

CCWSA BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
January 20, 2021 at 1:00 pm
7413 County House Road, Auburn, NY

Board of Directors

Paul Dudley, Chair Mike Quill, Vice-Chair- Virtual Christie Waters, Treas.-Virtual John Miller-Virtual
Francis Mitchell Herbert Marshall-Virtual Peter Adams-Virtual Andrew Rindfleisch-Virtual

Administration & Advisors

Jeanine Wilson, Dir.; Patty Schoonmaker, Sr. Clerk; Pat Baum, Sr. Acct. Clerk; Karl Rindfleisch, Wtr/Swr Ops;
Joe Carson, Wtr. Maint. Person; Rick Galbato, Attorney-Virtual; Doug Selby, Advisor-Virtual; Jay Sawyer, CSD2
Contractor-Virtual; Mark Colopy, Financial Advisor-Virtual; Tim Carpenter, MRB Engineering; Seth Jensen, Dir. of
Municipal Utilities(Auburn)-Virtual; Aileen McNabb-Coleman, Chair of Legislature-Virtual; Ben Vitale, Legislator-
Virtual

Approval of Agenda

Herb Marshall made the motion to accept the agenda as presented. Fran Mitchell 2nd the motion. The motion was unanimously approved and carried.

Approval of Minutes, December 9, 2020

Herb Marshall made the motion to accept the minutes for December 9, 2020 as presented. Christie Waters 2nd the motion. The motion was unanimously approved and carried.

Public Hearing (1:06pm): Water and Sewer rates and charges 2021 and Sewer Users Assessment Table

Chairman Paul Dudley opened the Public hearing to establish, fix and revise FY2021 water and sewer rates and approve Sewer Users Assessment Table.

Reports

Water Operations (Rindfleisch/Carson)

Karl Rindfleisch reported that things have been quiet. Joe Carson reported that the water readings have been done and bills mailed out, inventory completed for water and sewer, tested and quoted a price for repairing grinder pumps in Owasco and continues to assist Jay Sawyer in Fair Haven.

County Sewer District 2 (Sawyer)

Jay Sawyer explained not much to report other than the Town of Sterling will be starting the storm sewer projects on West Bay Road on February 15, 2021, weather permitting. A lot of the construction is going to be around our low-pressure sewer lines, they will be in the same ditches as our infrastructure. He will be keeping an eye on that and will communicate with the people in charge. There were a couple little issues with some power but it has been straightened out. The power would come on and off quickly, but it did not break anything. He had to readjust some pumps. He and Joe have been changing oil in Pump Station 3&4. They found a problem with Pump 4; it had a broken electrical supply cable line that was cracked. It will be replaced on Friday of this week. Not much more to report, things are running smooth. Paul Dudley wanted to know the level of Lake Ontario. Jay said it was extremely low.

Paul Dudley welcomed Aileen-McNabb Coleman. She reported that Ben Vitale is the legislator appointment for the Cayuga County Water and Sewer Authority. He will be approved on Tuesday, January 26, 2021. Jeanine noted that Ben sat in on their committee meeting last week and believes he is getting up to speed. She sent him the packet of information that our current Board Members have.

County Infrastructure Report/Master Plan (Selby & Carpenter, MRB)

Doug Selby reported that he had spoken with Jeanine and understands that there was quite a bit of discussion at the project management committee meeting about the project and some alternative approaches since some of the potential members of the regional district have adopted resolutions and oppositions to being involved. He is now asking for an update from Tim. He said that Tim has produced a spreadsheet requested by the project committee.

Tim Carpenter explained that at the project committee meeting, they discussed the project quite a bit. He said that

Doug came up with the idea that maybe we should consider a phased approach on the regional project, which would allow us to identify the different parts of the project and maybe certain parts will be more practical than others and will allow for some progress to be made in the coming years; so when we think about the larger project it's certainly a phase to put in a pipeline from Springport to Aurora which will help to resolve the Aurora project and is a part of the larger regional project as well. Other phases might include the upgrades to the spine of larger pipelines around the county, which have already been identified. The opportunity to send water out to Lake Road and Honoco Road can be considered its own phase because it benefits the people along that route very specifically. Then there is the new water treatment plant that would be its own phase and then possibly the addition of the storage tanks or other ways to improve water, which attempted to identify how many EDU's might be affected by each of these projects and estimated cost to try and understand what each phase looks like and what the funding might look like.

