

GLENBARD WASTEWATER AUTHORITY  
**Executive Oversight Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**September 21, 2017**  
**Meeting held at the Village of Glen Ellyn Police Department**  
**Community Room**  
**65 S. Park Boulevard, Glen Ellyn, IL**

Members Present:

Diane McGinley	President, Village of Glen Ellyn
Keith Giagnorio	President, Village of Lombard
Bill Enright	Trustee, Village of Glen Ellyn
Mike Fugiel	Trustee, Village of Lombard
Mark Franz	Village Manager, Village of Glen Ellyn
Scott Niehaus	Village Manager, Village of Lombard
Julius Hansen	Public Works Director, Village of Glen Ellyn
Carl Goldsmith	Public Works Director, Village of Lombard

Others Present:

Matthew Streicher	Engineer/Assistant Director, GWA
Rick Freeman	Electrical Superintendent, GWA
David Goodalis	Operations Superintendent, GWA
Jon Braga	Interim Maintenance Superintendent, GWA
Laurie Frieders	Environmental Resources Coordinator, GWA
Christina Coyle	Finance Director, Village of Glen Ellyn
Tim Sexton	Finance Director, Village of Lombard
Gayle Lendabarker	Administrative Secretary, GWA
Chris Marschinke, P.E.	Trotter and Associates (TAI)

1. Call to Order at 8:00 a.m.
2. Roll Call: President McGinley, President Giagnorio, Trustee Enright, Trustee Fugiel, Mr. Franz, Mr. Niehaus, Mr. Hansen and Mr. Goldsmith answered "Present".
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Public Comment

*President McGinley indicated that at this time if anyone had any comment not related to an agenda item there welcome to step forward noting that the issue concerning neighborhood odors is on the agenda and will be addressed further on in the meeting.*

*President McGinley indicated that item 7.2 would be moved up on the agenda to allow for public comment to take place so those members of the public who want to leave*

*afterwards can do so. President McGinley added that a form had been provided for those who wished to speak could notify the Committee of their desire to be heard.*

5. Consent Agenda - The following items are considered to be routine by the Executive Oversight Committee and will be approved with a single vote in the form listed below:

*Motion the EOC to approve the following items including Payroll and Vouchers for the Month of August 2017 totaling \$463,896.66 (Trustee Enright).*

**Mr. Franz motioned and President Giagnorio seconded the MOTION that the following items on the Consent Agenda be approved. President McGinley, President Giagnorio, Trustee Enright, Trustee Fugiel, Mr. Franz, Mr. Niehaus, Mr. Goldsmith, and Mr. Hansen responded “Aye” during a roll vote. The motion carried.**

- 5.1 Executive Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes:

- August 10, 2017 EOC Meeting

- 5.2 Vouchers previously reviewed by Trustee Enright

- August 2017

- 5.3 Additional Funding Requested for Consulting Services regarding the Evaluation and Recommendation pursuant to the contractor claim associated with the Facility Improvement Project Earth Retention System.

Originally Authority staff requested, and was administratively approved \$10,000 for consulting services provided by Roger McCarron with Project Management Advisors Inc. As of September 15<sup>th</sup>, we have exhausted that resource and would like to request the EOC approve an additional \$10,000. This would make the total of the contract request a NOT to Exceed \$20,000.

- 7.2 August and September Odor Complaints – Digester Upset & Low Flow Conditions.

