

CCWSA - SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Minutes

August 4, 2021 at 1:00pm

24 South Street, Auburn, NY 13021

Board of Directors

Paul Dudley, Chair; Mike Quill, Vice-Chair; Christie Waters, Treas.; Herb Marshall; John Miller; Francis Mitchell; Andrew Rindfleisch; David Schenck; Benjamin Vitale

Administration & Advisors

Jeanine Wilson, Director of Operations; Rick Galbato, Attorney; Doug Selby, Project Advisor; Mark Colopy, Financial Advisor; Tim Carpenter, MRB Group

Welcome Present: Leg. Daly and Mr. Lynch (CC Planning). This meeting was broadcast via City of Auburn livestream.

Chairman Dudley opened the meeting at 1pm and welcomed everyone.

Presentation: Tim Carpenter, MRB Group

Map, Plan and Report for the Cayuga County Regional Water District

T. Carpenter discussed the goals of the CC Regional Water Project. He stated that there have been several iterations of the project through discussions with municipalities with the eventual requirement to send to County Legislature.

Minutes and project information have been distributed throughout the process with the high points today for consideration.

Process: forming new water district is generally when there is a direct need. This is a regional project and will consider a second source to serve as a backup to those that already have water.

The project started with district boundaries considering what is close in proximity and what needs are to be served. This was partially due to locality and position of reach. The area in consideration will be approximately 18,700 EDUs of which approximately one-half is in the City of Auburn to be served by the county project.

The CCWSA, as lead agency, received funding from the County Legislature. The plan is to receive final approval by CCWSA; next to be distributed to the legislature for acceptance and approval. Upon approval the project will move through a mandated environmental review. The SEQR must be completed. The review is expected to take a few months and will identify new water intake and what remediations will be required. This may be completed as lead agency being the legislature or CCWSA, either is fine.

Once the legislature receives and reviews the MPR final decisions on simple or substantial changes could be made. Amendments would need to be completed before moving through the SEQR process.

Doug Selby provided a history of project. The project report will detail the long sought after second source and reliability of potable water. Decades before CCWSA was established the CC legislature realized and commissioned a report, completed by B&L engineers, for a regional water distribution system. They had the desire to look at master planning, paid by legislature. This is the earliest point of concept we can find. In 2012, the City of Auburn received a grant to research a start of a regional (authority) project. The city had become, by default, a regional supplier but this was not by design. Unfortunately, this was not successful but moved to further steps toward regionalization.

In 2019, with funding through the county legislature, and state the renewed discussions of a regional water project began. This was a “Master Plan” throughout the county which outlined various assessments and capital needs. A regional water supply was recommended. Idea of the 1970 report is similar to the recent recommendations.

T. Carpenter stated MPR recommendations will provide reliability, resiliency, protection from climate change – a safe, abundant resource. The water supply could expand to areas in need not currently available. This will provide a robust back bone of safe potable water throughout, with a uniform rate structure. Wholesale price – instead of the current pyramiding of sale which escalates the cost of water.

Physical facilities – reports looked at options – concluded at Cayuga Lake as stable water supply. Pipeline and pumps throughout the existing systems and supplemental supply.

T. Carpenter stated that MRB was engaged just over a year ago for working through the idea of a MPR to describe a project to include a large part of the county as a regional district. The project could be approximately 18,000 EDUs, at \$100 per EDU which was deemed unsustainable through the system. Additional debt would be added when the areas already have existing debt. We went back to the drawing board and looked at areas that may be served and redrafted the approach to a phased approach.

1. Establish the district
 - a. Assistance in funding to proceed to possible future phases.
2. Already in ground – a critical component. Instead of new lines parallel, to provide benefit through leasing and taking over maintenance as a benefit to the municipality. Negotiations – how long, size, left over capacity, replacement cost.
3. District governance
4. District rates.
5. Additional Phases – evaluated by case by case basis. Viewing in whole makes sense by regional project. Individually not feasible. Request grant funds, petition county legislature, etc. Each project would have to follow the route to exist in the district - petition and find support through the governance and municipality.
6. Estimated project costs Total \$53,300,000
7. PATH FORWARD TO FINAL REPORT
 - a. CCWSA approval
 - b. Send to Legislature
 - c. If/when approved - Complete the SEQR
 - d. Apply for grant funding
 - e. Evaluate project economics
 - f. CC Legislature to endorse project, or not
 - g. Hold public vote once economics are known.
8. Voting – New York State law will be followed per a County District.

Chairman Dudley thanks the presenters and asked for questions from board.

Mr. Miller – thank you for the presentation. It was thorough and well thought out. This presentation is a good resource for information regarding the project.

Mr. Marshall stated that the Legislators will review and have final approval. He also asked how much the granted funds are and what it covers - \$82,000 for the engineers to complete and present the MPR.

Mr. Vitale will follow-up with the county chairperson as to when and where to present.

Mr. Marshall reiterated that we don't want to have it on the shelf. He asked about the Honoco Road sewer project. T. Carpenter stated that what was presented today is only the water project. Mr. Marshall stated that the sewer is important, can we include this in the presentation to the legislature? Watering the area is

a good project but septic issues along the lake is part of a bigger problem. He asked T. Carpenter about the difference in connections compared to the existing septic systems and stated that there was a drastic difference in numbers of septic/sewer vs potential EDU's for this project. T. Carpenter stated that another review was completed with DOH and the total is correct.

Mr. Vitale asked the board members how they want this presented to county. He stated that he thinks that the presentation today was very good and suggested that the entire presentation be given to the representatives of the county and city council. Are the board members agreeable? Even if representatives don't read entire MPR they will have the abbreviated info.

Chairman Dudley reiterated that this is a report for a regional water supply and that the sewer is separate; this report should be a focus now.

T. Carpenter– we can modify the information in the presentation if desired. Mr. Miller stated that once we get this to the county legislature and city council the fine tuning can be done and then go to the municipalities after approval.

Chairman Dudley stated that this is a specific project. Mr. Miller stated that he thinks it's important that the various municipalities know that it's "Not all about 'me', that it's about all."

Mr. Schenck thanked the members for considerations that were brought before the board through the various meetings were addressed. Nice job addressing many concerns – it might not be for someone else – but it is part of a bigger area.

Mr. Rindfleisch requested that the map of the area be added to the handout. That may assist to stay focused on the water project.

Attorney Galbato – Resolution prepared and submitted to the board for review, discussion, and acceptance if deemed appropriate. Whereas' were taken from prior county resolutions – support in concept. Final resolution attached.

Discussion: Omit certain verbiage in paragraph 5 removing language regarding algae, correct one typo, and change from June 2021 draft to August 2021 final draft.

A motion to accept by Mr. Marshall to accept and approve the "RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MAP, PLAN AND REPORT FOR THE CAYUGA COUNTY REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT DATED AUGUST 2021 as amended. The final draft of the Cayuga County Regional Water District Map, Plan and Report shall be presented to the Cayuga County Legislature and the Auburn City Council as approved today, August 4, 2021. Presentations will be made to the Cayuga County Legislature and Auburn City Council. Second by John Miller. Unanimously approved. Carried.

There was a brief set of questions by County Planner, Steve Lynch. He requested clarification regarding EDU's in the project area, possible grants, possible shared services opportunities, leasing distribution lines, and possible economic drivers. Much of these answers will be situational per municipal agreements. Opportunities for grants are on-going, there may be opportunities for shared services throughout the county.

A motion by Mr. Marshall to adjourn at 2pm. Second by Mr. Vitale. Unanimously approved. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
J. Wilson, Director of Operations