Starting with Springport-Aurora – Phase 1

We have a certain cost associated with this at 4.2 million dollars as the minimum, which will allow water to be transported from Springport to Aurora to resolve the problem with the water treatment plant project in Aurora. This would be an 8-inch line all the way from Springport over to Aurora. This 8-inch line might cost 6.2 million dollars instead of 4.2 million dollars. This is clearly phase 1 because Aurora has a significant need right now, since Aurora cannot practically cover themselves. The smaller project at 4.2 million dollars is going to a debt service of about \$700.00 per EDU's, which is in Aurora right now. If the 12-inch pipe was put in, this would be about \$1,000.00 per EDU for each of the 250 or so EDU's in Aurora. There are New York State guidelines of around \$800.00 per EDU for debt service as a base. So, if either project approaches or surpasses the debt service it would be likely tolerable for that type of project. Even if Aurora had no debt, the addition of \$700.00 or \$1,000.00 would look like a large increase in water prices. They would need help from the County, State or Federal Funding. Herb Marshall noted that at the meeting last week, Karl stated that to make this acceptable to the people we would have to include the Honoco Road section and that would drastically increase the number of people we could stretch the cost to (EDU's). Tim explained that to extend water from Aurora up to Honoco Road it will add approximately 6 million dollars. Tim said that he included all the camps on Sunset Beach and Honoco Road in the EDU's in the outline, Honoco Road is a long Road.

Karl noted that \$700.00 per EDU is not an unreasonable price for a water line. He said in Springport, they are well over \$800.00. Herb mentioned that during the meeting last week they also discussed the possible necessity of doing a sewer line as well as the water line. He thinks we should have a good chance of getting outside funding if we include the sewer line with it.

Mike Quill asked Tim to explain what an EDU means. Tim said it is an equivalent dwelling unit. He said when he talks about the \$700.00 EDU cost; it means an annual debt service for 30 years; $\$700.00 \times 30 \text{ years} = \$21,000.00$. Paul asked Mark Colopy how we get the cost of the EDU down to \$700.00. Mark explained that the USDA would supplement funding with grants to make the project affordable to a particular community. They do look at the income of the community, but also weigh in with State thresholds as well. John Miller noted that he believes it is common sense - if we are putting in a water line, that we are going to increase the EDU's from what they are now and that becomes a matter of where you put the line. If you do the route properly and put the line in places where people have access to water and sewer, they will build where the water and sewer lines are. Also, if you plan it properly you might be able to sell water to places where their well is questionable. Mark asked Tim if there were partial EDU's figured in for lots that have not been built yet. Tim said they normally do not build that in the initial planning packet. John said we need to be intelligent about how we do the pipeline. If we can calculate a more developable goal, this might invite people to move into this area. We need to be smart on how we are selling the water. Herb mentioned that Route 90 would be the most available to develop, but probably not much being built on Sunset Beach and Honoco Road. He feels to make this acceptable we need to get some outside money and should be looking at this right now. John Miller wanted to know if everyone felt that we would be more successful getting Federal and State Aid than the Legislature. Herb asked Mark if he thought the sewer part of the project was suitable for a necessary aid package. Mark responded saying he thinks the sewer and water are going to come together, particularly on the Honoco Road area as a matter of the necessity. He said overall, for the project going down to the Village of Aurora we have matters of health concerns. Outside agencies watching that with the college, with the village, of the lake; I think it's a good project as far as funding goes no matter who goes after it. It's a good application and going to be a good project. These 2 modules (sewer and water) as he called them are excellent projects to put together and to go after for funding. He would start with USDA and EFC.

Ben Vitale –regarding grants for water and sewer- he knows we have an advantage with sewer because of the location of the lake, but he states that he knows a lot of them are based on the yearly average income of the household that you will be serving. So he questions how much grant money will be available for that area. He believes that there is not a lot of low-income families in that area. He also notes that he heard the Village of Aurora still wants to maintain