*Mr. Streicher provided background on the issue concerning the organic overloading of the digester which caused the biologic upset and odors, as well as the steps taken to remediate the issue as efficiently as possible. Mr. Streicher indicated that close to 50,000 lbs. of sodium bicarbonate had been added to the digesters in an effort to restore the acid level to a range that would allow the biologic process to balance itself. Mr. Streicher added that earlier in the week approximately 150,000 gallons of healthy sludge was trucked in from a nearby facility to help the digester and overall system by re-establishing a healthy biologic content in the digesters this process is called seeding. Mr. Streicher did indicated that prior to the seeding that smaller digester had almost returned to normal and that the larger of the two that were upset is naturally taking larger due its size so the reseeding was done to expedite bringing this digester to a healthy status. Mr. Streicher also advised that as a result of the clean sludge being imported the “poor” sludge was being displaced and will be removed from the premises but the odor will*

*either be at the current detection levels, if not intensified for a short time, since the poor sludge must be dewatered before it can be hauled away which is being done immediately after the sludge has been dewatered, all of which has resulted in an immediate improvement in this particular digester. Mr. Streicher added that in addition to the seeding, the gravity thickener tank, which has an additional source of odors, is being taken out of service; which is not typical for our standard operating procedures and has required additional burden on the staff to determine the logistics of re-routing the flow; and will be drained and cleaned. Mr. Streicher advised that here again, the odors will either be the same or more intensive due to the fact that the draining must be done slowly to avoid any type of upset somewhere else in the process and the cleaning of any the poor residual material and start again with clean. Mr. Streicher also indicated that the staff has been investigating purchasing additional odor control equipment for installation and staff will continue to provide weekly updates to the residents via postings on the webs site and email blast notifications.*

*Mr. Franz stated that late Wednesday evening, some preliminary results of the air quality testing were received however, they have not yet been reviewed in-depth and no formal report is available yet. Mr. Streicher introduced Chris Marschinke, P.E. from TAI.*

*Mr. Marschinke, indicated that two (2) scans were received, volatile sulfurs and volatile organics; the volatile sulfurs scans came back with little to no detections in the areas of one of the sour digesters, outside the dewatering building, two (2) along the south fence line of the property and where the old drying beds were and one (1) controls sample was taken at Village Greens which served as the control sample. Mr. Marschinke indicated that the organic volatile tests evaluate more compounds and therefore will take some time to thoroughly review before formal written report is available.*

*Mr. Franz added that the PowerPoint presentation and the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) sheet that was available at the September 14, 2017 neighborhood meeting were posted to the GWA web site for those who may not have been able to attend the meeting or did not receive copies.*

*Public Comment:*

*John Arnish, 21W632 Buckingham, Butterfield West – Referenced a letter he had forwarded to the Village of Glen Ellyn, in stating that Butterfield West and Butterfield East would like to have a separate Oversight Committee that would give them veto power over the EOC Committee members or at least and equal say in the operations of GWA. Mr. Arnish advised that since the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting the odors have come and gone. Additionally, he wanted to express his appreciation to Mr. Streicher for information provided in a recent email. Mr. Arnish said that while the neighbors may not be happy with the results they are receiving what he feels are honest answers see a path forward. Mr. Arnish asked if any trucks were every turned away prior to the August upset.*

*Mr. Streicher advised that there were some companies turned away due to the quality/content of the waste they were wanting to deliver; however, no trucks from the approved companies were turned away prior to the upset.*

*Mr. Arnish reiterated the question regarding the lack of having procedures in place for a new piece of equipment is incompetence. Mr. Arnish asked if the new system can run without the addition of FOG and high strength waste. Mr. Streicher indicated that currently one of the two engines is running on the gas produced without the addition of FOG or HSW. Mr. Arnish stated that GWA should only use what is naturally produced and not import any materials to produce more methane gas.*

*President McGinley indicated that Mr. Franz was distributing a preliminary plan for the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee for the CHP process consisting of members appointed by the EOC from the various segments of the incorporated and unincorporated areas that GWA serves. President McGinley indicated that this is for review and will not be discussed at this time.*

