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READING AREA WATER AUTHORITY  
BOARD MEETING  
4:00 PM  
February 18, 2025

In attendance were Chairman Rev. Steven McCracken, Vice Chairman Mr. Richard L. Carpenter, Mr. Daniel Luckey, Mrs. Cecile Grimshaw, Mrs. Tressa Jefferson, RAWA Solicitor Attorney Edwin Stock, Executive Director Mr. Bill Murray, Director of Operations and Maintenance Gary Phillips, Distribution Superintendent Mr. Anthony Reynolds, Administrator Suzanne Ruotolo, Director of Asset Management Mr. Yuri Evans, Plant Superintendent Mr. Patrick Bauer, Lake Ontelaunee Manager Mr. Michael Reider, Customer Service Manager Ms. Tracey Karish, Meter Reader Manager Amy Styer, Human Resources Manager Wendy Marrero, Dan Standish from SSM Engineering, David Tshudy and Mike Hozella representatives for Core 5.

The meeting was brought to order at 4:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence was observed.

No Public Comment

Chairman McCracken advised we will start with the Solicitors Report.

Solicitor Stock stated on the agenda is the approval of the dedication agreement for the Core 5 project. Core 5 based on the Spotts, Steven and McCoy, built the water system for their project which is in Upper Tulpehocken Township. The project is finish subject to remaining punch list items that are being worked on. The agreement calls for an 18 month maintenance period, Core 5 would be responsible for any issue that would develop in the 18 months. We would continue to retain 15% percent security to guarantee that the maintenance items will be taken care of. Solicitor Stock recommends a motion to approve Bill to execute the Core 5 Dedication Agreement. Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve the agreement. A motion was made by Mr. Luckey and seconded by Mrs. Grimshaw. Chairman McCracken asked for a question on the motion. Mr. Murray advised he had a comment. He stated the first is there is a short list of punch list that needs to be done and the second is the 18 months starts from the time of approval. Mr. Stock added in stating the 18 months would start today. Chairman McCracken asked for any other comments. Mr. Luckey asked if there is when we take ownership. Mr. Stock advised that is correct we take ownership and Core 5 becomes a customer. Chairman McCracken asked for all in favor, motion passed.

Mr. McCracken turned the meeting over to Mr. Stock for the reorganization. Mr. Stock opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair. Mr. Carpenter nominated Steve McCracken; Mrs. Jefferson seconded the nomination. Mr. Stock asked if there are any other nominations for the position of Chair, no other nominations were made, Mr. Stock closed the nomination, he asked all those in favor of Mr. McCracken continuing as Chairman, signify by saying I, the I's carry.

Mr. Stock opened the floor for nominations of the position of Vice Chair. Mr. McCracken nominated Rich Carpenter; Mrs. Jefferson seconded the nomination. Mr. Stock asked if there are any other nomination for Vice Chair, no other nominations were made. Mr. Stock closed the nominations, he asked all those is favor of Mr. Carpenter continuing as Vice Chair signify by saying I, the I's carry.

Mr. Stock advised we also nominate everyone else on the board as position of Assistant Secretary Treasurer, for the sole purpose of, from time to time to attest a signature to the Chair or Vice Chair on a legal document. Mr. Stock asked for the motion on the Assistant Secretary Treasurer. Mr. Murray asked if they can sign checks, Mr. Stock advised that will be a separate resolution. Chairman McCracken made a motion to approve the nominations, Mr. Stock stated that would be for Tressa, Cecile and Dan. Mr. Stock asked all those in favor signify by saying I, the I's carry.

Chairman McCracken asked about who can sign the checks. Mr. Stock advised the check signing would be a separate resolution if you would want to change how you do the signing. Mr. Murray asked if we could consider this for next month, and asked if there would be any reason not to. Mr. Stock advised it is not uncommon to have multiple board members approved to sign, that way it does not fall on one person. Mr. Stock advised he will draw up a resolution for next board meeting to have every board member authorized to sign checks. Mr. Luckey stated when he got on the board, he had to sign something for signatures. Mrs. Ruotolo advised that was for the bank to authorize signatures. Mr. Stock advised some banks have their own form of resolution; he agreed Mr. Luckey did have to sign some form of the bank's resolution. Mr. Stock advised you will need to pull out the bank resolution and get an updated form from the bank and put that on the agenda for next month.