control of a water district once it's put in and he doesn't understand how this would be possible. Herb said he believes most of the grant money is based on what the income of the area is, but he feels that we have a huge advantage with the sewer project. Ben said he agrees. Herb thinks we need to attack the funding in a different manner than normal. Paul said it still looks like 2 separate projects. He sees Honoco Road sewage as the number one issue, but when you get to Aurora, water is the big issue and they already have sewage. Herb reported that at last week's meeting, he thought that Tim wanted us to select a portion of the Master Plan that we would consider as the first part that we would try to do. We need to see where the Village of Aurora is, the Town of Ledyard, and we need to have an agreement with the Town of Springport to move water through the line. If we are going to consider this, somebody needs to be on top of it and get this homework done. He said part of this homework is having a plan for the funding. He thinks it is more practical to have the water and sewer done at the same time on Honoco Road. He would encourage the Legislator from that district, Mr. Batman to be involved. We all need to work together and prepare a plan that might make this work. Andy Rindfleisch wanted to know if anyone has spoken with the Mayor of Aurora. John Miller said he has discussions with her all the time. He stated that the quality of the water in the lake is critical and that it's certainly on New York State's mind. He said Aurora might want to control its destiny regarding water, but it doesn't have the budget to be able to do that. Wells College wants to get out of the water business. John noted that from his perspective, the Village of Aurora and the Town of Ledyard, which would include Sunset Beach, Lake Road and Honoco Road, would be very receptive to a water and sewer line with CCWSA. He thinks it's a necessity for the village and believes that the Trustees and Town Board will agree. Herb agrees with John and said that someone needs to meet with the local representatives. John told Herb that he can meet with Doug and he would do whatever he could to make the meetings occur depending on what the other Board Member say. He also noted that we need to do what we can as soon as possible because Wells College is in a financial crisis. The whole village will shut down if they go under.

Herb wants the Board to come up with any questions they have and vote on whether this is a project that we want to concentrate on right now.

Paul said that we first started with Aurora, then Honoco Road came up and then the Master Plan. We still need to get back to Aurora and Honoco Road; that's where the need is the greatest. Aurora is going to be out of the water business sooner than later and the lake is not getting any cleaner. Herb said that it is obvious we cannot do all of this at one time.

Andy Rindfleisch agreed to be involved. Karl Rindfleisch made a comment to be aware that Tim has presented a cost of \$700.00/yr. for EDU's but we need to upsize this pipe and if we are going to put this under the Master Plan, we can't expect the residents of Aurora to want to pay for the upgrade. He suggested that the agency ask the County Legislature for a portion of the sales tax or some way to come up with an extra \$4 million to \$5 million dollars out of this \$14 million dollar project to get water to the far end of Honoco Road. Andy told Karl that he thinks legally they cannot pay for extra pipe. Karl said we have two objectives here; getting the pipe to Aurora and Honoco Road and then who is going to pay to upsize the pipe to the future treatment plant. Herb told Karl that the only pipe that needs to be increased is the pipe going from Springport to Aurora. Karl said if you are going to pump from Long Point back, you would have to increase the size of the pipe from Long Point back to Aurora. A discussion of the upsizing cost - Karl explained that it is 10 miles of pipe. Tim Carpenter said it's an awful long run. Karl said that somehow we are going to have to work separate revenue streams to upsize the pipe. Karl stated that he believes that if the Board is considering this project, it's going to be a two-step project; approval to get the pipe in the ground and then find revenue to increase the size of the pipe to key into the Master Plan. John stated that they shouldn't continue to allow the leakage that is occurring into the lake from Honoco Road, Lake Road and Sunset Beach and then the question becomes who is going to share the cost, is it going to completely fall on the local people, or the County, the State and the Federal Government? If it makes sense long term wise to have a 12-inch pipe vs. an 8-inch pipe, then that is the decision we will have to make.

Herb Marshall made a motion that CCWSA will select the connection of waterline from Springport to the Village of Aurora for the project as a priority for the Master Plan, concurrent with the water and sewer district for Honoco Road, etc. – that we include both the water and sewer and that we have a separate cost factor that includes the upsize of the waterline to meet the requirements of the regional water project. The increase cost factor funding will need to analyze and determine the cost of that portion and how to spread that cost amongst all users of the regional water project. We must determine if the Village of Aurora and the Town of Ledyard want us to do this project.

Paul Dudley reported that Herb Marshall made a motion to prioritize Aurora and Honoco Road for water and sewer both and asked if anyone wanted to have discussion regarding this. Tim Carpenter said that up to this point we have discussed a regional water project and to add sewer to this project now is a very complicated matter and it doesn't

seem appropriate to him. We can pursue two projects simultaneously at the same time. John Miller said why would you do the water line without the sewer line. There was discussion back and forth.

Jeanine noted that the phases are outlined in a good manner. She recommends the need for two separate motions. We are going to need these motions and resolutions for funding applications. The funding we have from the County is specifically scoped for the water project, so we need to be clear moving forward with the County. John stated that the big picture here is the quality of the lake and the quality of water in the lake. He said if we put together a plan that is totally the water line then shame on us. Jeanine explained that we have always discussed the sewer line. We already have the preliminary engineer report together; MRB Engineering has already completed that report, so we have been doing this simultaneously. It is a matter of clarification for the funding.