*Cathy Hosek, 21W644 Monticello, Butterfield West – Ms. Hosek asked who the mayor was for the Village of Glen Ellyn. President McGinley acknowledged that she was. Ms. Hosek asked if President McGinley was aware of the constituents that lived directly across from GWA. President McGinley indicated that President Giagnorio and herself do not look at addresses and view everyone as neighbors who surrounds the plant and cares about every resident equally. Ms. Hosek expressed that Glenbard Wastewater Authority did not behave in a manner that demonstrates the care about their neighbors which is why she is asking about President McGinley specifically. Ms. Hosek referred to GWA's mission statement and feels that it is lacking in fact and therefore inaccurate as it does not address what the GWA is doing. Ms. Hosek stated that most of the neighbors surrounding GWA consider themselves ethical people and just as doctors must take the Hippocratic oath which states "do not harm" she is asking for several things; 1) Updated the mission statement to be reflective of what GWA is attempting to do now and that it will include; a) that the Glenbard Wastewater Authority will take no action that results in an odor to our neighbors, we are first neighbors and will take only actions that result in treating our neighbors as we wish to be treated. Ms. Hosek deemed it irresponsible to not have agendas available today for distribution and requested that printed agendas be available and that the web site be updated since only the date but not the times so the meetings page on the web site to be updated with times and dates.*

*President McGinley indicated that GWA has not experienced a high number of attendees to the EOC meetings so not having the agendas available was an oversight and that the agenda was accessible via the web site.*

*Ms. Hosek continued by stating at the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting she had requested that the GWA team take ethics training and asked if any of the EOC Committee members have taken steps to research and/or sign-up the Glenbard Wastewater team for ethics training. President McGinley advised that while everyone the Committee serve on other boards*

*and other responsibilities as volunteer efforts and it is required so we do not need additional training because we have already had it. Ms. Hosek asked for a show of hands from the members of the EOC Committee who believe they have performed at their every function in an ethical manner. President McGinley indicated no one needed to answer the question and indicated her question was inappropriate to ask. Ms. Hosek indicated that as a constituent she was entitled to ask the question. President McGinley advised that this is a public comment segment of the meeting and during a traditional board meeting, board members do not answer questions of this nature. President McGinley added that she has been rather lenient by not enforcing the three-minute limit on comments but in light of this issue has allowed some banter between the Public and the Board, but with regards to questions as Ms. Hosek is suggesting, she will protect the Board members from having to answer. Ms. Hosek requested that she be placed on the agenda at the next EOC Committee meeting so that she can ask the same question and get an answer. President McGinley indicated she would deny the request and would be happy to speak with Ms. Hosek off-line.*

*Linda Smerken indicated that she was not able to attend the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting and therefore was wondering if anyone had raised the issue of the health issues being caused by the odors as she suffers from a persistent cough, headache, in recent weeks since it is out of the norm for her to be sick and had no health issues while on vacation only to have her symptoms return within several days of coming home; additionally, the smell is infiltrating her home even though the house is closed up. Ms. Smerken indicated that wonders why if someone checking into the health hazards reported that they are low to zero, why are so many people experiencing problems.*

*Brenda Miller, 21W4541 Buckingham Road, Butterfield West – expressed her appreciation for the honesty Mr. Streicher has done. Ms. Miller indicated that at the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting apologies was issued for this mistake; however, when she opens her doors she smells two things, one is sewage and the other is greed which is what caused the mistake. Ms. Miller expressed gratitude for the efforts that are being made to get the situation under control and addressed.*

*Joe DeSimone, 883 Bemis Road – Mr. DeSimone asked if anyone is looking into what the bio-hazards and chemical hazards and what are they? Mr. DeSimone indicated that he has been suffering nasal congestion that while he was out of town went away, but when he returned home the symptoms returned so what are the compounds and is GWA looking to see what compounds are causing the health issues. Mr. Franz indicated that the first step is getting a formal written air quality report. Mr. DeSimone asked we are looking at the health hazards and not just the compounds. Mr. Marschinke indicated that GWA wanted the testing to look for a wide range of compounds and not just the sulfides based ones commonly found in wastewater odors which is approximately fifty-plus compounds between the two types of tests conducted. President McGinley indicated that testing results will be available soon. Mr. Streicher indicated that while we are testing for health hazards, that the odors can trigger allergens much like people who are sensitive to*

