

**OCEAN PINES SERVICE AREA
WATER AND WASTEWATER
Advisory Board Meeting
WWTP Operations Center
Tuesday, April 9, 2024
9:00 a.m.**

Present: **Water and Wastewater Advisory Board**
Fred Stiehl, Jim Spicknall, Jack Collins, Will Gabeler
 Worcester County Public Works
Dallas Baker
 Worcester County Public Works - Water and Wastewater Division
Tony Fascelli, Meg Etzler, Gary Serman
 Worcester County Treasurer
Barbara Hitch

Fred called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. There were no minutes from the previous OPAB meeting as the meeting was all budget related.

Fred asked about the Commissioners' letter that he sent to Barbara and if it needs to be revised. Jim asked what is the net change in the fees for 2025? Dallas shared that it dropped \$7. Fred feels that the figures in the letter are incorrect and it needs to be revised. Discussion was held.

Water Production

- the stainless mixing tank was delivered and we are working on installation
- All wells are operating normally.
- We have money in the FY 24 budget to add an alarm and camera to the South water tower. Staff are obtaining a proposal from the alarm company and we have an updated quote.

Water Distribution (12/7/23-present)

- We had 20 new water services and 42 water leak repairs. Hydrants will be flushed April 15th to 30th.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

- Dallas referred to the Bay Restoration Fee Criteria. We had some challenges in January and February with nitrogen because of all the rain. It is dropping back down and there should be no problem meeting our limits.
- Storage lagoon – we were referred to the Dam Safety Division due to the volume of water being stored and the wall height needed. EA is completing the review of the MDE Dam Safety checklist as it applies to the OP WWTP lagoon and will package the submittal for review to MDE Dam Safety.
- The belt filter press – Geotech is ready to begin soil borings. We are scheduling a site visit for our operators to visit the Berlin WWTP because the equipment they are using to de-water is something the consultant is recommending.

- At the last meeting it was requested that Dallas provide updates on the sewage hauled from Riddle Farm. 2,676,000 gallons were hauled through the end of February 2024, and 4,038,000 through March 2024.
- The front gate security access is complete.
- FY24 equipment list:
 - a. The UV disinfection rehab – equipment delivered. Waiting for the flows to drop before installing.

Wastewater Collections (12/7/23 to present)

- No sanitary sewer overflows.
- We replaced 15 household tanks (9 plastic, 4 fiberglass, 2 concrete); one new install (fiberglass)
- Smoke testing has begun. We anticipate it will take a year before completion.

Construction Projects (Total EDUs)

- Triple Crown -Accepted Phase I (30) done; Phase II (3) not approved. No change from our last meeting.
- Refuge at Windmill Creek – (90) pump station work should be completed in the next two weeks.
- AGH is done. Waiting for the release of liens – no change from last meeting.
- Gum Point Road – (15 sewer) 4 EDUs sold. One new connection since our last meeting.
- St. Martins by the Bay – (58 water). Out for design bids.
- River Run Townhouses – (56 water) – completed. Still installing water meters.
- River Run Single Family homes (38) – sewer is 35% complete. Water is 40% done.

Treasurer's Office Financial Update

EDU Breakdown - no change since last meeting.

Barb shared the Balance Sheet and the Income Statement through March 2024. Discussion was held.

General Discussion

Fred asked about the Greater Ocean Pines Service Area and did the group consist of County employees only and not citizens. Fred asked what the group does and would it be useful to have someone explain to the OPAB their focus and their thoughts for the future. Barb explained that they deal with the whole County and not just Ocean Pines. Fred asked if the Board has any say as to development and who gets connected to our plant. Dallas suggested going on to the Country website and Development Review and Planning to see if there are any answers to his questions. Discussion was held.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. With no further business Fred made the motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Will. The meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg Etzler
Administrative Assistant