

GLENBARD WASTEWATER AUTHORITY
Executive Oversight Committee
Minutes
January 9, 2025
8:00 a.m.

Members Present:

Donna Jean Simon	Acting President, Village of Glen Ellyn
Keith Giagnorio	President, Village of Lombard
Trustee Christiansen	Trustee, Village of Glen Ellyn
Trustee Bacher	Trustee, Village of Lombard
Mark Franz	Village Manager, Village of Glen Ellyn
Scott Niehaus	Village Manager, Village of Lombard
Dave Buckley	Public Works Director, Village of Glen Ellyn
Carl Goldsmith	Public Works Director, Village of Lombard

Others Present:

Matthew Streicher	Executive Director, GWA
Andy Pakosta	Operations Superintendent, GWA
Gayle Lendabarker	Executive Assistant, GWA
Patrick Brankin	Finance Director, Village of Glen Ellyn

1. Call to Order at 8:00 a.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call: President Giagnorio, President Simon, Trustee Christiansen, Trustee Bachner, Mr. Niehaus, Mr. Franz, Mr. Goldsmith and Mr. Buckley, answered “Present”.
4. Public Comment
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 months of October, November, and December of 2024 in the amount of \$2,417,046.13 (Trustee Christiansen).

Mr. Niehaus motioned and President Simon seconded the MOTION that the following items, on the Consent Agenda be approved, including the change in the price per 100 cubic feet from \$0.3938 to \$0.4341, as well as amending the contract expiration date for Liquid Oxygen from April 2027 to April 2025. President Giagnorio, President Simon, Trustee Christiansen, Trustee Bachner, Mr. Niehaus, Mr. Franz, Mr. Goldsmith and Mr. Buckley responded “Aye” during a roll vote. The motion carried.

- 5.1 Executive Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes:

October 10, 2024 EOC Meeting

- 5.2 Vouchers Previously Reviewed:
October, November and December – Trustee Christiansen

- 5.3 Declaration of Surplus

As the Authority routinely gathers items that are no longer being used or are obsolete, a request to declare them as surplus is needed from the Executive Oversight Committee, and then the items are auctioned off to the highest bidder and some amount of recapture is realized. Enclosed with this packet is a formal resolution to declare Authority property as surplus and allow for staff to place it at auction.

- 5.4 RJN Flow Monitoring Agreement Renewal

In late 2022 the Authority requested and received a proposal for flow monitoring services for the installation, operation, maintenance, monitoring, and leasing of seventeen (17) flow meters and two (2) rain gauges located throughout the Authority's service area. The main purpose of these meters is to determine the flow splits between the two owning Villages in order to properly bill each Village for the treatment of their wastewater.

After detailed analysis and evaluation, the EOC authorized the Authority to waive the competitive bidding process and award RJN Group of Wheaton, IL the Flow Services Contract in the amount not to exceed \$913,800 for the period of 2023-2028, as well as authorizing the Authority to enter into year one of six of the agreement in the amount of \$11,800 per month.

The Authority is requesting that the EOC authorize the Authority to enter into year three of six of this contract for the amount of \$11,800 per month, equaling \$141,600 for CY2025. This shall be invoiced to CY2025 O&M account number 270-520981.

- 5.5 Sodium Hypochlorite Contract Extension

The Glenbard Wastewater Authority posted the bid notification publicly through an advertisement to bid that was published in the Daily Herald on December 5th, 2022. The deadline for receipt of the sealed bids was December 21st, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

In an effort to reduce increasing costs of Sodium Hypochlorite, The Authority has decided to break up the 3-year agreement into a series of 6-month extensions provided the price does not increase more than 5% over the original contract price. After opening the two bid documents received, reviewing the unit prices,

and confirming that all required documentation was present, Rowell Chemical Corp. was the lowest responsive, responsible bidder.

In January 2023, the EOC formally approved a 3-Year agreement with Rowell Chemical Corp. in the amount of \$2.12 per gallon delivered with 6-month price review periods for the duration of the 3-Year agreement.