*other environmental smells, the same can be said for the current odors, some people can be more sensitive than others.*

*Mr. Rick Wagner – he is a retired ventilation contractor and air quality specialist, stated that he last time GWA took in leachate and FOG the plant encountered a problem as well and had to cease the intake at that time. Mr. Hansen asked when that time was. Mr. Wagner advised it was back in the 1990's and the odor was not as bad. Mr. Wagner indicated that while we are being told the odors are not dangerous, but there are cases, like those from the man-made chemicals at the DuPage County Courthouse, where once someone become sensitized to an odor they do not ever recover from that sensitivity and feels that testing should be done in the neighborhoods and not just around the property line as well as testing done after the odors are under control.*

*Heather Sebahar, 21W744 Buckingham Road, Butterfield West – Ms. Sebahar asked if TAI had medical professionals they consulted with on issues like this for a better scientific understanding as her son has been suffering from a sinus infection for four weeks and has not been responding to the antibiotics he has been given. Mr. Marschinke, advised they do not have medical professionals on staff and that the role of TAI was to perform physical sampling and reporting the findings.*

*Ms. Smerken asked where the material was being shipped beforehand and did GWA not realize they were not equipped to handle the quantity and that it took a year for the quantity to cause the explosion to happen. President McGinley indicated that several presentations provided answer to Ms. Smerken's questions regarding the timeline and she could not speak to where the companies were make deliveries beforehand, but GWA had been processing everything in house and just escalated it too quickly and that is the bottom line. Ms. Smerken asked if the money made versus the money spent on the equipment balanced out. President McGinley stated that the revenue generated from accepting the material is minimal and that the whole point of the project was that by taking in the FOG, we were fueling the generators to generate electricity for the plant to save money on the electricity side so it can go off-grid which is where the savings comes in of approximately \$500,000 per year and that was the goal. President McGinley added that the goal does not go above neighborhood needs; so, we are scaling back and losing the revenue is not an impact to us. Ms. Smerken indicated that if that is the case then it could be cease and desist. President McGinley indicated that the overall theme is that the expenses for GWA are paid from the water and sewer funds of the villages and both are doing their best to prevent passing increases on to the residents and that the overall goal of the project was to save anyone who receives water and sewer services from the villages and keep the water and sewer rates from climbing and that the goal, not GWA raking in money, but reducing rates for all customers.*

*Mr. Franz indicated that we agree with Mr. Arnish that GWA obviously needs a procedure and we have outlined in the draft Ad-Hoc CHP Operations Committee and while GWA operated successfully for nine (9) to ten (10) months we need to evaluate what can and needs to be done differently going forward in creating a policy.*

*Mr. Jon Arnish, added that measuring things against OSHA level standards for kids who are playing at the field and feeling nauseous is a health concern and while nuisance is a technical term, it is not that simple.*

*Mary Christopher, 21W504 Buckingham Road, Butterfield West – Ms. Christopher asked if there was some way to learn from the other facilities in the area that were mentioned at the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

*President McGinley thanked those members of the public who attended and reiterated that GWA and the EOC Committee does not focus on addresses and treats everyone equally and are committed to resolving this problem as soon as possible..*

#### 6. Sodium Bicarbonate Purchases for Digester Remediation

Authority staff requests the post approval of the Executive Oversight Committee for the Emergency Purchase of Sodium Bicarbonate that has been utilized to stabilize Digesters #1 and #2 during an organic overload beginning the first week of August. To date the Authority has been invoiced \$34,259. Authority staff would like to request a not to exceed approval in the amount of \$50,000.

