

**HARRISONBURG-ROCKINGHAM REGIONAL SEWER AUTHORITY
MINUTES**

MARCH 2, 2015

PRESENT: R. B. Chewning, A. M. Collins, A. L. Cook, K. D. Hodgen, B. F. Holton, S. G. King and M. W. Light. Also present: J. J. Litten, Attorney; S. G. Foley and A. L. Mongold, Staff

VISITORS: J. Fultz, City of Harrisonburg; P. Cumiskey, PJ Sun, LLC

ABSENT: J. D. Crim

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman King called the regular monthly meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion of Mr. Hodgen, seconded by Mr. Collins, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the regular monthly meeting dated February 2, 2015, as presented.

PRESENTATION: HRRSA BUSINESS PLAN & BENCHMARKING STUDY

Ms. Foley introduced Mr. Paul J. Cumiskey of PJ Sun, LLC. Mr. Cumiskey was hired to develop a business model for the Authority and to do a benchmarking study of the North River Wastewater Treatment Facility. Mr. Cumiskey's presentation provided a summary of the attached report and recommendations.

LOCAL LIMITS

- Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) Issue

Ms. Foley reported that the City of Harrisonburg was recently approached by a business development prospect wanting to bottle water using a treatment process that involved reverse osmosis (RO). To clean the RO process membranes, Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) would be discharged into the Authority's sewer system above limits currently allowed by local ordinances. All of the member localities have sewage ordinances that limit TDS discharged into the sewer system to 300 mg/L. A copy of the City of Harrisonburg's ordinance was distributed. The ordinance, which is identical to the other jurisdictions, was adopted in 1991 and has not been revised since then.

Wiley/Wilson, who is currently conducting a detailed review of the Authority's local limits, has suggested that the TDS limit could be increased to as high as 1,000 mg/L without harm to the Authority's system. However, this would require revision to the member locality ordinances. Ms. Foley stated that since other changes to the local limits are currently under review it would be helpful to wait until this evaluation is completed to make all necessary changes at the same time.

Ms. Foley noted that the TDS limitation is listed in a section titled, "Substances, materials, etc., which may be prohibited from discharge by the Director enumerated generally". Since the TDS limit is included in this section rather than the Local Limits section, Ms. Foley stated there may be some latitude in accepting a concentration greater than 300 mg/L in the interim period until the ordinances are revised.

After some discussion, Mr. Litten made a recommendation that the Executive Director give authority to the local governments to generally allow TDS up to 1,000 mg/L by annotating the existing ordinances. Ms. Foley stated she would provide suggested language for consideration at the April Board meeting.

- Local Limits Reassessment

Ms. Foley provided an overview on how the local limits were established and the possible ramifications from increasing the limits. She stated that the North River WWTF is a municipal plant with a hydraulic design capacity of 22 MGD and a design loading sufficient to treat domestic wastewater with an average BOD/TSS concentration of 240 mg/L. Industrial users are currently allowed to discharge slightly higher strength wastewater with BOD/TSS concentrations of up to 300 mg/L. The Authority currently provides treatment for several large industries throughout the system which contribute between 30-40% of loading to the plant on any given day. Because all member localities discharge into the same system, all are required to have the same local limits and sewer ordinances. Under the Service Contract, plant capacity is allocated to each member locality based on flow rather than BOD/TSS loading.

Ms. Foley presented a series of slides which compared the North River WWTF's design capacity under different scenarios which allowed higher industrial local limits for BOD/TSS. (It was assumed that if the local limits were increased, the existing industrial users would discharge into the system at or very near the revised local limits.) Based on existing local limits, the Authority is currently at approximately 55% of both its hydraulic capacity and design BOD/TSS loading. If the local limits were increased to 500 mg/L, approximately 72% of the plant's design loading for BOD/TSS would be utilized as compared to just 55% of its flow capacity. At 1,000 mg/L, the plant loading for BOD/TSS would be at 104% of its capacity.

Ms. Foley stated that even though the local limits are still under review by Wiley/Wilson it appears that the BOD/TSS concentration could be increased from 300 mg/L to 350 mg/L without serious ramifications to the treatment plant. However, higher local limits beyond that are not advisable under the current Service Contract. Ms. Foley said that final recommendations to revise all of the local limits are anticipated for the Board's consideration no later than the August 2015 meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The financial report review was deferred until the regular monthly Board meeting to be held in April.