



Jeffrey Wright  
Commissioner

**DRAIN COMMISSIONER'S  
WATER & WASTE SERVICES' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

and

**SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
Wednesday, February 20, 2019**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

David Arceo, Barbara Baker Omerod, Brad Barrett, Scott Bennett, Ed Brown, Rick Caruso, Tim Elkins, Mark Emmendorfer, Paul Fortino, Larry Green, C. Dana Horn, Karyn Miller, Ann Marie Moore, Duane Mosher, Terry Peck, Keith Pyles, Tom Srcek.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Jeff Wright, Drain Commissioner; Tim Davidek, Assistant Director of Operations and Maintenance, WWS; Warren Vyvyan, Chief Deputy Drain Commissioner; Kevin Sylvester, Deputy Drain Commissioner- PR & Communications; WWS; Chris Gehringer, Clayton Township; Robert Ellis.

Meeting called to order at 9:02 AM. Attendance roll was called. Motion was made and supported to approve minutes as presented from the meeting of January 16, 2019. The vote was called and passed unanimously.

**Water and Waste Services Advisory Committee**

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Commissioner Wright recognized former Mundy Township Treasurer and Advisory Board Member, Joe Oskey for over 10 years of service on the WWS Advisory Board. Joe is now the Supervisor of the Township.

The NPDES Discharge Permit for ARTP is now out for Public Comment until March 6, 2019. As you may remember the permit has been up for renewal for some time. WWS has been negotiating with the State of Michigan for some time on a couple of key issues, such as they wanted to eliminate what is known as wet weather flow from the facility. If the State would have stuck with that it would have required us to spend around \$200 to \$300 million to expand the plant, allowing us to treat all rain water. But the permit has been written in such a way that it gives us time to improve the collection system mainly.

We did commit to some things to complete over the next 5 years:

September 30, 2020- We have to establish dry weather flow and peak wet weather flow

September 30, 2021- We need to have GIS mapping of the entire collection system completed.

December 31, 2021- The MDEQ has committed to conducting and completing a water quality study of the Flint River

September 30, 2022- We need to establish a written enforceable policy for excess Inflow and Infiltration

September 30, 2023- We need to submit the policy for approval to the MDEQ

September 30, 2028- We have to have some sort of plan in place and start acting on removing the I & I from the collection system and or additional treatment.

If you go back to the rate structures signed in 2001, they did have some I & I requirements. The requirements state that if you go past 2.0 times your dry weather flow, we could have and still could, charge you a surcharge. We have not enforced those provisions. So what the permit is stating is an extension of that, but more of a if you do not do this, here is the consequence.

Since Commissioner Wright has taken office, there has been some great improvement to the system, but we still have work to do. The requirements of this permit are not just for WWS, but are requirements for wastewater plants statewide. The goal is to not let rain water into the system, causing the plant to go into wet weather flow. If we can plug the holes in the lines, disconnect illicit downspouts connected to the system, etc. we should be able to meet the requirements set by the State without having to build costly detention basins.

The permit also requires the State to do some extensive testing of the Flint River, both upstream and downstream of our facility.

Again, the permit is out for Public Comment and has not been signed yet.

**Commissioner's Comments:** We have now switched out over 95% of water meters throughout the County, with only a couple dozen people flat out refusing us access to the meter. This was able to be done because of all of the

communications we sent out and the fact we have had our people out in the community having facetime with residents. For those who have not had their meter changed out, we have sent out letters informing them their bill will go up \$20.00 for a manual meter read.

The staff at our Water Treatment Plant have been testing our water before and after it's treated for everything imagined, including PFAS/PFOS. All of our results have come back as Non-Detect for both PFAS/PFOS. The State wanted additional verification, so they came out and tested the lake, and at our facility. Their results also came back Non-Detect. Then, at the States expense, they hired a private company to test, whose results were also Non-Detect for PFAS/PFOS. With PFAS being on everyone's mind, our annual water quality report will contain an explanation of this issue, as well as detail our results.

We do have PFAS/PFOS in our sewage treatment plant, why? Because it is in every one of our homes, clothes, shoes, cosmetics, carpet, etc. It is in everything. The point to this is although we are non-detect in our drinking water, the water is exposed to PFAS/PFOS in the home and then is discharged into the sewer treatment plant. At some point, the State may come and say we need to clean that up.

Nothing has changed since we last talked about the Blue Cross Blue Shield Lawsuit with the County Board. Commissioner Wright did have a verbal conversation with the new chairman, however we have not heard back in regards to the verbal conversation or the letter sent to the previous chairman. Another letter will be sent out in the next couple of weeks declining their offer of \$250,000.00 and asking to sit down and resolve the issue without the courts.

Discussion ensued regarding water bills and the amount of time it is taking for residents to receive their bills. The bottom line is the issue is with the Post Office, not with WWS or the Local Community. Davison Township stated that the Post Office now says it will take two weeks, instead of the previous three days, for 1<sup>st</sup> class mail to be delivered.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:22 AM

**Next Meeting is March 20, 2019**