*Motion the EOC to award a not to exceed purchase order to Viking Chemical in the amount of \$50,000 for the payment of sodium bicarbonate previously received.*

**President Giagnorio motioned and Trustee Fugiel seconded the motion to award a not to exceed purchase order to Viking Chemical in the amount of \$50,000 for the payment of sodium bicarbonate previously received. President McGinley, President Giagnorio, Trustee Enright, Trustee Fugiel, Mr. Franz, Mr. Niehaus, Mr. Goldsmith, and Mr. Hansen responded “Aye” during a roll vote. The motion carried.**

*Mr. Streicher explained that GWA made emergency purchases of the sodium bicarbonate in an effort to quickly begin storing the biological process in the upset digesters and bring the odors under control sooner. Mr. Streicher indicated that as of last week the addition of the sodium bicarbonate has halted as the pH level has reached its maximum effectiveness.*

#### 7. Discussion

##### 7.1 CY2018 Draft Budget Workshop

*Mr. Streicher indicated that this was the first pass at the budget and while it only reflects a 1.9% increase over 2017's budget there are some items in the capital plan which need to be modified in light of the recent odor issues. Mr. Streicher highlighted changes to the Capital Improvement Plan as changes in the FIP project are negotiated and highlighted some*

*other projects and costs associated with them. Mr. Streicher indicated that the Bio-Phosphorus evaluation is seeking a second opinion on using biological processes to remove phosphorus. Trustee Enright asked if there is was some for IEPA regulation requiring this. Mr. Streicher indicated that our IEPA permit mandates the removal of phosphorus by 2025 by some method while some plants in the states are being mandated to be in compliance now, GWA was granted an extension due to its participation in the DuPage River Salt Creek Work Group.*

*Mr. Franz advised that there also needs to be a change in the personnel expense calculations as that the proposed salary increase was reduced from three percent (3%) to two percent (2%) and is not reflected in the budget.*

*Trustee Enright asked why there were sizable changes in the insurance premium rates. Mr. Franz deferred to Christina Coyle, Finance Director, Village of Glen Ellyn, who indicated that changes are reflective of the premium noticed received from the providers.*

*Trustee Enright asked if the flow splits are based on actual flow. Mr. Niehaus explained that the contribution rates for each village are based on a five (5) rolling average and that in recent years Glen Ellyn and Illinois American Water have made strides in reducing areas of Inflow and Infiltration which reduce the flow on Glen Ellyn's side.*

*Mr. Goldsmith asked about the increase in chemicals for the CSO facility. Mr. Streicher indicated that the increase is based on current spending and as the first part of the year was wet, an increase was a proactive step.*

*Mr. Hansen asked if there was room in the CIP for odor management evaluations since noting had been finalized yet. Mr. Streicher indicated that there was some plan to evaluate and look at with the facilities planning budgeted for next year.*

*Mr. Niehaus explained for those in attendance and not familiar with the GWA budget approval that at an annual meeting of both Village of Glen Ellyn and Village of Lombard boards, the budget is presented final approval*

- 7.2 Item moved for discussion to immediately after Consent Agenda to allow for Public comment.
- 7.3 Facilities Improvement Project Update– Matt Streicher

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*Mr. Streicher provided an update to the Committee on the progress of the FIP project advising that three of the new disk filters had been installed and contractors were working on making all of the connections to the units.*

8. Other Business

- 8.1 Technical Advisory Committee Updates
- 8.2 Pending Agenda Items

*Mr. Streicher briefly updated the Committee on pending items.*

8.3 Stormwater Facility Update

*Mr. Niehaus provided an update to the EOC Committee*

9. ***Next EOC Meeting*** – The next regularly scheduled EOC Meeting is set for ***Thursday, October 12, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. at the Glenbard Facility.***

10. Executive Session – Materials to be Provided Under Separate Cover

**Mr. Franz moved to adjourn the August 10, 2017 EOC Meeting and moved to Executive session for discussions concerning probable litigation and performance a a specific employee without returning to open session; Mr. Goldsmith seconded the MOTION. President McGinley, President Giagnorio, Trustee Enright, Trustee Fugiel, Mr. Franz, Mr. Niehaus, Mr. Goldsmith, and Mr. Hansen responded “Aye” during a roll vote. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.**

Submitted by:

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Gayle A. Lendabarker  
GWA Administrative Secretary