The Sodium Hypochlorite price from Rowell Chemical Corp has steadily decreased over the first 2 years of the agreement, prompting GWA to maintain the original agreement. Moving forward, 2025 is the final year of the agreement with the next 6-month renewal period set for January 12, 2025 at the proposed price of \$1.84 per gallon delivered.

GWA recommends the EOC allow the 6-month extension to Rowell Chemical Corp. to remain GWA's primary supplier of Sodium Hypochlorite for the unit price of \$1.84 per gallon delivered. If approved, GWA request approval to extend the agreement with Rowell Chemical Corp. in July 2025 for an additional 6 months providing the price does not increase more than 5% over the original EOC approved price of \$2.12 per gallon delivered.

5.6 Request for Authorization to Enter into Year 4 of 5 of the Lease of Atmospheric Vaporizers and Airgas Liquid Oxygen Hauling Agreement

In February 2022, after detailed evaluation and analysis, as well as based on qualifications and price, the EOC approved to enter into a 5-year agreement with Airgas for the hauling of liquid oxygen and leasing of atmospheric vaporizers. GWA requests waiver of bids and authorization to continue into year two of the five-year contract for the leasing of atmospheric vaporizers and liquid oxygen hauling with Airgas in CY2024. Starting in April 2024 Liquid Oxygen hauling will be priced at \$0.3938/per 100 cubic feet, and invoiced to Fund 270-530443 in the CY2025 Budget. Atmospheric Vaporizers Leasing will be priced at \$1,800/month, and invoiced to Fund 40 Capital Plan in the CY2025 Budget.

This contract is set to expire in April 2027, and therefore both the supply of liquid oxygen and the atmospheric vaporizer leasing will be rebid out at that time to obtain competitive pricing.

Mr. Streicher noted that the price per 100 cubic feet listed, as well as the contract expiration date are incorrect; noting the price is \$0.4341 per 100 cubic feet, not \$0.3938, and the supply contract expires in April of 2025, not 2027.

5.7 Polymer Supply Award

Injecting polymer prior to the belt filter presses is vital to the dewatering process, it promotes the release of water from the biosolids, reducing overall volume. Correctly matching a specific polymer to the unique characteristics of GWA's

Biosolids is extremely important to the effectiveness of the dewatering process. Properly reducing water from the biosolids will decrease the volume needed to be processed, therefore minimizing hauling costs. Prior to the Belt Filter Press Improvement Project, Polydyne's polymer was bench tested against GWA's biosolids and the results indicated it is an effective product. However, to ensure it is a cost-effective product, we requested quotes from multiple suppliers known to have been compatible with GWA's biosolids.

The Chemical Market can be volatile, evident in the price increases we saw these past few years. Considering Polydyne's price will increase by 0% from 2024's price, the effectiveness of their product and their ability to supply product, the Operations Department would like to retain Polydyne as GWA's polymer supplier.

The Operations Department would like to waive public bidding based on section "C.1.f Standardization Purchases." Due to the specificity of the polymer required for an effective dewatering process, bidding out this product on price alone could result in rewarding a supplier with an ineffective product.

If competitive bidding is waived, the Operations Department requests approval for purchasing polymer at \$1.68 per pound, a 0% increase over the amount that was approved by the EOC in 2023, from our current polymer supplier Polydyne for 1 year and future approval for an additional 2 years if the price does not increase more than 5%. Glenbard has used Polydyne for years without any major issues with their product or delivery services. The Authority spends nearly \$80,000 on polymer in any given year based on sludge production.

This purchase will be expensed to 270-530440 – Chemicals, which has \$85,000 budgeted for polymer.

5.8 Sodium Thiosulfate Contract Agreement

The Glenbard Wastewater Authority posted the bid notification publicly through an advertisement to bid that was published in the Daily Herald on December 5th, 2022. The deadline for receipt of the sealed bids was December 21st, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

In January 2023, the EOC formally approved a 3-Year agreement with Alexander Chemical Corp for the purchase and delivery of Liquid Sodium Thiosulfate at a price of \$3.487 per gallon.

