



## CITY OF CORTLAND WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY



### *Meeting Minutes*

**Date: 05/23/11**

**Time: 5:30 pm**

**Conference Room,  
Cortland Wastewater**

#### ■ Members:

- Chairman John Troy – Present
- Vice Chair William Starr – Present
- Commissioner Sally Horak – Present
- Commissioner Todd Morris – Present
- Commissioner Paul Lorenzo – Present
- Village of McGraw Trustee – Absent
- Village of Homer Trustee – Absent
- Bruce Adams, Acting Chief Operator – Present
- Tom McCall, Maintenance Supervisor – Present

Meeting called to order at 5:32 pm.

Minutes from April 25, 2011 meeting for approval.

Todd Morris asked Bruce Adams if he has had the second meeting with Marietta yet. Bruce stated that it was rescheduled to June 22<sup>nd</sup>. He then informed the board that he has completed his look at the submission presented by Marietta.

**Motion** to approve the minutes from April 25, 2011 meeting by Sally Horak. Seconded by Paul Lorenzo. **UNANIMOUS**

**Plant Manager's Report:**

Operations:

Bruce had met with the plants DEC inspector, Meghan Gilbert, on May 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss the facilities Chesapeake Bay optimization report. Bruce asked her if the report the facility currently has is an approvable report, if so and it is submitted by the facility do we have to go by that report exactly. Bruce also asked what, if any, options the facility has now. Meghan stated that the facility has no more time, due to the EPA leaning on them, but need not take our current report as a take-it-or-leave-it proposition. Bruce found out that our facility is not the only location fighting back on this process. Other communities have gone back to their engineering firms and dictated what they want and don't want from the initial proposal. Meghan stated she will take Bruce's questions to her Bill Riley; Head of the Albany office. Bruce is canvassing other facilities in the watershed that have a plant close to this one to determine what they have submitted as optimization reports. Bruce was able to speak to Bill Riley today and stated that the \$4 million proposal was not what DEC had in mind for the first initial optimization phase. He was more interested in what can be done operationally, and also did not have a lot of operational costs associated with the change. Bill also informed Bruce that the facility would not be married to a specific Engineer but the recommendations that will be submitted to them the facility would have to follow. Due to that the facility is not going to be submitting the current recommendation report provided by Barton & Loguidice. Bruce stated that he has contacted various facilities within the watershed whose facility is somewhat like ours to see what they have turned in or where they are within the process. Bruce has spoken to some of the facilities within the watershed and they are at various stages in the process. Some of the facilities have not submitted, some of them have not submitted but have banded together along with their Soil & Water Conservation Districts in their county to fight this legally. Bruce spoke of Amanda Barber who was in the paper speaking very harshly about the DEC and how the requirements would hurt the local farmers. Bruce plans to get in contact with her to discuss the situation with her. Bruce has a meeting on

Wednesday (25<sup>th</sup>) with Assistant Corporation Council and the Interim Director of Administration. The facility is very close to the requirements now which are 12 and 2; 12 units per liter of Nitrogen on a 12 month rolling average and 2 mg per liter of phosphorous on a 12 month rolling average. The facility comes very close to the Nitrogen and we do meet for phosphorous. April's DMR showed that the facility did comply with the 12 month rolling average for Nitrogen. It would require totally different mixers to comply but that is not an inexpensive proposition but the facility is still working on it.

On May 10<sup>th</sup> the facility had a process incident involving some loss of bio-solids due to tank cleaning operations. Bruce reported this immediately to the facilities inspector. During his meeting with the inspector (Meagan Gilbert) the following day, she shrugged it off as "these things happen." Unseasonably high flows have hampered the facilities normal cleaning schedule. An aeration basin was taken off line on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

The disinfection season started on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Everything started up well. The service rep from Koester stated that the facilities chlorine analyzer is the last of its model still operating in the state!

Jacqueline Rios of the EPA will be here on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> to conduct an audit of our pretreatment program. This is done on a 5-year basis and was last completed in 2006. She will also be inspecting 3 of the industries we oversee.

As suggested by Paul Lorenzo, Bruce has adjusted the facilities sampling schedule to account for the cost of the new primary effluent testing. Bruce reduced the MBAS testing from twice per week to once per week. The twice-per-week testing has been in place for several years and has served its purpose, giving the facility extensive baseline data and having been used by Marietta in their study asking for a discharge permit. The facility will continue to run MBAS once per week on the influent and effluent as a monitoring tool.

Bruce has a meeting scheduled for this week with Gary Van Gorder of the IDA/BDC and an engineer with an agri-business company which is considering locating to Cortlandville. If this does come to fruition, it could be a considerable revenue stream.

#### Maintenance:

Blue Heron has completed the lime slurry feed system. The belt press project is now nearly complete and lacks only some final electrical work.

The issue with the belt press is that it needs to be fed at a fairly high pressure. We continue to have issues with our belt press feed pumps. The set screws on the eccentric drive shafts have been loosening,

requiring frequent retightening. Bruce is looking into replacing them with progressive cavity pumps. These pumps are much better at producing a higher pressure feed which will also give us a drier cake. That would reduce our costs to transport to the landfill. Tom McCall has been troubleshooting this issue.

