

**OCEAN PINES SERVICE AREA  
WATER AND WASTEWATER  
Advisory Board Meeting  
Tuesday, October 14, 2025**

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

Fred Stiehl called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Fred asked if there were any additions and/or corrections to the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. With no changes Fred made motion to accept the minutes as written. Jack approved.

**Water Production**

- FY 26 Capital Projects
  1. We have two to three quotes for a stainless-steel tank replacement.
  2. Finalizing the well chlorine contact tank inspection plan so it can go out to bid.
  3. Capacity management plan/resiliency study scope of work needs to be completed so it can go out to bid.

**Water Distribution (9/9/25 to present)**

- Two new services; 37 leak repairs
- FY 25 Capital Projects:
  1. No changes to the radio read meters from last month. The Water crew has been out reading meters this month.
- FY26 Capital Projects
  1. Blue tubing – have not started any blue tubing replacements yet.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant**

- Storage lagoon permit –Gas main relocation completed. MDE Construction permit received last week. Getting project bid out.
- Belt Filter Design – No changes to the belt filter press.
- Volume of sewage hauled since last meeting is 12,000 gallons. Temporary membrane working well.
- FY 25 Capital projects:
  1. Treatment Unit #4 cleaning – awarded to Miller Environment \$124,157.97. Work to begin week of 10/20/25.
  2. Replacement mixer for the Flow Equalization Tank delivered, waiting on quote from contractor to install it.
  3. Blower – commissioners approved additional funding to repair blower. Repair complete. Waiting on contractor to install.

- FY26 Capital Projects
  1. The Aluminum Chloride Tank Replacement(\$20K), the Dry Bed Repairs (\$50K) and the Overhead Pipe Corrosion Protection (\$50K) projects all need to be bid out.
  2. On the storage lagoon (~\$350K) side, we should have the bid documents here within the next two weeks.

There was one emergency replacement for VFD, Tank 4, that went to the Commissioners. It was not a budgeted repair. Cost \$38,555. Unit was 20 years old. Replacement has been ordered. Tank 4, OP WWTP, coming out of budget.

#### **Wastewater Collections System (9/9/25 – present)**

- No Sanitary Sewer Overflows.
- Household tanks replaced: 4 (3 fiberglass, 1 new install)
- FY 25 Capital Projects
  1. Lift station “T” pump replacement – (1 of 3) installed. Work complete.
- FY26 Capital Projects
  1. Busch pumps (\$30K) are ordered as needed. Seeing a price increase.
  2. Fiberglass vacuum tanks (\$120K) are ordered as needed. Are looking at other vendors.
  3. Lift Station T Pump Replacement (2 of 3) (\$70K) approved for \$48,795.
  4. Lift Station T Wet Well Reline (\$65K) needs bid out

#### **Construction Projects (Total EDUs)**

- Triple Crown Phase II (30) – Reviewing as-builts. Waiting on water meters.
- Refuge at Windmill Creek (90) – Phase I contractor installing pit resitter’s with dual check valve. Phase II needs bacteriological test performed: waiting on as-builts.
- Gum Point Road (15 sewer) no change.
- St Martins by the Bay (58 water) – 30% design was due 10/12/25. Waiting on engineer/owner agreement executed. Survey work complete. Design from DBF due 10/12/25.
- River Run Single Family Homes (38) – all issues addressed; system accepted.

#### **Bay Restoration Fee**

The Bay Restoration Fee Criteria YTD was submitted and discussed. Prolonged sub-freezing temperatures in January and February affected nitrogen removal. Our numbers for September came in. 1.43 for Nitrogen and .31 for Phosphorus. Our Nitrogen continues to drop. We were over for the Nitrogen average, and our Phosphorus was 0.28.

Dallas referenced the draft of the letter the Advisory Board is planning on sending to the Commissioners requesting assistance to seek a waiver of any fee or penalty on our behalf. Discussion was held and staff suggested additions. The letter will be reviewed.

#### **Financial Update**

Quinn shared the Ocean Pines Service Balance Performance Report YTD 9/30/25, the Balance Sheet through 09/30/25 and the allocation of sewer EDU for Ocean Pines as of 2/18/25. Discussion ensued.

#### **General Discussion**

Dallas noted that the Map of the Greater OP service area was emailed to everyone on 9/11/25.

Our next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.**

With no further business Fred made the motion to adjourn. Bob seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg Etzler  
Administrative Assistant