Chairman McCracken advised next is the approval for the professional venders Solicitor, Engineer, and Auditor. Mr. Murray asked if they can be approved as one. Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve Mr. Stock as the Solicitor, SSM as the Engineer and Reichel as auditor. A motion was made by Mrs. Grimshaw and seconded by Mrs. Jefferson. All in Favor, motion passed.

Chairman McCracken asked for motion to approve the January 21, 2025, minutes. A motion was made by Mrs. Grimshaw and seconded by Mrs. Jefferson. All in favor, motion passed.

Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to approve payment of the February 2025 invoices, for the General Fund in the amount of \$666,058.54 Capital Fund in the amount of \$28,516.23 and the Escrow Fund in the amount of \$20,944.15. A motion was made by Mrs. Jefferson and seconded by Mrs. Grimshaw. All in favor. Motion passed.

Chairman McCracken thanked the board members for nominating him as Chair.

Mr. Murray advised the Internal Audit was completed by Sue, Tracey, and Sharon.

Mr. Murray provided an update on the Drought, stating we have been in weekly communications with DEP and the DRBC. Mr. Murray advised they have been a little pretentious, we were operating under a temporary modification order, which is only issued for 90 days and this ran out. Mr. Murray advised when we went and applied for a second one, they have asked for a lot more information and have been more difficult and have not issue a new temporary order. This means technical as we sit here, we have to operate under the original permit.



The original permit and how we must operate is what cause us to begin to slowly lower the lake to below 4 foot. Mr. Murray advised he has spoken with higher ups at DEP and basically assured the new modification will be done soon and we will continue to get the support. They understand our concerns and are working with us to come up with something they can live with. Mr. Murray believes we will get there in a week or two. Mr. Murray wants everyone to understand what we did this week, under the temporary modification order we had a mandatory 15 percent reduction. When the temporary order ran out and you revert to the original, the mandatory reduction does not exist. When they issue the temporary order they are going to insist that the temporary order include the mandatory 15 percent reduction. So, for 30 days that we did not have the temporary order we worked with them and maintained the reduction. Basically we (RAWA) were demanding of our customers the 15 percent reduction verse DEP. The team that deals with them everyday feels the reason they were not in a hurry to issue the second temporary modification order; was they don't want to be the ones to tell customers to reduce. Mr. Murray had a discussion with DEP and last Friday we took the mandatory down to a voluntary. Mr. Murray advised this will not make a big difference except for the two power plants. The two power plants have to comply with the 15 percent no matter what. He advised one of the power plants they have worked very closely with and this was hurting their business dramatically. He advised for the last couple of weeks he put together a study of who it losing what. He stated this drought is costing RAWA about \$250,000 month in revenue. It is costing Ontelaunee Energy, smaller of the two power plants, a minimum of \$500,000 a month and Birdsboro at least a half a million, advised if you add the number up you are at 1.25 million and lets just say the rest is another \$250,000. You're looking at 1.5 to 2 million a month. He advised we put pressure on DEP to say this not just an environmental emergency but an economical emergency. He advised the power plant have a lobby group and an expert on government relations, they now are working closely with us to speak with people at the highest level to get the governor to do what he has to force these people. If they issue a temporary modification on Thursday its probably going to say we are back to the 15% mandatory reduction. That means the two power plants are going to lose a lot of money. Mr. Murray advised this has taken too long and the current permit has technical flaws which drained the lake. Mr. Murray advised here is the good news, right now with in the next two weeks we should not have to do anything out of the usual, cause we told them at the first temporary modification we want to reduce what goes out of the lake, and we were able to fill the lake back up. Mr. Murray advised it is a little complicated, but SSM and our team are working as best as we can with DEP adding in the meantime, he has lifted the mandatory restriction to voluntary restriction.

Mr. Murray gave an update on Lead and Copper, stated we were working with a federal company GLO- Get the Lead Out. They were working on getting us funding for pot holing all on the governments expense. Mr. Murray stated when the administration came in with the order for the EPA to stop, GLO stop. At the end of last week we got a phone call they are back working, so we have a meeting set up them to get back on track.

Mr. Murray wanted to mention we received the second image from Asterra and everyone has been working very hard on taking the data and turning into information. He advised we appreciate the support to get this image done.

Mr. Standish advised the Engineers Report was submitted, and he has been working with Bill on the drought and Core 5, other than that he has nothing to report, there are no action items.

Chairman McCracken stated the next Board Meeting will be on March 18, 2025.

Chairman McCracken asked for a motion to adjourn, a motion was made by Mrs. Jefferson at 4:24 pm.