupp stated he believes as long as we maintain those records that we are in the clear. Mr. Kostelac further stated that the contracts require certain compliance for the prevailing wage and compliance with non-inclusion and compliance with the Fair Labor Laws with regard to discrimination and so forth, so maybe this Act 72 is something that needs to be included in that. For example, documentation that says the contractor must comply with applicable labor laws. Ms. Overly Smith said she was satisfied with the answers.

In the May 23, 2023, Sewer Department Report there is a reference on Item 4 about One Time Compliance Report for Dental Dischargers. Mr. Cupp explained that this is an EPA requirement that came out about five years ago which required Sewer Department staff to contact all known dentists practicing in the Township and required dental offices to complete a compliance form. The regulation has to do with amalgam that some dental practices use in fillings and are discharged to the wastewater stream. The compliance form has questions related to the discharge of this material and if any type of treatment is in place. These letters were sent out to dental offices by the Sewer Department. Some of them complied and some of them did not. Mr. Cupp is required to report the information received to Lower Allen Township every year as part of their industrial pre-treatment reporting. For those dentists that never responded Mr. Cupp recently sent out letters a second time and has now received a response from all known dental practices in the Township. As a result, all known dentists in the Township are now clear on that and they have met their obligations. Ms. Overly Smith inquired as to what a dental practice does if they are not flushing it, and what the regulations say to do. Mr. Cupp explained that they have to install a treatment system that removes the material which has to be properly disposed of. Ms. Overly Smith asked Mr. Cupp if they all responded, did they respond that they all have these treatment systems. Mr. Cupp replied that some do have them and some simply don't produce that material. For example, an orthodontist is not going to be doing fillings and so forth. Mr. Cupp further stated that we really don't need to do anything with those reports other than to keep them on file here at the Township, which is what we do, and that is the extent of it.

Ms. Overly Smith also commented that the Township has a training on Robert's Rules of Order on July 26, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. There is no cost for this and the Township is doing it as a service.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

There were no visitors.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Cupp updated the Board on the Grantham WWTP sludge dewatering upgrade and improvement projects. He stated that in the past several weeks the contractors have been submitting the shop drawings to GHD who has been reviewing and approving those and forwarding to our staff for further review. As far as construction goes, PSI started work at the plant on June 5, 2023. Mr. Cupp then presented a slide show program displaying photos of current work completed. He plans to add to this presentation as the project continues. There are two separate, yet connected, parts to the overall project. One is the portion with Kappe Associates through the COSTARS program which includes the sludge press and related equipment. The second portion includes two contracts which were publicly bid and include miscellaneous equipment and construction. The first contract consists of the general construction with PSI Pumping Solutions and the second contract consists of the electrical construction with WYE Electric. Mr. Cupp stated that both contractors have very good history with the Township. Prior to the projects beginning staff decided to list the lime silo on Muni-Bid in hopes of getting some payment for it and not have to pay for removal. We were successful and received around \$8,000 for the silo and related equipment. Mr. Cupp displayed a picture on the slide show that showed how the silo was hauled away by unbolting the silo, lifting it up with a crane and putting it on a flatbed truck to be hauled away. The high bidder also

received all of the control equipment. The slideshow also showed where the lime silo sat and you could see some of the demolition work on the walls because that area is actually going to be enclosed. Two walls will be knocked out, a new wall created, roof planks extended and a garage door installed. The brick that was removed was stripped down and will be reused to match the existing brick. Mr. Hockenberry provided information on what was done to the inside of the building. He stated that the contractor has been in demo mode and has not installed anything new. The project does include replacement of three digesters blowers. One of the three blowers went down about a year and a half or two years ago and with only needing one to operate at a time it was not replaced. The contractor did remove one digester blower that was inoperable. The contractor demo'd a curb on the interior of the building, but other than that the pictures on the screen capture the demo that they have done to date. Mr. Hockenberry stated he thinks they may be running a little low on work and isn't sure if they will be back next week. The company has been working four 10-hour days. He thinks they are at the stage where they have done the demo they can and now are waiting for the new equipment to arrive. The contractor has been good to work with so far and they have had no issues with them.

