

## MINUTES OF THE SBRSA JOINT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING #119

LOCATION: Conference Room, River Road Plant, Princeton, NJ

DATE: October 3, 2011

The following Committee members were present:

Mr. Goldfarb, Princeton Borough  
Mr. Sippelle, Princeton Borough  
Mr. Blair, Princeton Township  
Mr. Avins, South Brunswick Township  
Mr. Nieman, South Brunswick Township

SBRSA Staff: Mr. Kantorek, Executive Director, Ms. Pchola, Manager of Engineering and Ms. Carlino, Administrative Assistant

### 1. Approval of Minutes for the April 11, 2011 Meeting

Mr. Avins indicated that the first order of business was the approval of the minutes of the June 13, 2011 meeting. Mr. Avins asked for questions/comments. Mr. Goldfarb noted that the written and recorded date at the very end of the minutes was incorrect and needed to be changed. The minutes were then approved, as amended, a motion by Mr. Nieman, seconded by Mr. Goldfarb and passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

### 2. Executive Director's Report

#### Treatment Plant Performance

Mr. Kantorek distributed copies of pictures depicting the affects of Hurricane Irene on River Road WWTP.

Mr. Kantorek noted that the River Road WWTP experienced approximately five (5) feet of water from Hurricane Irene as measured at the stop sign in the entrance driveway. This was approximately the same level of flooding experienced during Hurricane Floyd. Mr. Kantorek indicated that the flooding caused the main entrance and the emergency access road to be impassable and the only access into the plant was from Herrontown Road, using the PSOC roadway. In addition to flooding, several large trees fell which blocked River Road and took down power lines.

Mr. Goldfarb questioned if employees were still able to report for duty at the height of the storm using the Herrontown Road entrance. Mr. Kantorek explained that the Authority had prepared

for the event and employees were on-site prior to the storm. Mr. Kantorek noted that, in spite of the flooding, many employees were able to report to the facility for their assigned shifts.

Mr. Goldfarb noted that discussions have taken place between Princeton Borough and Princeton Township regarding improving the PSOC roadway. Mr. Goldfarb indicated that the Princetons will ask SBRSA to share in the cost of improving the roadway. Mr. Kantorek reported that PSOC was helpful in assisting SBRSA's employees to get to the plant.

Mr. Sippelle questioned the duration of flooding. Mr. Kantorek indicated that at some point on Monday the emergency access road was opened and by Tuesday the main entrance was passable. Mr. Kantorek noted that eighteen (18) inches of rain was recorded for the month of August and six (6) inches of rain was recorded so far in early September.

Mr. Goldfarb commented that many pump stations in the Princeton area were inundated and were pumping fresh water. Mr. Goldfarb asked if SBRSA experienced the same. Mr. Kantorek indicated that the pumps were not under water because the Authority has a wetwell/drywell system. Most of the meters were inundated. Mr. Kantorek indicated that only three meters were working during the storm: Princeton Pump Station meter, South Brunswick Pump Station meter and the Influent meter at River Road (these metering devices (venturi tubes) are closed systems unlike the open channels where the metering devices get flooded out).

Mr. Kantorek indicated that the Millstone Pump Station experienced severe flooding. The water level on the outside of the building was approximately a few feet below the loading dock and the water elevation was the same inside the building. The high levels of Infiltration/Inflow (I/I) and the flood waters of Lake Carnegie inundated manhole covers on Harrison Street. In essence, the pumps at Millstone were attempting to pump down Lake Carnegie. At this point in time all the pumps at the Millstone Pumping Station were in operation. We lost commercial power and the pump station was operating on our emergency generator.

Mr. Kantorek indicated that in addition to the loss of commercial power, SBRSA lost communications with the SCADA system (system wide) including the Millstone Pump Station. With all pumps in operation the emergency generator fuel storage tank at that pump station was empty at 0815 hours. The street flooding prevented a fuel truck from getting access to the pump station in time. The pump station went without power for approximately five (5) hours. Mr. Kantorek noted that staff began to contact vendors for fuel at approximately 0400 hours on August 29<sup>th</sup> however the fuel truck was unable to reach the pump station until 1300 hours. While filling the fuel storage tank, commercial power was restored. The pump station went back on emergency power for a few hours on the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Sippelle wanted to know at what point, if any, was there a sewage backup. Mr. Kantorek responded that once the pumps shut off, a sewage backup would occur. This was the case at the Millstone Pumping Station. Mr. Kantorek noted that all necessary agencies were notified of the situation.

Mr. Kantorek indicated that the River Road WWTP was on emergency power for several hours during the storm as were the Princeton and South Brunswick Pumping Stations. Mr. Kantorek

indicated that on the day of the storm flows averaged approximately 41 mgd at the River Road WWTP.

### Odor Issues

Mr. Kantorek distributed the “Total Yearly Citizen Odor Reports 1995-2011” graph to the Committee members. Mr. Kantorek noted that year to date the Authority has received one odor complaint on March 4, 2011 from a resident of Montgomery Woods.

Mr. Kantorek distributed copies of the Odor Study Evaluation Results Summary to the Committee. Mr. Kantorek reported that odor sampling was conducted on August 9 and 10, 2011 at the same locations at the River Road WWTP site as previously tested.