GWA is seeking approval to move forward with year 3 of 3 of the Liquid Sodium Thiosulfate Contract at a price of 3.487 gallons delivered. If approved, year 3 of 3 of the Liquid Sodium Thiosulfate contract shall be invoiced to Fund 270-1-530440 in the amount of \$3.487 per gallon delivered.

5.9 Contract Laboratory Services Open Purchase Order Request

The Authority Staff would like to request waiving of competitive bidding requirements per the Village of Glen Ellyn code, 1-10-2: EXCEPTIONS TO COMPETITIVE BIDDING. Per Administrative Order No. 3 Section “D” Professional Services – Section 3 the Authority is required to seek at least three competitive proposals. The request provides support that the Authority has gathered and evaluated three competitive proposals from qualified laboratories.

This request is made due to the specific requirements that need to be met in order for the Authority to properly test our Influent, Effluent, Anaerobic Digester and Land Applied Biosolids samples per the IEPA and EPA specifications. With the EOC’s approval, a purchase order will be created under O&M account 270-520806 – Professional Services Laboratory Support for a not to exceed budgeted amount of \$30,500 to be utilized during the 2025 calendar year.

5.10 Not to Exceed Open Purchase Order for Combined Heat and Power Maintenance and Parts

In 2016 the Authority commissioned two Combined Heat and Power (CHP) engines and generators. The manufacturer of the CHP package was Nissen Energies out of Denmark, who has proprietary rights over most of the parts associated with the CHP’s, and also is the only maintenance provider that will allow for work to be warrantied. Every year, the Authority budgets appropriate amounts based on a predictive maintenance schedule, however, there are many instances when unforeseen failures occur that require additional funds to be spent.

Under most circumstances, the greatest “uptime” on the engines is the most beneficial to the Authority due to the electrical savings from the engines generating electricity. In addition, the Authority receives revenue through tipping fees associated with the acceptance of high strength waste for the purposes of co-digesting, which in turn creates more methane fuel for the engines to generate electricity with. When the engines are not able to run, the Authority typically has to stop accepting high strength waste, as the system cannot handle the additional gas production without a use for it.

Per the Village of Glen Ellyn’s purchasing policy, which the Authority follows for most services, any funds spent in excess of \$25,000 in a single calendar year with the same vendor require Executive Oversight Committee (EOC) approval. Since the Authority typically spends in excess of \$25,000 with Nissen Energies for proprietary parts and maintenance, often approval is needed prior to EOC meetings and approval has to be granted based on and an emergency basis.

In discussing this dilemma with the Technical Advisory Committee, a potential solution brought up was to have the EOC authorize spending with Nissen Energies up to the budgeted amount. In CY2025’s approved budget, \$51,813 was

designated towards maintenance, parts, or other services that would normally be invoices by Nissen Energies. Therefore, the Authority is seeking Authorization to approve a not to exceed budgeted amount of \$51,813 with Nissen Energies.

5.11 Ratification of Emergency Approval

In November 2024, due to ongoing issues with the Authority's Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Engine # 1, Nissen Energies provided a quote in the amount \$432 to perform an endoscopy to help determine if it needed a cylinder head replacement. At that time, another quote for \$5,319 was provided for the cylinder head replacement if the endoscopy revealed the work was needed. Approval from Manager Franz was given, as at that time, the Authority had not spent enough funds with Nissen Energies to require EOC approval. After the work was completed, the Authority was invoiced for the endoscopy appropriately, however, after receiving the final invoice for the cylinder head replacement, it came in significantly higher than what was quoted at \$10,779.70.

After Nissen Energies began the repair work, it was found that in addition to the quoted work, the cylinder liner, piston, conrod bearing, additional gaskets, cylinder head valves, and an oil pan all also needed replacement/servicing. The additional work ended up in roughly another 15 hours of labor, which is where the majority of the additional costs beyond what was originally quoted. Nissen did state that their usual approach is to first get the customer up and running ASAP, and then calculate the cost and bill the customer, as they feel to quote ahead of time would be unfair because they'd have to quote a "worst case" scenario just in case additional issues are found. Repairing the engine to get it up and running as fast as possible is beneficial to the Authority realizing electrical cost savings and tipping fees.