NEW BUSINESS

The first discussion was regarding the Modwash EDU determination. Modwash submitted a Plan and it was approved back in March of 2022. Prior to that, Mr. Cupp had a lot of discussion with Morris Knowles, the Engineer, and this was regarding anticipated flows and number of EDUs and so forth. At that time, Mr. Cupp told them that our policy is to subtract 15% from the water consumption records that we receive and then whatever is left, that determines the number of EDUs. In this case, it came out to 29 EDUs. PNC Bank was there previously so we subtracted off one EDU and that gave a result of 28 EDUs or a tapping fee of \$97,490. Following that, Mr. Cupp sent them a Sewer Extension Agreement to meet all the requirements of the Agreement, and as part of that they have to pay the tapping fees. This was sent to them on April 10, 2023. On April 24, 2023, Mr. Cupp received an e-mail from Morris Knowles indicating that they had now changed their equipment to something called PurClean claiming substantially less water consumption. With those claims, they estimated a discharge of only 1,975 gallons per day, which would translate to only 9 EDUs, which in turn translates to tapping fees of only \$31,336 compared to \$97,490. They claim a 76% reclaim in recovery rate and they wanted to know if we could reduce the number of EDUs, and Mr. Cupp told them that basically he couldn't make that decision because it is something we would have to bring up at the Sewer Advisory Board Meeting. Mr. Cupp stated he came up with a couple of alternatives. One is to go with the original flow and EDU count, which was submitted to DEP and Lower Allen Township and approved by both. That was a done deal. Mr. Cupp mentioned that if the new EDU count is approved his suggestion is to require the car wash owners to monitor flows from the carwash for a year to demonstrate to the Township that in fact they are only using what they say they are in regard to discharge back to the sanitary sewer system. Ms. Ferrari asked how the Township handles discharge for Aqua Duck car wash. Mr. Cupp said 15% is subtracted off water consumption totals, which is policy for all car washes (accounts for carry-off and evaporation). Ms. Ferrari stated that originally when they had their permit issued, we went with whatever flow was approved on the planning module. Mr. Cupp agreed and Ms. Ferrari said she understands the 15% reduction in water consumption per Township policy for car washes, but then when we get to billing the EDUs will be adjusted again if they fall below, correct? Mr.

Cupp agreed. Mr. Cupp also stated that after doing some checking, Aqua Duck is actually going to owe us some tapping fees. Ms. Ferrari suggested that what Modwash is doing is just a claim on this new system, and questioned why we would change the Township policy? Mr. Cupp stated he understands Modwash's position, the way it is, once we collect for tapping fees, we won't refund money. Ms. Ferrari stated that the tapping fee is a one-time fee. Mr. Cupp responded by saying that we can always charge more for tapping fees, so he thinks it would be to their benefit if they want to do this, or to go ahead and do flow monitoring if they want to prove to us how many EDUs they are really using. That way they are not overpaying if they do in fact have that reduced flow. Commissioner Castranio asked if Mr. Cupp checked with Silver Spring on the Mod-Wash in their Township and how many EDUs they are using. Mr. Cupp stated he did not contact Silver Spring Township, but he thinks Modwash did submit some data on that, which he would have to look into. Commissioner Castranio asked if they had the PureClean technology and Mr. Cupp said he did not know.

Discussion ensued about flow monitoring and costs. Mr. Cupp asked Mr. Kostelac if he recalled the metering cost per week when GHD provided metering services to the Township a few years ago. Mr. Kostelac could not recall the costs associated with metering. Mr. Kostelac said ultimately the Township has the leverage because you don't want to look back and give money back. Ultimately you are either going to get \$91K or they are going to have to prove that they don't use \$91K for the tapping fee. But the question is do you get it now or do you get it later. And what is normal practice or the precedent? Mr. Cupp stated that if it was him, in his opinion, it would be money well spent for them to install a manhole on their discharge line and put a Parshall flume in there with a meter. That would probably be a lot cheaper than to pay the larger tapping fee, but Mr. Cupp doesn't want to dictate to them how they do this. Mr. Hockenberry stated if they will ultimately know their water consumption, there would be no need to meter the sewer discharge. Mr. Kostelac answered by saying the presumption is that not all of the water is going to be recycled. Mr. Hower stated that the numbers submitted by Modwash is if their system is working absolutely correctly, and who is to say down the road they say oh, let's just scrap that system and go back to the old system. Mr. Cupp stated they can claim 76% reclaim rate, but he thinks they need to prove it. Ms. Ferrari asked Mr. Cupp if the Township monitors Mermaid Car Wash. Mr. Cupp said their metering installation did not work. Mr. Hower stated that the reclaim system is always pushing out the old water into the sewer. Mr. Hockenberry stated his point is that if you look at a year's time with a carwash, you have a year's worth of water used coming in and unless they have 10,000 gallon tanks, that is probably what is going in the sewer, minus the 15% for carry-off on vehicles and evaporation. Mr. Hower said he thinks the reclaim system is actually treating the water to some extent and then reusing it, so only a portion of it ends up in the sewer, but he is no carwash expert. Mr. Cupp stated if that is the case, they wouldn't be using as much. Discussion ensued about where the 15% comes in. Mr. Hockenberry stated that for them to install a meter on the sewer discharge line, that just seems like a waste of money to him. Mr. Cupp agreed with Mr. Hockenberry when he stated it in those terms, because if it is recycling water, they are not going to use as much water upfront. Mr. Cupp stated that the Township could just go with the revised 9 EDUs. Mr. Hockenberry asked that Mr. Cupp explain the Township's non-residential billing process to make sure this Board understands how it works. Mr. Cupp spoke and said it looks like you have so much water coming into that carwash. If they recycle a lot of that water they are going to use less water, but it is still going to be water in and water out. So on that basis, they really wouldn't need to meter the flow. We could just go with that adjusted EDU number and then at the end of the year, every year, he would review all of the non-residential water accounts and make adjustments based on

