

Minutes
MCRWASA Board of Directors Regular Meeting
July 23, 2020

The Martin County Regional Water and Sewer Authority (MCRWASA) Board of Directors met for its Regular Meeting on Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in the MCRWASA Water Treatment Plant Building, 1001 Park Street, Williamston, NC.

ASSEMBLY

Members present: Chairman David Bone, Board Director Tommy Bowen (alternate), Treasurer/Deputy Secretary Cindy Ange, and Deputy Secretary Christina Craft. Board Director Julius Patrick, Vice Chairman Al Chesson, and Board Director Stacy Stalls were virtually present via a conference call.

Board Director William Coffield (alternate) was not in attendance.

Others present: Martin County: Deputy Secretary Jessica Godard; Elizabeth Mitchell (Lead for NC Fellow) and Treasurer/Deputy Secretary Cindy Ange; SUEZ: Project Manager Joe Thaxton.

Chairman Bone called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Director Chesson made a MOTION to approve the agenda as presented, with a SECOND by Director Patrick. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 28, 2020 Regular Session

Director Patrick made a MOTION to approve the minutes, with a SECOND by Director Stalls. The Board APPROVED the motion unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

BUSINESS ITEMS

Annual Board Officer Elections

Chairman Bone stated the MCRWASA By-Laws require the annual elections of Board Officers in the month of July. The following officers were up for election: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Deputy Secretary. Vice Chairman Chesson MOTIONED to continue with the current slate of officers: Chairman, Mr. David Bone; Vice Chairman, Mr. Al Chesson; Secretary, Ms. Christina Craft; Treasurer, Ms. Cindy Ange, and Deputy Secretary, Ms. Jessica Godard. Director Patrick SECONDED the motion. The motion was unanimously APPROVED.

Outsourcing the RFQ Process

Chairman Bone reported one of the recommendations received during the Merger / Regionalization Study results presentation at the July 15, 2020 meeting was to advertise the plant

management contract for competitive bids. A proposal has been received from The Wooten Company to manage the process for requests for qualifications (RFQ) for the operation, maintenance and management of the Water Treatment Plant and Distribution System. Chairman Bone reported the contract was negotiated down to a maximum of \$10,500. Without fulltime staff, Chairman Bone recommended outsourcing the RFQ process. The Wooten Company managed the RFQ process when the plant was first put into operation, has familiarity and institutional knowledge of the plant. Vice Chairman Chesson agreed with the recommendation. Vice Chairman Chesson MOTIONED to approve the Wooten Company proposal to manage the RFQ process in the amount of \$10,500. Director Patrick SECONDED the motion. The motion was unanimously APPROVED.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

Merger / Regionalization Study Grant

Chairman Bone reported a thorough presentation by the McGill Company was provided last week at the joint meeting with MCRWASA, Town of Williamston and Martin County Boards. He questioned Vice Chair Chesson if he received any feedback from the Town Board concerning the study results. Vice Chair Chesson reported the Town Board has not met since the joint meeting. Chairman Bone reported there is no silver bullet to solve the challenges, but there are strategies to move forward in a positive direction and make incremental progress. There is a desire to be comprehensive in the path forward and consider all options.

The first step is competitive pricing with the RFQ process. Treasurer/Deputy Secretary Ange and Bone reached out to Davenport Consultants regarding the County Water Enterprise fund finances. Davenport helped to take the water district debt to the bottom market to take advantage of better debt rates a few years prior. Davenport feels there will be an opportunity with the County Water District debt in 2024. Davenport did not feel there will be any savings in the MCRWASA debt as the USDA interest rate is very low. Chairman Bone is hopeful to receive a written statement of Davenport in the near future. Treasurer/Deputy Secretary Ange reported a legal requirement for the next three years to stay with the current financing unless the rates were incredibly good with a revenue bond. Chairman Bone did not feel it was a good move at present but recommended waiting four years to move forward on debt reorganization.

Chairman Bone reported the Town and County have an opportunity to partner with joint purchasing of supplies and combining staff to consider when moving forward. Chesson reported it would be most advantageous to have all municipalities involved, and McGill emphasized more involved would reduce the overall cost.

Temporary Switch to Chlorine Decontamination Schedule

Chairman Bone reported the temporary switch to chlorine decontamination is performed annually began on June 8, 2020, and is scheduled to run until July 27, 2020. State drinking water guidelines recommend that water systems using chloramines periodically switch back to free chlorine for a minimum of three weeks. This brief, scheduled change in disinfectant is a standard water treatment practice to keep water mains clean and free of potentially harmful bacteria throughout the year. Switching to free chlorine at this time is a proactive step to ensure is regularly monitored to ensure the water delivered meets or exceeds the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

Project Manager Thaxton reported good results from the Town and County. Conversion back to chloramination will begin Tuesday July 28th. He reported to be unaware of any issues. The Bailey pump station will go offline until chloramines reach the station. Director Stalls reported the flushing of Town lines is on schedule. Project Manager Thaxton reported some yellow water complaints, due to high manganese out of the river. The yellow water lasted about one week. The treatment was adjusted to add more chlorine at the pulsator to oxidize the magnesium. The Town had more complaints than the County as they are closer to the treatment plant. Director Stalls reported not hearing of any complaints in the last three weeks. Chairman Bone reported the complaints were mostly during the beginning of the switch over to chlorine and were handled quickly thereafter.

Monthly Report from SUEZ

Project Manager Thaxton reported the production report for the last fiscal year, along with May and June reports, were submitted. There are no issues in the maintenance area. The MCAP (maintenance cap) for last year was under the contract obligation by \$17,431, and the invoice has been sent to Treasurer Ange.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Bone adjourned the meeting around 3:25 p.m. The next regular MCRWASA Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2020 at 3:00 pm.

David Bone, MCRWASA Chairman

Christina Craft, NCMCC
MCRWASA Secretary