The Authority is seeking a motion to retroactively approve the emergency approval in the amount of \$10,779.70 to Nissen Energies to perform emergency work. This amount was invoiced to 270-520976, and while it was not budgeted for, the Authority's overall O&M budget can absorb this.

5.12 Ratification of Email Poll Items

5.12.1 CHP H2S & Siloxane Removal Media

In order to run the CHP engines off biogas, the H2S and the siloxanes must be scrubbed from the gas. To accomplish this, Unison Solutions has manufactured a gas conditioning system that relies on a combination of H2S and siloxane removal media. Over time, the media becomes inundated with impurities and can damage the engines if the media is not replaced.

Based on previous quotes from Schlumberger and Chemical Products, I recommend that we stay with the Unison media. The Schlumberger product requires potable water injection when treating saturated gas and therefore would require a potable water line tap into the existing methane pipe before the H₂S media tank. We know the Unison media is effective and does not require any special modifications to the gas conditioning system making it the most responsible choice. In addition, the potable water costs and the required modifications associated with the Schlumberger product would be substantial over the life expectancy of the H₂S media. Chemical Products media expected life is only (141 days) we would have to purchase it multiple times to equal the unison media.

The Operations Department would like to waive public bidding based on section “C.1.f Standardization Purchases.” Unison Solutions is the manufacture of the gas conditioning system, for optimal performance it is recommended we continue to use a Unison Solution media.

If competitive bidding is waived, the Operations Department request approval for purchasing H₂S removal media and Siloxane removal media, along with recommended vessel gaskets, from Unison Solutions for the quoted price of \$59,201.00.

In the 2024 GWA budget, staff allocated \$100,000 for the purchase of this media in budget category Plant Equipment Rehabilitation account 40-580150. To date, \$71,050.00 remains in this account, which is below the requested approval amount. These quotes are an estimate due to varying shipping costs and is dependent on the final approval date.

5.12.2 Community Solar Engagement

As discussed at the October 2024 EOC meeting, the Authority has been researching Community Solar options as a method to lower the cost of its electric invoices. Community solar allows businesses and individuals to subscribe to shared solar energy resources located off-site, providing a way to access renewable energy without the need for on-site solar panel installations. The Authority will benefit from the solar credits generated by a remote solar field, and in turn, will return a portion of those credits to the solar developer, while also keeping a portion – which will yield savings on the monthly bills.

Through the review of other agencies, Authority staff has identified a partnership with Progressive Energy Group as the

broker, and US Solar as the developer, which is a state identified developer and currently running a Community Solar program within Illinois.

The Authority is seeking a motion from the EOC to authorization to sign into a community solar subscription agreement (once allocations become available and subject to legal approval) for a term not to exceed 20 years and a minimum guaranteed savings of 10%. The developer will be defined as allocation space is secured and the Authority may enter multiple subscriptions with 1 developer or multiple different developers due to the Authority's different utility rate classes.

5.12.3 Electric Supply Procurement

The Authority's Electric Supply contract expires February, 2026, at which time the existing contract would automatically revert to the default supplier, ComEd. Typically, electric supply can be procured for cheaper rates. This could result in significant price increases for the Authority unless a new contract is secured prior to the existing contract's expiration. Due to the rapid market changes and the inability to secure prices for not much more than a day, it would be in the best interest of the Authority and the EOC if the Executive Director were able to secure prices when they appear to be at their lowest point. Therefore, following the success of the EOC approved Natural Gas and Electricity procurement practice in the past, the Authority is requesting that the Executive Director be provided the ability to secure prices for Electric Supply when they appear to be at their lowest point. The existing Electric Supply contract that expires in February 2026 was a four-year contract. Although recently proposed rates have shown similar pricing for three-year contracts, it's been advised by several parties to re-engage in another four-year contract due to predicted electric rate increases over the next four years based on current federal administration goals. Therefore, unless the Authority sees a significant realization of cost savings by engaging in a three-year contract, the goal would be to enter into another four-year contract

This process provides the Authority with the best means to acquire the lowest pricing in the most efficient manner. The TAC is agreement with this approach, as it allows the Authority to capitalize on market opportunities. It is requested that the EOC motion to authorize the Executive Director to secure Electric supply when rates are at or below a rate of \$0.0730/kWh (transmission fees not included). While this rate is considerably higher than the Authority's existing rate of \$0.03958/kWh, that

was locked in during a period of historic lows, and was it was fully anticipated that the next contract would have higher rates. In addition, the authorization amount is being considered a “ceiling” rate, and the goal is to lock in at a lower rate.