Peter Adams had questions - We discussed the cost of approximately \$700.00 per EDU/annually for water, do we have an idea of what the cost would be for sewer? Tim explained that the cost to put a low pressure sewer system in on Honoco Road and to pump it back to the Village of Aurora would be about 6 million dollars and this includes Sunset Beach and Lake Road. This would be about another \$700.00 - \$1,000.00 per EDU for sewer he said. The sewer is very fundable because it has a direct interest of the DEC. Peter asked Mark Colopy if it was possible to get two grants; one for water and one for sewer. Mark said that they would be separate. Peter said looking at both projects for a total of 12 million dollars, what is the likelihood of grant money for each project? Mark reported that the odds were more favorable for the sewer and that we were told 25% for water which would keep us under the threshold and around 40-50% for sewer.

Seth Jensen (City of Auburn) reported that the City of Auburn has been quite successful in getting grant funding as a water quality improvement project like the sewer on Honoco Road would be.

Paul reported it was time to take a vote on the water and sewer. Andy said he accepts the amendment. Paul stated to Herb that they were going to vote on his motion; however, they were going to split it into two votes and vote on water and sewer separately. Herb said if we want to vote on them separately it was ok with him, but he wants to vote on the sewer first and will not vote in favor of water unless we are doing the sewer. Paul said that Andy has seconded the motion and has agreed to it.

Herb Marshall made a motion that CCWSA will prioritize a low-pressure sewer project for Honoco Road with connections wherever possible to the final transmission point at the Village of Aurora. This sewer project will be done concurrently with the water project to service the same area. Determination of willingness from the Village of Aurora and the Town of Ledyard must be made. Second by Andy Rindfleisch. The motion was unanimously approved and carried.

Herb Marshall made a motion that CCWSA will select the connection of waterline from Springport to the Village of Aurora for the priority first phase for the development of the Regional Water Project. A separate cost factor will be determined for the upsize of the waterline to meet the requirements of the regional water project. The increase cost factor funding will need to analyze and determine the cost of that portion and how to spread that cost amongst all users of the regional water project, the Village should not bore the entire cost of the increase in size of waterline and appurtenances. Determination of willingness from the Village of Aurora and the Town of Ledyard must be made. Second by Andy Rindfleisch. The motion was unanimously approved and carried.

Herb said thank you all very much.

County Water District Project (Selby & Carpenter)

IDA in Aurelius low pressure sewer project – Doug Selby reported that the design work for the project has been completed. He mentioned that they had a design review meeting via the internet with the engineer and offered comments and questions on behalf of CCWSA for clarifications needed regarding plans and specifications. I do not know as of today if the plans have been submitted to DEC but that is the next step in the process. The discussion on the design also revolved around the IDA's current funding to pursue the actual construction of the project. He said that the City of Auburn has been generous in offering bidding assistance for the project, which will help speed things along. Herb mentioned that at the meeting yesterday afternoon they discussed that there are a couple more items to submit, but were sure to get an approval in one to two weeks. Also, they voted in favor of going in with the City's bidding procedure which would help on the bidding process to make it easier for us to do. It was approved going forward with the entire project, starting with the smaller part first. IDA will then make sure that they have funding before we start the larger part of the project. IDA also approved hiring the engineering firm from Wisconsin to be the engineers for this

project. Andy said this is correct to Herb. Herb thanked Doug for the work he has done on this project.

Doug wanted to know what the Board's thoughts were on completing the Regional District Formation Report. Tim Carpenter responded by saying the Map Planning Report is mostly completed for the Regional Project idea. Having heard what has been discussed today, it may make sense to repackage this into a smaller format for the project in which we have selected to pursue today. He will review and discuss this at the next meeting as to what makes sense. In order to form a new water district you will need a map plan report. Andy said we should talk to Keith Batman about the timing. Herb feels it is necessary to have a second source of water for the whole county and the City of Auburn but said we will deal with this after we see if we can do the first step. Ben Vitale responded saying that we should take our time to complete this. He said that he needs some time to get on the Board and check with the legislature. It's more complicated and we need to figure this out before we jump to the next step. Seth Jensen noted that his thought from the Steering Committee Meeting was that they did not oppose the second source of water; the bottom line was the concern that they did not want to pay for it. He believes that the Steering Committee would be more open to a phased approach. Andy noted that we should have another Steering Committee Meeting soon; otherwise we are going to lose the momentum. Doug recommends doing that because we have a lot invested in it at this point and time. We have only had a couple meetings and that's not enough time to formulate a strong position and opinion. He also said that maybe the best approach is to take it slow and have regular meetings to keep everyone engaged as the Board moves forward with the project to support Aurora and Honoco Road at the same time continuing to pursue the Regional District. Fran Mitchell stated that he has concerns with the 2 million dollar difference between the 8-inch and 12-inch pipe. This should be considered by the Steering Committee.