that year's water use. Mr. Cupp recommended going with the lesser number of EDUs and then we will look at it a year from now and make an adjustment accordingly. Mr. Hockenberry asked if the Township will collect any adjusted EDU tapping fee, and Mr. Cupp said absolutely. Mr. Cupp said it was just like Sheetz where they did have to pay for more EDUs. Mr. Cupp replied and stated that all such accounts need to be looked at. Ms. Overly Smith asked how many supported recommendation No. 1 over No. 2. Mr. Cupp stated the initial flow they gave him was 6,347 gallons per day and the second estimate they gave us was for 1,975 gallons per day, which was substantially less with this new system. Ms. Overly Smith stated that the Board is still making suggested recommendations and we know the BOC has the final say. Mr. Cupp stated Let It Shine Carwash, which used to be Mermaid, used 3,300 gallons per day and 15 EDU's last year. Aqua Duck used 1,945 gallons per day, which was 9 EDU's. So it does seem like that 28 was a little on the high side. Ms. Ferrari noted that came from their engineer and that wasn't a number that was pulled out-; they submitted for that. Ms. Overly Smith asked if anyone wanted to support No. 2. Ms. Ferrari made a Motion to recommend that the Sewer Advisory Board go with option No. 2 based on Mr. Cupp's adjustment and Mr. Cupp would be doing an annual adjustment (but would be adjusted quarterly for the first year). Motion was seconded. The Motion passed unanimously. A question was brought up about tapping fees and Mr. Cupp said that we do not refund tapping fees and that is why there would have to be a modification done to the capacity granted by DEP. Mr. Cupp questioned if you had to amend them. Mr. Kostelac said it would be in Lower Allen's best interest to amend it because theoretically that 20 or 19 EDU capacity is hung up now. Mr. Kostelac said when they get our portion of the Chapter 94 report, the 19 EDUs that are in there add to their number and then they do the math and if in five years, so you are right Rick, that is counting against you until that is taken out. They could come up and project an overload in five years and say, oh geez, it comes from Upper Allen and they are 10 EDUs over or something like that. Mr. Cupp stated that he will put this in the form of a Memo to the Board of Commissioners and invite Modwash to come to a BOC meeting, if necessary. Ms. Ferrari stated that if it was up to her she would make them pay.

Ms. Overly Smith asked if there was more new business and Mr. Cupp stated he received an application for the candidate for the empty seat on the SAB Board, and he placed the application on everyone's seat. Mr. Cupp mentioned that Mr. Hockenberry knows Mr. Webb from working with him and asked Mr. Hockenberry for his opinion. Mr. Hockenberry mentioned to the Board that he knows Mr. Webb from working with him on different projects throughout his career as Mr. Webb is an employee of Keystone Pump and Power (KPP). The company is located in Dillsburg and their specialty involves pumping large quantities of water and wastewater as needed on certain projects. The Sewer Department uses KPP from time to time for bypass pumping, mainly at Arcona Road P.S. No. 3 or for bypass pumping during mainline replacement projects. KPP is very well known in the central PA area and the majority of local contractors use KPP for their pumping needs. Mr. Hockenberry said he normally interacts with Mitch a couple of times a year and he would give him a good referral as far as his general knowledge of the wastewater industry and would consider Mitch an expert as far wastewater pumps and applications. Mr. Hockenberry believes Mr. Webb would be suitable as a member of the Sewer Advisory Board. Mr. Cupp stated that we would try and get him into the office for an interview and talk to him about the function of the Board.

Mr. Cupp then discussed the copy of the Lower Allen Township Authority Reconciliation that we get every year (copy in packets). They adjust our sewer payments to them based on that reconciliation of the previous year's treatment costs. Mr. Cupp said if there are any questions

about this report we can talk about it at the next meeting. He also stated that either he or Mr. Hockenberry attend those meetings every month.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Overly Smith, asked for a Motion to adjourn, a motion was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 27, 2023, AT 6:30 P.M.