Ridley Construction has been here most of last week, they took care of some wiring issues the facility had and also lighting has been updated in the Chlorine & SO2 Storage Room to assist the guys when they are changing over the tank(s). The lighting that was in was just not adequate enough for the work that is done.

A persistent leak has developed in the lower roof of the CCB. Dewald Roofing will come out to evaluate. Bruce is going to see if the roof is under warrantee.

The electric gate operator has spit a cog. Atlas Fence will be out to repair.

This morning the #4 Blower for the aeration system did something bizarre. Bruce contacted NE Controls asking them to take a look at it. They stated they believe it is due to vibration damage to the local panels which are mounted directly to the skids. Bruce recommended several years ago that they be mounted to the floor rather than the skids. That didn't happen then but is going to happen now. NE Controls is going to provide us with a quote to replace the PLC's in the panels and rewiring them. The context wiring into the PLC's especially into #4 look iffy but the Technician seems to believe it can be fixed. One tech that was here last week had to superglue a case of the one of the PLC's together due to it splitting because of the vibration.

**Motion** to approve the Plant Manager's Report by Bill Starr. Seconded by Paul Lorenzo.  
**UNANIMOUS**

**Finance:**

Bills: Abstracts dated April 26<sup>th</sup>, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> were provided for approval.

Paul Lorenzo asked about a credit that has been issued to the facility. Sherry O'Brien explained that it was an invoice that was paid twice. A reimbursement check was sent to the facility due to no action on the account within two months of second payment being made. Paul then asked if there still is a possibility of that happening again. Sherry indicated that she believes that while she is in the position it is not likely to happen again. She explained that she has set a particular way of handling the invoices which has worked well thus far. Paul then asked Bruce if he would recognize if one invoice was paid twice. He stated that

he does check them over to make sure the voucher matches the invoice and so the vendor coding is correct. Paul stated that this is something that happens a lot when the facility changes secretaries.

**Motion** to approve the Bills by Bill Starr. Seconded by Sally Horak. **UNANIMOUS**

Financial  
Statements:

Paul Lorenzo made a statement that he read in the paper where the facility has a surplus of money due to it being returned from years ago. Bruce stated that there is a nice cash balance. Paul stated that it didn't have to do with that. Paul stated the board believed the money was taken for other uses, but has since been returned. He believes that the money was placed in a separate account for the Wastewater Department.

**Motion** to approve the Financial Statements by Paul Lorenzo. Seconded by Todd Morris. **UNANIMOUS**

**Sewer  
Grievance:**

NO NEW GRIEVANCES

Copy of outcome Letter for Mr. Steven D. Besler was provided.

**New  
Business:**

John spoke about the Landfill. He stated that there are groups that are debating on whether to lease or regionalize it. He was looking to obtain information regarding the leachate from Bruce. Bruce stated that the leachate disposal permit would remain with the County which would make them responsible for both. If the leachate increased due to more waste entering the landfill the "gentlemen's" agreement would have to be reevaluated. John asked if Bruce believed there was a written agreement in place. Bruce stated he didn't believe there was anything in writing at this time. At this time the wastewater department discharges and the County transports; there is no money involved at this time. Bruce stated he did some comparison and the monetary advantage has been leaning towards the County in recent years. This is in regards to what the facility would pay to tip (\$60.00/ton) vs. what the facility would charge to treat (3 to 5¢/gal). John stated that one of the problems that he could remember was that there is no pipe so the discharge would come at once. Bruce stated that it would not be a problem as long as they discharged into a manhole regularly. There was an issue a few years ago when the landfill contracted an outside vendor to complete their discharge. At that time their discharge didn't take place for a few weeks; when it was completed it did have a negative affect on the facility. The facility was able to track it back to the landfill from the facilities flow

charts. A meeting was held with the County and explained the process to them. Since such time the hauling has been done in-house and there have not been any more issues. Bill Starr then asked John Troy what his position is on situation. John replied by stating there are three choices; one is to lease the facility, the second is to regionalize it to surrounding counties, the third is a flow control meaning everything in the county must stay in the county. John stated that he has gone on record to say that he is in favor of the flow control option. Paul Lorenzo asked who would be opposed to that option. John Troy stated that it is the larger private haulers that are against it. Transfer stations have been built by these haulers and they use Seneca Meadows which John believes only charges \$25 a ton. John Troy feels if the County opens the landfill to surrounding counties then upgrades will have to be made to accommodate the additional residential waste. John went on to state that a meeting took place the Thursday before where only two people went on record with their opinion; three or four spoke against while the others didn't give an opinion at all. John believes if a vote was taken today there would not be enough votes for any of the three options. Right now the contract is written to take 44,500 tons; currently there is only about 19,000 tons being brought in per year at \$60/ton. Once the operating costs along with bond cost are paid the county is in the red. Paul Lorenzo spoke up and stated that might be the cost of running a landfill in Cortland County. John agreed and believed that a fourth option is to do nothing at all.

**Motion** to Adjourn at 6:07 pm by Paul Lorenzo. Seconded by Sally Horak.  
**UNANIMOUS**

Respectfully submitted by:



Sherry O'Brien  
City of Cortland WWTF