

## **MINUTES OF THE SBRSA JOINT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING #121**

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

DATE: May 14, 2012

Mr. McKinnon, Liaison to the Board, was present along with the following Committee members:

Mr. Avins, South Brunswick Township  
Mr. Wilkes, Princeton Borough  
Mr. Blair, Princeton Township  
Mr. Nieman, South Brunswick Township

SBRSA Staff: Mr. Kantorek, Executive Director and Ms. Carlino, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Avins called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes for the October 3, 2011 Meeting

Mr. Avins indicated that the first order of business was the approval of the minutes of the October 3, 2011 meeting. Mr. Nieman asked a question about the minutes which was answered by staff. The minutes were approved as presented on a motion by Mr. Nieman, seconded by Mr. Wilkes, and passed by unanimous vote.

2. Executive Director's Report

Treatment Plant Performance

Mr. Kantorek indicated that all the treatment facilities are operating well and are compliant with their wastewater (NJPDES) permits.

Mr. Kantorek reported that on April 11, 2012, the new NJDEP Assistant Commissioner was on site for a tour of the plant. Mr. Kantorek noted that the Assistant Commissioner was very impressed with the River Road facility, noting it was the first time she had toured a wastewater treatment plant.

Mr. Kantorek stated that he also had an opportunity to discuss SBRSA's concerns with the NJPDES permits for the Hopewell and Pennington STPs. Of concern are the new parameters for TDS (Total Dissolved Solids), arsenic, and nitrates, which are equal to or more stringent than the standards for drinking water and provide no measurable

environmental benefit. The Assistant Commissioner indicated that she would bring these concerns to her staff.

Mr. Kantorek also indicated that on April 23, 2012 he and other members of the Association of Environmental Authorities (AEA) attended a meeting at the NJDEP to discuss these same issues. As discussed at the meeting NJDEP has developed a tiered use approach for nitrates that would protect the water supply intakes but at the same time would look at nitrate levels near the water intake and not at the wastewater treatment plant discharge point. This would resolve the issue of nitrates at both upstream plants. NJDEP also indicated that the arsenic issue should be resolved by using existing regulations related to areas with high background levels. NJDEP indicated that it was not their intent to have wastewater treatment plants adding reverse osmosis units to address the TDS standards. They are considering using existing whole effluent toxicity testing as a surrogate for TDS.

### Odor Issues

Mr. Kantorek distributed the “Total Yearly Citizen Odor Reports 1995-2011” graph to the Committee members. Mr. Kantorek noted that the Authority received two odors complaints in 2012.

The two complaints were received on February 15<sup>th</sup> and February 16<sup>th</sup> from the same resident who lives in Montgomery Woods. Staff investigated the complaints but did not detect any odors. Mr. Kantorek noted that the complaint on February 16<sup>th</sup> was described as a faint odor. SBRSA has not received any additional complaints since that time.

### 3. Headworks Project

Mr. Kantorek distributed photographs of the Headworks Project illustrating the progress made from May 2011 to May 2012.

Mr. Kantorek reviewed each photo and provided the Committee with an explanation of the location of the new grit chamber and the odor control building. Mr. Kantorek noted that the Authority’s existing grit chambers will become the biofilters as part of the odor control for the project. A question came up regarding the sheeting. Mr. Kantorek indicated that the temporary sheeting was necessary due to the depth of the excavation.

Referring to the last photograph, Mr. Kantorek explained that during the excavation for the Grit Removal Tank(s) foundation, competent soil was not reached at the specified limit of the excavation. At the recommendation of the geotechnical engineering firm, the excavation of the unsuitable material continued until competent soil was reached. The excavated area was backfilled with clean stone.

Mr. Kantorek indicated that the project is approximately 30% complete (in terms of the total contract cost). The contractor continues to move forward at a reasonable pace, although there were some delay issues at the start of the project.

Mr. Avins asked about the status of SBRSA's \$12,000 fine (Title V Air Permit) that was assessed by NJDEP. Mr. Kantorek indicated that the Authority was looking to purchase a hybrid SUV which would have allowed SBRSA to use \$9,000 (75%) of the penalty towards the purchase. However that particular hybrid vehicle is no longer available. Staff did look at other environmental projects that would benefit air pollution however there were no other projects that would have been cost effective. Therefore, SBRSA will make a recommendation to the Board to make payment to NJDEP. Mr. Avins asked if staff looked into purchasing a used hybrid SUV. Mr. Kantorek responded that SBRSA is limited to either bidding or purchasing on the State Contract. If the Authority were to purchase a used vehicle then it would be necessary to go to bid and it is unlikely that any bids would be received.

4. New Business

There was no new business.

5. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 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  
May 15, 2012