

The Onondaga County Water Authority met in regular session on April 16, 2009. Members of the Authority present were R. Tomeny, C. Incaudo, F. Picardi, W. Simmons and H. Rosenthal.

Others present: M. Hooker, A. Geiss, T. Pickard, C. Marvin

I. R. Tomeny called the meeting to order at 12:30pm.

II. Minutes of the meeting of March 20, 2009 were approved by all Members on motion by H. Rosenthal, duly seconded by F. Picardi. Minutes of the Audit Committee of March 20, 2009 were also approved on motion by H. Rosenthal, duly seconded by F. Picardi.

III. M. HOOKER REPORTED:

- Reviewed his Executive Director's Report
- March 2009 production down to 31.56 MGD from 32.77 MGD in March 2008
- The Town of Skaneateles has requested that OCWA provide them with a proposal for operating their water system. In response, preliminary discussions have begun. W. Simmons suggested that the County Legislature would need to be consulted on the out-of-district question. OCWA staff will continue discussions with the Town, and report back to the Board.
- Stimulus Funding available from the recent Federal Legislation is being pursued for the storage tank projects. However, the NYSEFC and NYSDOH have indicated that the likelihood of OCWA being awarded stimulus funding is low based upon our ranking. If we are awarded stimulus money we may be required to comply with the Buy America provisions. These requirements could potentially add \$2,000,000 to each tank project. At present, imposition of Buy America provision would add more than \$600,000 in total to the two tanks and would result in 90 to 120 days in delays. A letter has been sent to USEPA suggesting a waiver for the utilities that have already let contracts without Buy American requirements. Projects are proceeding without changes to the specifications.
- Potential Dewitt Lease is still under consideration. Costs will be analyzed further, and information provided before the next Board meeting.
- The long term EFC financing rate for the Eastern and Western Reservoir projects has been established at 4.8721%. M. Hooker indicated this compared favorably with other utility borrowing costs.
- New Risk Manager will start April 28th.
- M. Hooker distributed a paper outlining options for acquisition of carbon for WTP. The best option is to purchase carbon with cash out of OCWA's 2009 Operating Budget. Disposal would be part of the replacement unit rate at a future time that the carbon will need to be replaced.
- M. Hooker introduced C. Marvin to discuss the 2008 Procurement Report. The report lists all of the contracts let by OCWA, both competitive and non-competitive. This is the second year for the submittal to the Authority Budget Office (ABO). The report was submitted to ABO on March 31, 2009.

On motion by C. Incaudo, seconded by H. Rosenthal, the Procurement Report was accepted.

- H. Rosenthal inquired whether OCWA has a “purchasing green” purchasing policy. OCWA purchases green when available and comparable with standard projects. T. Geiss indicated that the Stimulus Monies had been set aside for “green projects” and that we are pursuing this funding for the tank projects.

IV. A. GEISS REPORTED:

- Reviewed his Chief Engineer’s Report.
- Reported that Otisco Lake is at +9.25”.
- Discussion of MBE/WBE goals for tank projects ensued. DYK is close to reaching their goals. Natgun is working toward the requirements but has not met them. Laurie Khanzadian is attending an open house, at Natgun, today to make additional efforts to obtain the required MBE/WBE goals for the projects.
- The Town of Vienna has requested to expand its water district. OCWA has evaluated the potential water usage with existing available water in the area. This project could potentially use up the remaining reserve supply in the area. OCWA is sending a letter to the town outlining that further expansion will need to wait for development of the supply furnished along with the North side of Oneida Lake.
- Main break under Willis Ave, south of Crucible Steel is being repaired. Both 30-inch and 20-inch transmission mains are leaking. The 20-inch main is located under the 30-inch main. The 20-inch main was repaired Wednesday night (4/15/09). The 30-inch main repair is on hold pending receipt of parts. OCWA is looking into linings for the transmission mains to address leaks in old pipes at the joints.
- A loose plug at WTP caused flooding in pipe gallery on April 4, 2009. Plugs were restored and on-site staff controlled flood and investigated damages. There was no down time for the Plant and very little damage to property.
- Legislator Rhinehart called OCWA regarding Rice’s Brook ice back up. Information has been provided. OCWA has disclaimed responsibility for ice jams in the Brook.

V. LEGAL REPORT:

- OCWA is being sued by Travelers, as subrogee of the Village of Solvay for damage to Solvay DPW Garage arising out of October 18, 2007 main break. CNA has answered on behalf of OCWA. Complainant seeks \$250,000. An offer has been made to arbitrate with cap on damages set at \$100,000.

VI. HUMAN RESOURCE REPORT

- L. Khanzadian reviewed report
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VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- Three Rights of Way were presented for the Authority's approval.

On Motion by W. Simmons, duly seconded by H. Rosenthal, with all Members approving, the Board authorized M. Hooker to execute the following Rights of Way:

4090023	Stephen P. Smith	E. Taft Rd. OCDOT Reconstruction
4090023	Genesis II Realty, LLC	E. Taft Rd. OCDOT Reconstruction
4090023	North Syr. Central Schools	E. Taft Rd. OCDOT Reconstruction

- Bid #9 Sodium Hypochlorite (liquid chlorine) was presented for Board approval. This item was a re-bid due to potential discrepancies in the initial bids.

On Motion by C. Incaudo, duly seconded by F. Picardi, with all members approving the Board awarded Bid #9 for Sodium Hypochlorite to the low bidder, Surpass Chemical Co., Inc.

- Carbon bids were reviewed.

On Motion by W. Simmons duly seconded by F. Picardi with all Members approving, the Board authorized the acceptance of the lowest responsible bidder for purchase from Calgon, and that it be paid out of the Operating budget.

As there was no further business to come before the Authority, the meeting was adjourned 3:15pm. The next Authority meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2009 .

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry R. Pickard
Acting Recording Secretary