

MINUTES

County Soil and Water Conservation District
Natural Resource Center
7413 County House Road
Auburn, NY 13021

May 30, 2012

10:03 a.m.

1. ROLL CALL:

<u>Directors</u>		<u>Staff</u>	<u>Blue Electron</u>
D. Kehoe	P. Pinckney	R. Podolak	K. Zadeh
R. Lockwood	C. Roberts	M. Riley	<u>Hiscock & Barclay</u>
S. Nemec		W. Jakaub	A. Leja
Absent: S. Barski, J. Young			

A. Leja arrived at 10:06 a.m.
S. Nemec arrived at 10:12 a.m.

2. REPORTS

Digester – M. Riley

- Report with pictures attached.
- Reviewed events of the failure of the wet gas holder tank during the night of May 16 to the morning of May 17.
 - The digester feed pump malfunctioned and pumped all the manure from the manure buffer tank into the wet gas holder tank.
 - As the event occurred overnight it was not noticed until the next morning that the manure tank was emptied.
 - Disaster recovery was initiated. Continued to pump down the tank. It was noted that the safety valves were covered.
 - K. Zadeh arrived. Also M. Riley conferred with Johannes of GBU.
 - In the morning of May 18 it was reported that manure was running down the side of the gas holder tank and a crack in the tank was discovered. Also, there were concerns about the membrane tearing.
 - A computer control or an electrical issue is suspected, but not confirmed.

Blue Electron – K. Zaden

- Is suspecting, but has not confirmed, that an overloading situation caused a crack in the wet gas holder tank.
- Has reported that the concrete and steel beams have cracked on the west deck, but the east deck has no damage. Also, the membrane has held.
- Is suspecting control issues and is continuing an investigation.

3. DISCUSSIONS

- R. Lockwood questioned whether the system should be shut down when no one is there. M. Riley responded that the process cannot be stopped overnight. K. Zadeh stated that the safety systems must be investigated as this creates a new scenario as to what happens when all safety systems fail.

- K. Zadeh noted that lightening events cause the system to shut down. This should not happen and must be addressed. An email was sent to the electrical engineer. M. Riley stated that there are concerns as when this happens, rain falls and fills the folds of the membrane. K. Zaden stated that an audit will be done of the instrumentation.
- R. Podolak stated that the insurance agent, Eastern Shore, was notified.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by D. Kehoe, seconded by P. Pinckney, to enter into Executive Session at 10:25 a.m. for reasons of possible litigation. Carried.

Motion by P. Pinckney, seconded by S. Nemec, to exit out of Executive Session at 11:20 a.m. Carried.

5. ADJOURNMENT: 11:23 a.m. *Motion by P. Pinckney, seconded by D. Kehoe. Carried.*

7. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

Wanda Jakaub
Asst. Secretary

Raymond Lockwood Jr.
Chairman of the Board