The results of the odor sampling indicate that odor intensity has increased at several testing sites. Since the Authority began testing in 2008, the sampling produced the highest odor intensities recorded. Mr. Kantorek explained the odor intensity scale: ratings of 1 to less than 4 are weak odors, 4 to less than 7 are moderate odors and odors with a rating greater than 7 are strong odors. Mr. Kantorek indicated that the samples were taken at each source and do not compensate for volume.

In reviewing the evaluation, Mr. Kantorek indicated that the biofilter media was changed out during July/August 2009 and generally has a useful life of approximately three (3) years. Mr. Kantorek indicated media was added to the biofilters this past spring.

Although the evaluation shows that most of the sampling sites registered weak or moderate odor intensity, one area of concern is the upper outlet of the Carbon Adsorber at the Sludge Cake Receiving Facility. The carbon media for that odor control unit was changed out on June 30, 2011. The sampling conducted in August confirmed that the odor control unit was experiencing breakthrough after approximately six (6) weeks of service. Historically, this type of media has a useful life of nine (9) to twelve (12) months.

Staff has contacted Calgon regarding the breakthrough. TRC (conducted the odor sampling and analysis) and Omni Environmental have also been contacted regarding the situation. It was recommended that testing be conducted on the inlet air to the odor control unit, the outlet air from the unit and testing of the carbon media to determine the remaining adsorptive capacity. It is also possible that the carbon media may not have been installed properly. In the future, the Authority will test the media when it is first delivered.

### Hopewell and Pennington STP NJPDES Permits

Mr. Kantorek reported that SBRSA received the draft NJPDES permits for the Hopewell and Pennington STPs. Of concern are the new parameters for TDS (Total Dissolved Solids), Arsenic, Copper, and nitrates, which are equal to or more stringent than the standards for drinking water and provide no measurable environmental benefit. Mr. Kantorek indicated that the NJDEP views all streams and rivers as potential potable water sources and sets the standards.

Mr. Kantorek indicated that the closest drinking water intake is approximately twenty miles (20) downstream.

Mr. Kantorek explained that drinking water standards are determined by three committees who review the treatability of the water, the ability to analyze the water and the human health criteria. When setting the arsenic parameters for wastewater permits, only the human health criterion was used, making the effluent limit more stringent than the standards for drinking water.

Mr. Goldfarb asked if the Authority would be able to treat and measure for the new parameters. Mr. Kantorek reported that both could be achieved but at a significant cost. The capital cost is approximately \$11.5 million. Mr. Kantorek indicated that the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) costs would also be significant. In order to treat for TDS, arsenic, and nitrates the Authority would need a reverse osmosis (RO) treatment unit and denitrification filters. The O&M cost on an annual basis is approximately \$2.3 million; the greatest cost would be transportation and disposal of the RO side stream (brine). Treating would increase participant charges by approximately 19%.

Mr. Goldfarb asked at what stage in the negotiating process is the Authority. Mr. Kantorek indicated that the Authority is seeking help from its member municipalities to contest these limits. Mr. Kantorek reiterated that these new parameters provide no environmental benefit and the costs would have a significant impact on SBRSA's member municipalities. Mr. Kantorek indicated that to date the Authority has submitted its comments on the draft permits to NJDEP. Staff has also met with the some member municipalities in an effort to gain their support/endorsement of the Authority's position regarding the new parameters.

Mr. Kantorek asked Mr. Goldfarb if he would meet with the mayors of Princeton Borough and Princeton Township to gain their support in the Authority's position. Mr. Goldfarb suggested that Mr. Kantorek and the Board member from Princeton Borough attend a Borough council meeting to present the information.

A discussion regarding the presentation followed. The Committee members offered their suggestions. The consensus of the Committee was to make the presentation factual but easy for the public to understand. The Authority needs explain to the public what impact these new parameters will have on their municipalities' budgets.

Mr. Kantorek explained that AEA (Association of Environmental Authorities) representatives are in discussions with NJDEP (Division of Water Quality) for approximately one-year to re-evaluate stream designations (currently all streams in New Jersey are considered sources of potable water). The discussions with NJDEP are currently in progress to consider a tiered approach to categorizing streams i.e. streams that are not directly utilized for potable water would be in a different tier/designation than those streams which are sources for potable water. The streams which are not sources of drinking water would have different stream limits.

3. Headworks Project

Ms. Pchola reported that the Headworks Project is 10% complete. Prior to excavation for the grit chamber and building, the contractor needed to bypass the 14-inch gravity line and the 20-inch force main from the Princeton Pump Station. This has been completed.

The contractor has stockpiled all of the overburden on the landfill site, which is approximately three (3) to four (4) feet of soil. The contractor is in the process of installing the sheeting around the site in order to begin the excavation for the grit chamber and new headworks building.

4. Appointment of Nominating Committee for 2012 Oversight Committee Officers

On a motion by Mr. Blair and seconded by Mr. Goldfarb and passed by unanimous vote the current officers will remain the same for 2012. The officers for 2012 are:

Mr. Jerry Avins, Chairman  
Mr. Donato Nieman, Vice Chairman  
Mr. John Kantorek, Secretary

5. Initial Meeting Date for 2012

The first meeting for the Oversight Committee in 2012 is scheduled for Monday, February 6, 2012 at 7:30 pm.

6. New Business

There was no new business.

7. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Nieman, seconded by Mr. Blair, and passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

John V. Kantorek  
Secretary

Written and recorded by  
Patricia Carlino  
October 18, 2011