5.12.4 New Carbon Memorandum of Understanding

The Authority is seeking to sign a no cost/non-binding Memorandum of Understanding pertaining to a potential collaboration with NewCarbon on the development of a renewable natural gas project. With the Authority previously being part of a consortium of other wastewater treatment agencies that were not awarded a USEPA grant for the purposes of constructing a renewable natural gas facility, the consortium has moved onto other opportunities to be able to utilize the biogas that is generated as part of the treatment process. New Carbon is a third party turn key provider that is simply seeking to enter into the memorandum of understanding (MOU) in order to obtain information from the Authority (and the other agencies in the consortium) to be able to apply for grants to determine the feasibility of constructing the renewable natural gas facilities at each agency. If such feasibility exists, further information will be brought to the Executive Oversight Committee, along with additional approvals. This document has been reviewed by the Authority’s legal and has been determined to be acceptable, and was also discussed and agreed upon at the most recent Technical Advisory Committee meeting. The MOU is enclosed in this packet.

It is requested the EOC motion to authorize the Executive Director to sign the MOU with NewCarbon.

6. Discussion

6.1 Future Items Seeking Approval from Executive Oversight Committee

6.1.1 North Regional Interceptor Rehabilitation - Phase 3

In CY2019 the Authority performed system wide collection system televising, and subsequently awarded RJN Group, Inc. to evaluate the data collected during the television inspection. The outcome of the evaluation determined the North Regional Interceptor (NRI) needed a considerable amount of rehabilitation consisting of structural lining and heavy cleaning. Phases 1 and 2 of the rehabilitation involved the structural lining over two different segments of the NRI; phase 1 was completed in 2023, and phase 2 was awarded and is scheduled to be completed in early 2025.

Phase 3 will consist of performing heavy cleaning on approximately 1,300 lineal feet of 66" diameter pipe that stretches under Interstate 355. The Authority has budgeted \$650,000 for this work, and has already awarded RJN Group the design and construction engineering services. The project was advertised for bid in early December 2024 with a bid opening date of January 15th, 2025. After bids are opened, the Authority will consult with the Technical Advisory Committee prior to seeking approval from the Executive Oversight Committee.

6.1.2 CY2025 Collection System Televising Design and Construction Engineering Services

Per the Authority's approved Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Capacity, Management, Operations, and Maintenance (CMOM) plan, the Authority is to inspect its entire collection system at once every five years. This inspection last occurred in CY2019 and although a small portion of the Authority's sewers were televised in CY2023, the majority of the system is overdue to be performed again in CY2025. Due to the complexities in determine specifications for inspecting large diameter sewers, the Authority is seeking to retain professional services to assist in putting together a bid package for the work to be publicly bid out. Per the Authority's professional services policy, this work could be considered a continuation of an existing relationship between a specific professional services provider, and waiving of a competitive selection process is allowable. Therefore, the Authority will be seeking waiving of the competitive selection process, and awarding RJN Group the design and construction engineering services for the CY2025 Collection System Televising. The Authority has budgeted \$650,000 for CY2025 to perform the design and construction engineering, as well as the inspection.

6.1.3 Final Clarifier Rehabilitation Design Engineering

Per the approved Capital Plan, the Authority intends to begin design engineering on the Final Clarifier Rehabilitation project. Per the Authority's professional services policy, due to the similarities of this design and a recently completed design on the Primary Clarifiers, waiving of a competitive selection process to select a design engineer is allowable. Therefore, the Authority will be seeking waiving of the competitive selection process, and approval to award Trotter & Associates, Inc. the design engineering services for the Final Clarifier Rehabilitation Project. The Authority has budgeted \$915,000 in CY2025 to perform the

design and construction engineering, and plans to budget just over \$7M for the construction to begin in CY2026. The Authority would intend to seek another bond for the construction portion of this project.

