

A regular meeting of the Gratiot Area Water Authority was held at the Alma Public Library and called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Chairperson Kurt Giles. A quorum of the Authority Board was present.

*Roll Call*

Authority members present: Kurt Giles, Matt Schooley, Roxann Harrington, Bill Leonard, and Jim Wheeler.  
Authority members not present: Matt Schooley and Tom Reed.  
Others present: David Ringle, Keith Risdon, Bill Pilmore, and John Willemin.

*Approval of Agenda*

**Motion by Authority Member Reed, seconded by Authority Member Leonard, to approve the agenda. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.**

*Approval of Minutes*

**Motion by Authority Member Harrington, seconded by Authority Member Wheeler, to approve the minutes of May 14, 2021. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.**

Authority Member Schooley entered the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

*Communications*

*Requests for Payment*

A request for payment for \$136,385.00 to E & L Contractors, Inc for the Final Clarifier Painting Repairs.  
**Motion by Authority Member Wheeler, seconded by Authority Member Harrington, to approve payment to E & L Contractors, Inc. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.**

*Requests for Purchase*

*Recommendations on Bids*

*New Business*

Chairman Giles offered discussion of returning to in-person meetings for GAWA starting in July. The authority does not need to resume in-person meetings until 2022 due to county and state policies. Authority member Schooley mentioned the board could meet at the Alma City Hall or the Alma Public Library. To accommodate work schedules during the summer, the Water Authority will continue to meet via Zoom.

*Unfinished Business*

*Reports*

Chairman Giles offered the Water Production Report and the Financial Statements through May 31, 2021 for consideration.

Chairman Giles asked John Willemin of Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber to give construction updates on Well #12. Members agreed.

John mentioned they are continuing with the design for the SLWSR. The hydro geo report is almost complete and will be submitted to the state. Bill Pilmore, Water Plant Superintendent, asked J & K

Communications, Inc. to give an assessment of the existing radio system to make sure it is suitable to add to another site. If it is, they can proceed with the licensed radio system for telemetry. If not, they would have to swap out the system for a cellular based system. John also mentioned updating the SCADA software. Do they want to switch to the VTScada software? It would be a little more money to upgrade to the VTScada but would save on annual costs and support over time. They will decide after the assessment is completed by J & K Communications, Inc.

They spoke with Consumers about getting gas service to well #12. It would cost around \$14,000.00 to run the lines. The gas would be an additional installation cost but would allow them to go with gas heaters. Gas would be less to operate each year and more reliable than the electric heaters. The capital costs would be picked up by the EPA so this would be a good time to run the gas lines. They are also looking into running a gas line to Well #9. They are hoping to have a 90% set design ready for the water authority and the EPA to approve and then submit them to the state. Once the permit is issued from the state then work can be bid out. Chairman Giles asked John if they were planning on a diesel generator regardless of the heating fuel selection. John told him yes. The quote from Consumer's would not cover running a line for a gas generator, but it would be more energy efficient and reliable in the long run.

One of the residents near an existing well used for monitoring would like to switch it over to a residential well. There is an agreement with the Water Authority to turn over rights for the resident to use the well since it is on their land. It needs to get approval from EGLE. Kurt mentioned there was some positive movement from the local health department for the landowner to gain access to the well.

The current term of cooperative agreement with the EPA and their funding for the SLWSR will run out at the end of this calendar year. Chairman Giles said they have applied for an extension of time through the third quarter of 2023. The authority is not planning to use all that time but want to get Well #12 completed and operating before the end of the extension and the grant runs out. This will allow the authority to make sure everything is up and running smoothly with funds still available for repairs and upgrades. Construction should be wrapped up in about a year. John asked if it was the intentions of St. Louis to move forward with decommissioning the wells before the completion of Well #12. Chairman Giles told him yes.

Authority Member Schooley left the meeting at 12:28 p.m.

**Motion by Authority Member Wheeler, seconded by Authority Member Leonard, to receive the May 2021 Water Production Report, Financial Statements for May 2021, and update regarding SLWSR. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.**

*Appropriations*

**Motion by Authority Member Harrington, seconded by Authority Member Wheeler, to approve and ratify the claims and accounts for May 2021 in the amount of \$25,456.06. Motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.**

*Public Comment*


**Gratiot Area Water Authority**  
**June 11, 2021**

Dave Ringle, Public Operations Director, gave an update into hiring a new Water Plant Supervisor. They are hoping to have a decision within a week. Thank you to Bill for your cooperation through this process and helping with the interview process.

*Adjournment*

**Motion by Authority Member Wheeler, seconded by Authority Member Leonard, to adjourn the meeting. Chairperson Giles adjourned the meeting at 12:38 p.m.**

  
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Kim Fellows, Recording Secretary

  
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Date of Approval