

GRATIOT AREA WATER AUTHORITY
April 21, 2017

A regular meeting of the Gratiot Area Water Authority was called to order at 12:04 p.m. by Chairman Moore in the Alma Municipal Building. A quorum of the Board was present.

Board members present: Phillip Moore, Tom Reed, Melissa Allen, Kurt Giles, Don Pray, and Roxann Harrington.

Board members absent: none.

Others present: Ron Turner, John Willemin, Keith Risdon, Paule Borle, Dave Ringle, Rosemary Horvath, Theo VonWallmenich, Bill Pilmore, and Bobbie Marr.

Motion by Allen, seconded by Reed, to approve the minutes of March 10, 2017, as presented. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Requests for Payment

Motion by Reed, seconded by Giles, to approve payment to Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber for Invoice #363896 in the amount of \$29,880.50 for hydrogeological services rendered through January 27, 2017. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Motion by Allen, second by Pray, to approve payment to Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber for Invoice #365254 in the amount of \$5,446.00 for services rendered through February 24, 2017. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Other Business

Resident Concerns

Authority members discussed concerns of residents, Sandra Smalley and Bill McDaid. FTC&H geologist, Alex Frye, met with Garrett Powell at Smalley's home. Pump seems to be running fine.....issue may be a fouled screen. Ron Turner explained that the resident believes pump is running longer and thinks start-up sediment from the new wells may be the cause. FTC&H also sent someone to McDaid's home, but the resident had already replaced the water pump. Ron Turner said he had spoken with McDaid on the phone and suggested he contact a well driller. McDaid did not call back with any further concerns. FTC&H will send Garrett Powell out to follow up on the issue at Smalley's home. Willemin noted he doesn't see any loss in ground water levels due to pumping.

Depreciation

Authority members moved to the next agenda item, depreciation of equipment and buildings at the water plant. St. Louis Treasurer and Alma Treasurer have been working on a list of assets and rates of depreciation in relation to current charges for city water. Authority members agreed their policy would be to fully fund the costs of depreciation and projected repairs and replacements. Additional water rate changes may be necessary when the cities of Alma and St. Louis have determined depreciation rates for their infrastructures.

Budget Review

Ron Turner presented the proposed FY 2017 Annual Budget. He answered questions from members about rising administrative costs and explained most of the change is due to increases in health care and retirement funding requirements. He reviewed the remaining budget and capital improvement requests and answered additional questions from members.

Engineering Update

John Willemin, from Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber provided the following update:

Water Plant

- RCL is continuing work on the punchlist and project closeout documents.

Booster Stations

- RCL is continuing work on the punchlist and project closeout documents.

Wells 10 and 11 Raw Water Transmission Main

- Crawford Contracting was awarded the RWTM project. Contracts have been signed.
- A preconstruction meeting will be held April 19, 9:00 a.m., at St. Louis City Hall.
- The Contractor has begun the shop drawing submittal process.
- The Contractor plans to begin mobilizing and removing pavement the week of April 17.
- The Contractor plans to begin at the water plant and work towards the well house sites.

Wells 10 and 11 Well Houses

- JR Heineman was awarded the Well Houses project. Contracts have been signed, but not yet returned to the Contractor pending signing of updated easements between the City and the land owner.
- A preconstruction meeting will be held April 19, 10:00 a.m., at St. Louis City Hall.
- Consumers will obtain easements from the property owner for the electrical service lines to serve the well house sites.
- The Contractor has begun the shop drawing submittal process.

Hydrogeological Study and Well 12

- The groundwater supply evaluation study report has been issued to the Authority.
- A meeting was held with the Authority and EPA to discuss the preliminary results.
- Work regarding locating future wells remains on hold.

**Motion by Harrington, seconded by Reed, to receive and place on file the Engineer's Report for April.
Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.**

Water Production Report

Ron Turner offered the water production report for March. He noted there had been a problem with a meter overread on March 6th and 7th, but the problem was detected early and an adjustment was made for the overread.

**Motion by Reed, seconded by Giles, to receive and place on file the March Water Production Report.
Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.**

Financial Statements

Motion by Giles, seconded by Allen, to receive and place on file Financial Statements for April. Motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Easement Agreement

Kurt Giles presented an amendment to an easement for the Water Authority's review. The amendment moves a current easement for conservation of farmland and less disruption to the property owner. He also offered an easement agreement for review that provides for ingress-egress travel for the property owner.

Motion by Pray, seconded by Allen, to approve, in substantially the same form presented, an Amendment to Easement Agreement which amends an easement agreement with Darwin and Nancy Peska dated August 19, 2013, and to approve an Easement Agreement granting ingress-egress access to Darwin and Nancy Peska across a portion of the Authority's property known as Wells 10 and 11, also to authorize Chairman to sign necessary documents. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Appropriations

Motion by Harrington, seconded by Pray, to approve Warrant 17-10 and the several amounts scheduled therein, also to authorize the city Treasurer to issue checks for payment of the same. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

Ron Turner explained that he has tentatively scheduled a construction progress meeting for Arcada Township residents along the raw water transmission main route for May 24th or May 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the Public Library. He asked Authority Board members to attend if possible.

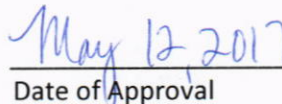
Public Comment

None.

Motion by Pray, seconded by Giles, to adjourn the meeting at 1:19 p.m. Motion carried with unanimous voice vote.



Sara Youngs, Recording Secretary



Date of Approval