Current Activities/Project Updates (Wilson, Director)

Jeanine said that she wanted to be clear with the scope of the regional water project and the sewer project for the engineer. She stated that she will check schedules and schedule a meeting and possibly hold it at CCWSA instead of the church if it is only going to be a few in-person attendees.

Financial – Christie Waters (Treasurer); Fran Mitchell (Audit Cmte. Chair)

Christie Waters asked for a motion to pay the bills, noting there were some late additions and wanted a vote on the bills that made it to the DropBox.

Christie Waters made the motion to pay the bills as presented so far, approximately \$77,000.00. Andy Rindfleisch 2nd the motion. The motion was unanimously approved and carried.

Fran Mitchell made the motion to approve the reconciliation report(s) for the December 31, 2020 checking account, he found no exceptions. Andy Rindfleisch 2nd the motion. The motion was unanimously approved and carried.

Legal– Attorney Riccardo Galbato, Galbato Law Firm – Updates

Rick Galbato reported that he sent the Board the "red-lined" agreements with the Town of Springport for Sewer District #1 and Town of Springport Water District #1 and Water District #2. This is based upon an agreement that Jeanine secured with the Town of Springport to increase the hourly labor rate from \$50.00 to \$60.00. He asked for a motion to authorize our chairman to sign these red line agreements.

Herb Marshall made a motion to authorize and approve the Chairman to execute the agreements with the Town of Springport to increase our hourly rate by \$10 which will be \$60/hr. Christie Waters 2nd the motion. The motion was approved by 7 board members, with Andy Rindfleisch abstained, and the motion was carried.

Public Hearing – rates for water and sewer

Jeanine reported that the recommendation is to continue the water and sewer rates and charges as established. She said that the budget continues to be stable and will continue to watch closely throughout the year to be sure collections are adequate.

Herb Marshall made a motion to close the Public Hearing and to authorize, establish, fix and revise (if applicable) the FY21 water and sewer rates and charges as presented. This motion also reaffirms the County Sewer District 2 Sewer User Unit Assessment Table. Andy Rindfleisch 2nd the motion. The motion was unanimously approved and carried.

Public Hearing now closed.

New Business/Old Business Updates

Audit is in progress. The auditors from Insero will be returning on February 1, 2021.

Governance Committee – Peter Adams reported that he has had a consultation with Herb Marshall and Fran Mitchell who are also on the Governance Committee. The committee is to make recommendations on an annual basis for Board of Directors and Committee Chairs. We put forth a resolution to Jeanine for this year. See attached list for proposed Board of Directors and Committee Chairs for the 2021 term by the Governance Committee. There were no other recommendations.

Peter Adams made a motion to approve the appointments as presented as the recommendations for the Board of Directors (Paul Dudley as Chair; Michael Quill as Vice-Chair; Christy Waters as Treasurer) and Committee Chairs for the 2021 term by the Governance Committee. Fran Mitchell 2nd the motion. The motion was unanimously approved and carried.

In addition, Herb Marshall requested to select other professional appointments and official publications.

Herb Marshall made a motion to authorize and approve appointments of: Attorney – Rick Galbato; Bond Council – William Marquardt; Financial Advisor – Mark Colopy; Secretary to the Board – Patty Schoonmaker; Newspaper for official publications – The Citizen and Lakeside. Fran Mitchell 2nd the motion. The motion was unanimously approved and carried.

Establish - Meeting date and time:

Voting took place to continue the Board Meetings to be held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1:00 pm. - All in favor. Unanimously approved and carried.

Herb discussed to have the project committee meetings on the first Wednesday of each month, next meeting to be held on February 3, 2021.

Herb Marshall moved to adjourn our Board Meeting until February 17, 2021.

Next Meeting

February 17, 2021 at 1:00 pm, 7413 County House Road

Respectfully Submitted:

Patty Schoonmaker, Sr. Clerk