Mr. Niehaus asked when GWA would need to have the revenue from the bond on hand for the project. Mr. Streicher advised that the project is not scheduled to go out to bid until CY2026 and would probably be reaching out to Mr. Brankin, Village of Glen Ellyn Finance Director, near the last quarter of 2025 to begin the bond issuance process, once GWA has a better idea of cost estimates. Mr. Niehaus suggested that, if the timing works out, the bond issuance agreement be placed for approval on the agenda for the annual GWA Full Board meeting that takes place in November.

Mr. Franz suggested having the Village of Glen Ellyn's Financial Advisor provide input on timeline. Mr. Brankin asked if all of the same steps will need to be followed again, considering the IGA was amended to allow for this type of transaction between the Villages. Mr. Niehaus confirmed that with an existing amended IGA, the process will have less steps this time around. Mr. Streicher advised that the language in the IGA was worded to be as broad as possible to cover any future needs.

Mr. Franz asked if GWA was going to seek a low interest loan for the project. Mr. Streicher explained that a funding nomination form was submitted to the IEPA for that project; however, it is not anticipated the project will score high enough to receive funding from the IEPA. Mr. Streicher added that going forward there is a plan to submit a funding nomination form for all projects, and there are ongoing discussions between the IEPA and Illinois Municipal League to get more funding allocated for the SRF. Mr. Streicher noted that it used to be taken for granted that projects would get funding through the SRF; however, due to the limited funding and increased competition for funds, this funding is no longer a sure thing. Mr. Streicher noted that there are several organizations working with the IEPA, trying to expand upon that funding. Mr. Streicher added that GWA will be placed on a bypass list, meaning GWA will be approved by the IEPA, but will not receive any funding; however, in the event funding does become available, GWA will be eligible to receive funds.

Mr. Niehaus asked for confirmation that as a default, GWA submits funding requests to the IEPA in the hopes of receiving funding, but does not bank of getting the funds. Mr. Streicher confirmed he was correct.

Mr. Franz asked about long-term capital planning with regards to the facilities plan that is currently in process. Mr. Streicher stated that the facility plan is due to be presented next week, and while it was supposed to be presented at the end of CY2024, but due to the Biological Phosphorus/Nutrient Removal Project, GWA had to do a quite a bit more sampling than was anticipated, and that pushed back the project schedule. Mr. Streicher explained that another aspect of the work was submitting the funding nominations by the end of the year, which was completed as the IEPA likes to have the forms submitted before the end of the calendar year; however, the final draft should be presented next week, with a presentation at the next EOC Committee meeting.

Mr. Streicher briefly explained that the next five (5) years of the Capital Plan projects covers more routine or rehabilitative work preparing the plant for the major project for which design would begin in 2030. Mr. Streicher added that there have been discussions with the TAC Committee looking at the two (2) options available when having to add phosphorus removal added to our NPDES permit; 1) rehabilitate the existing facility, which limits options for the future, and with the knowledge that our activated sludge process is 50 years old, would only take GWA so far, and is the cheaper route; 2) build new facility either on the land purchased across the road from the Admin Building or build on the land just purchased on the north end of the plant. Mr. Streicher added that the TAC indicated that EOC Committee's guidance on which path to take is needed, to allow for evaluating the need for the purchase of any additional land that might be needed for the construction of new buildings in 2033.

Mr. Franz asked if the plan chosen calls for new facilities the cost would be \$30-\$40 Million. Mr. Streicher advised it was more in the ball park of \$60 Million. Mr. Franz asked if things would have to shift to come up with the funds to cover the cost. Mr. Streicher advised that the current Capital plan does have \$60 Million in the plan, \$20 Million allocated over three (3) years, but that also anticipates receiving an IEPA SRF loan for the project. Mr. Streicher noted that this particular project should be eligible for SRF funding because nutrient removal moves a project higher up on the list.

