

Lake Santee Regional Waste & Water District
Meeting Minutes
Meeting of October 15, 2015
3:30 PM
Lake Santee Community Room

1. Roll Call

Scott Gibbs called the meeting to order and requested a roll call. Members present were Scott Gibbs, Clair Fredrickson, Kathy Tarzwell, and Jim Hornig. Absent were Greg Montgomery, Ed Fox, and Paul Gosnell. Also attending were Brandon Litmer, Utility Superintendent and Brad Jones, Utility Administrator.

2. Consent Items

- a. Minutes from September 17, 2015
- b. Financial Reports
- c. Register of Claims for sewer operating
- d. Register of Claims for water operating

A motion was made by Clair Fredrickson and seconded by Kathy Tarzwell to accept the consent items as presented. Motion carried.

3. Operator's Report

a. Sewer Status Report

Brandon reported that the sewer plant is operating well with no issues and all tests are normal.

b. Water Status Report

Brandon reported that all tests are normal. The quality of the water continues to be at a very safe level, but the issue with the elevated manganese levels continues when water is passed through the carbon tanks; so the carbon tanks are still being bypassed.

During the week of 10/5/15, we received a letter from IDEM stating that we needed to issue a public notice to all customers related to exceeding a drinking water standard back in May. Back in May, the disinfectant by-product level for HAA exceeded the MCL for that test. This occurred while water was by-passing the carbon tanks. Carbon removes organic matter from the water. When organic matter comes in contact with chlorine, haloacetic acids (HAA) are formed. We will immediately post the notice on the website and also include IDEM's letter in the Smoke Signals. We are already back in compliance with this test. The test occurred in May and IDEM just sent their letter in October, so this is not any type of emergency, but does require all customers be notified.

i. EVOQUA

The company that supplied the carbon is EVOQUA and they have been completely uncooperative in helping to determine a resolution to the elevated manganese levels since our last carbon change. After promising to test their carbon and send us the test results, Evoqua has refused to supply the test results to us and are not returning Brandon's phone calls. Joe, the EVOQUA sales manager, finally called Brandon back on 10/15/15, only after his collections department told him we still have not paid them for the carbon. Joe has contacted their carbon expert to get involved, whatever that means. Joe told Brandon that since the manganese is soluble, we should be able to flush out the manganese, so

Brandon is trying that again; although, we have already flushed tens of thousands of gallons through the carbon trying this approach. Brandon reiterated how unhappy we are with their service and their lack of responsiveness to this issue. Joe is to get back with us; Brandon to call Joe if we haven't heard anything by this coming Wednesday.

At the suggestion of Rural Water, Brandon contacted Water Solutions last month to assist us with this issue. Water solutions can provide new carbon at \$1.60/lb, same as EVOQUA's price. Brandon and Water Solutions are to sample the water after the carbon and send to Eaton for testing to confirm that the carbon is the issue with the elevated manganese. We will continue to withhold payment to EVOQUA until the problem is resolved, as the IDEM test results indicate that the carbon supplied by EVOQUA is the source of the manganese.

ii. Water tower inspection / cleaning

Brandon reported that Dixon Engineering will do the inspection and cleaning on 11/23/15. The tower will have to be drained to perform this work. The pumps will provide pressure to the system while the tower is being inspected and cleaned. After Dixon is complete, Brandon will run some tests prior to putting the tower back in service. Dixon did not indicate how long it would take to receive the official report.

c. Upcoming Conferences / Training Classes

The IRSDA annual conference is set for 10/26, and most of the board will attend. Jesse's water distribution test is 11/5 – he has been attending the weekly test prep classes. IDEM will perform an on-site test with a written and a hands-on test for the water treatment portion of the test. There is a free Board Training class in Connersville on 11/18 for those who are interested.

4. Administrator's Report

a. Status Report

Brad reported there were 129 ACHs, 14 credit card payments, 0 valve turns, and 10 shut offs (with all back on) this past month. The POA is looking into a new phone package with ETC, which may save the District some money.

b. Write-Offs – None this month

c. Correspondence – None this month

5. Attorney's Report – None this month

6. Committee Reports

a. Board Member Guide Committee

i. Board Training Topic: None this month

7. Old Business

a. Rate Study / New Rate Ordinance

It was moved by Jim Hornig and seconded by Kathy Tarzwell to approve ORDINANCE NO. 10-15-2015 for first reading. ORDINANCE 10-15-2015 was read in its entirety. Motion carried. The next step is to hold a public hearing on 11/19/15 at 3:00 p.m., then vote on the Ordinance again after the hearing. Brad will make the appropriate arrangements to publish the public hearing.

b. Napoleon Water – no update.

c. Management Agreement

Brad will be starting on this later this month.

8. New Business

a. New Board Member Appointment

We have two (2) candidates who have agreed to be considered as the replacement for Ed Fox. Both candidates were discussed at length and it was felt that both would make good board members. A motion was made by Kathy Tarzwell and seconded by Clair Fredrickson to propose Frank Erdosy to the County Commissioners as the replacement for Ed Fox. Clair will attend the next Commissioners meeting to request approval.

9. Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted by
Scott Gibbs, President for
Paul E. Gosnell, Secretary

These minutes are subject to approval by the LSRWWD Board at the 11/19/15 meeting.