Mr. Goldsmith asked, in terms of timing for the SRF funding, if the nominations are due at the end of the year and the intended funding list comes out in June or July. Mr. Streicher advised that the draft list is published in June, with the final list published in July. Mr. Goldsmith asked if the bypass list comes out in sometime

in February. Mr. Streicher advised that this list is typically out by the end of January. Mr. Streicher explained that close to the end of December, IEPA issues a notice to everyone on the intended list that they have a three (3) month deadline by which to award a project, basically, asking do you plan to move forward; and as organizations respond no, funding opens up for projects on the by-pass list.

Mr. Goldsmith asked for confirmation that GWA will know if it is on the by-pass list by June or July, and will know if funding becomes available sometime in early 2026. Mr. Streicher confirmed Mr. Goldsmith was correct.

Mr. Franz asked what funding mechanism is being used to fund the three (3) years of \$20 Million Dollars in the Capital fund, it is 5% every year. Mr. Streicher advised that the budget is allocating a 2.5% increase each year through 2030. Mr. Franz asked if that amount was still enough to get to the needed \$60 Million Dollars. Mr. Streicher advised that it barely covers. Mr. Streicher added that there is one year in 2032 that shows a slight deficit of approximately \$100,000-\$200,000; and looking that far out, Staff feels there is the potential for savings or deferment of other projects that could help reduce or bridge that shortfall; and in the overall grand scheme of things, was not a substantial concern considering how far out it is.

Mr. Franz asked if the Facilities Plan will update costs. Mr. Streicher advised that as part of the project, the plan will show what the contribution rate and funding level should be. Mr. Franz asked if they will also do an assessment of what grants are available and what projects are going to score well to earn SRF funding. Mr. Streicher explained that questions concerning grants will be addressed as projects come up.

Trustee Christiansen noted that neighbors of the plant will be seeking to have input into which option is pursued. Mr. Streicher advised that is what GWA will be seeking guidance from the EOC Committee on. Mr. Streicher added that if the option to pursue the construction of a new process is chosen, one of the locations being considered is the vacant lot across the street from the Admin Building; noting that the issue with this is that the construction will run right up to the property lines of the current resident to the West and to the North of the lot. Mr. Streicher advised that if the option to move the Admin and Maintenance buildings across the street is chosen, then the neighbors would be contending with buildings, while the new process would go where the current

Admin and Maintenance Buildings are located. Mr. Streicher noted that if the latter option is chosen, then the \$60 million dollar would see an additional cost of approximately \$6 million dollars to construct new buildings.

Mr. Niehaus stated that the strategy as the homeowners near the plant have aged in place, the time has come to move on, they all have the idea to call GWA first, as far as reasonable buyer. Mr. Streicher noted that as far as the amount of property GWA would need for the project, at this point, GWA pretty much has what is needed to accommodate the project. Mr. Streicher continued by adding that if GWA wanted to go further West, as the proposed layout of the new process is being mapped out on the property across the street, one of the tanks is as close as we can possibly get to the property line per the building code.

Mr. Franz added that the problem is that the plant will still need to be operating during the construction. Mr. Streicher noted that if the plan is to put the new process where the Admin and Maintenance buildings are currently located, then construction of the new Admin and Maintenance buildings could be done across the street and not impact the operations of the plant; however, the construction and completion of the new buildings would need to be done before the construction of the new process, which would require demolition of the Admin and Maintenance buildings. Trustee Christiansen asked if there was not an option to move the Admin Building across the street. Mr. Streicher staff has thought about that as well.

Trustee Bachner asked if the project would be for a new facility or just a new process. Mr. Streicher explained that the bulk of GWA's process is a high purity oxygen, activated sludge process, and this process is what would be replaced. Mr. Streicher continued by stating that in 2025 GWA will be completing construction on the primary clarification, and along with the final clarifier rehabilitation, both of which will remain the same, it is the actual biological process, between these two operations that will be replaced. Mr. Streicher explained that currently what the oxygen activated sludge process removes is, bio-chemical oxygen demand, through the aeration or what we refer to as the UNOX deck; wherein oxygen feeds the biologic process, while it is a very effective process for removing the things that we are required to by right now, which is the chemical oxygen demand, basically the organic content, total suspended solids and ammonia; and that is the part of the process that would require significant modification in order to be able to treat for phosphorus in nutrients. Mr.

Niehaus noted that phosphorus removal is a federal standard that is being levied. Mr. Streicher confirmed Mr. Niehaus' statement. Mr. Streicher added that GWA will have phosphorus removal in its NPDES permit by 2035. Mr. Streicher advised that many treatment plants in Illinois area already have phosphorus limits in their permits; however, due to GWA's involvement in the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup, the EPA has extended GWA a stay on implementing the requirement. Mr. Streicher explained that the disc filter system, and the UV disinfection system, that was refurbished in 2018, will not need any updating.

President Simon asked where PFAS fits into the scheme of everything. Mr. Streicher stated it is a good question and no one knows just yet. Mr. Streicher continued by stating that there is a lot of talk in Springfield and nationwide; essentially, what the goal is to get legislation put in place that does not put any burden on GWA as GWA is not the manufacturer, but the receiver of PFAS; and it could impact, as seen in states like Maine and Michigan, the by-product of our process, biosolids, which are land applied to fields, was completely banned in Maine, which those plants saw an exponential increase in operating costs, as the biosolids could not be taken to landfills either; Michigan plants ended up shipping the material to Canada, who eventually declined to accept the material as well, so they came up with several short-term solutions, but no long-term solution has been developed yet. Mr. Streicher noted that Maine took a more of a scientific approach to the matter; in that, if the biosolids had a high level of PFAS then it could not be land applied, but otherwise it could be land applied.

Mr. Franz asked about having to test for PFAS. Mr. Streicher stated that in GWA's next NPDES permit to be issued in 2027, GWA will have requirements to test for PFAS in both the influent and outfall channels. Mr. Streicher explained that the intent of the testing is to see if GWA is truly a significant contributor of PFAS right now. Mr. Streicher added that GWA has very little industry in Lombard, and actually very few industries in the State of Illinois, entirely manufacture PFAS, there are PFAS users and our largest source of PFAS would be domestic; which is nominal. Mr. Streicher stated that domestic is probably one of the largest sources and in several articles that he has seen, it states that 99% of the world population has PFAS in their bloodstream already.

Mr. Buckley asked what the frequency of testing will be. Mr. Streicher advised it will be quarterly and will begin in 2027. Mr. Streicher stated that right now there are only a few labs that perform the testing as the analytical method to perform the test

was not approved by the US EPA until last year and the current cost is \$2,000 per test. Mr. Streicher added that the hope is that by 2027, when it is placed in GWA's NPDES permit, the cost will be a little less. Mr. Streicher noted that any wastewater facilities receiving new NPDES permits have had required PFAS testing included.

Mr. Franz asked what PFAS stands for. Mr. Streicher stated polyfluoroalkyl substance. Mr. Bachner asked if there was a second element. Mr. Streicher stated that PFOS is the other concern. Mr. Streicher added that as he sees articles relating to PFAS, he forwards them over to Mr. Niehaus and Mr. Franz, so they can be aware of the latest information.

7. Other Business

7.1 Technical Advisory Committee Updates

Mr. Streicher noted that GWA continues to benefit from the input of the TAC on numerous levels and appreciates the time Mr. Buckley and Mr. Goldsmith contribute to Committee.

8. ***Next EOC Meeting*** – The next regularly scheduled EOC Meeting is set for ***Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.***

Mr. Buckley made the motion to adjourn the January 9, 2025 EOC Committee meeting, and Mr. Franz seconded the MOTION. President Giagnorio, President Simon, Trustee Christiansen, Trustee Bachner, Mr. Niehaus, Mr. Franz, Mr. Goldsmith and Mr. Buckley, responded “Aye” during a roll call. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 a.m.

Submitted by:

Gayle A. Lendabarker
GWA Executive Assistant