

**UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING
08/01/2022**

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CALL TO ORDER

Board President Ehman called the regular meeting of the Utilities Service Board to order at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Utilities Service Boardroom at the City of Bloomington Utilities Service Center, 600 East Miller Drive, Bloomington, Indiana.

Board members present: Amanda Burnham, Jean Capler, Seth Debro, Jeff Ehman, Megan Parmenter, Jim Sherman, Kirk White, ex officio Scott Robinson

Board members absent: ex officio Jim Sims

Staff present: Jane Fleig, James Hall, Nolan Hendon, Dan Hudson, Vic Kelson, Holly McLaughlin, LaTreana Teague, Michelle Waldon, Jason Wenning, Chris Wheeler

Guests present: Justin Greaves

MINUTES

Board member Burnham moved, and Board Member Debro seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the July 18 meeting. Motion carried, seven ayes.

CLAIMS

Parmenter moved, and Debro seconded the motion to approve the Standard Invoices: Vendor invoices included \$398,473.48 from the Water Utility, \$122,806.20 from the Water Construction Fund, \$530,534.89 from the Wastewater Utility, and \$71,470.52 from the Stormwater Utility.

Ehman asked why a claim from A&M Graphics for the Get the Lead Out brochures and why they were charged to stormwater.

Finance Manager Waldon said the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) purchases are currently tracked in one fund. There was a big purchase for a vehicle for that, and it will be used for the lead and moved to stormwater, so we decided to put it in stormwater to start with, and once we get reimbursed, we will move it to water.

Ehman also asked about a payment to Smith Design Group to review the Residential Stormwater Grant project. What is the need for the external review?

Director Kelson answered that CBU staff decided in the 2022 budget that we would hire the consultant to bring more equity to the process. We have discovered that people who have the means were able to hire an engineer to help them with their design, and others could not, so we found a significant disparity in the quality, completeness, and overall presentation of design. Therefore, the decision was made last year through the budget process to underwrite to make the program more equitable.

Motion carried, seven ayes. Total claims approved: \$1,123,285.09.

Burnham moved, and Debro seconded the motion to approve the Utility Bills:

Utility invoices included \$6,905.56 from the Water Utility and \$9,886.01 from the Wastewater Utility.

Motion carried, seven ayes. Total claims approved: \$16,791.57.

Burnham moved, and Debro seconded the motion to approve the Wire Transfers, Fees, and Payroll in the amount of \$372,836.38. Motion carried, seven ayes.

Burnham moved, and Debro seconded the motion to approve the Customer Refunds: Customer refunds included \$1,814.71 from the Wastewater Fund.
Motion carried, seven ayes. Total refunds approved: \$1,814.71.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Clouse Inspection Services, LLC., \$12,000.00, Backwash tank repair at Dillman WWTP.
- b. Greeley and Hansen, LLC., \$24,300.00, Phase Two of the Capital Improvements Plan at Dillman WWTP.
- c. Eagle Ridge Civil Engineering Services, LLC., \$22,500.00, First amendment to an agreement for the Downtown Culvert Modeling Extension.

The agreements were approved as no items were removed from the Consent Agenda by the Board. Total contracts approved: \$58,800.00.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH VERILY LIFE SCIENCES LLC

Assistant Director of Environmental Programs Hall presented an agreement for CBU to provide wastewater samples at the cost of \$150 per sample paid by Verily to CBU.

Board member Sherman asked what the money from the samples would go.

Hall answered the money would go to our wastewater fund. Verily will provide bottles, shipping containers, and prepaid shipping boxes. We collect samples multiple times weekly for the CDC program or our sampling.

Burnham asked if we would have access to the data collected. Hall said yes and that it was part of the contract. In terms of their project, Burnham also asked if they have a timeline. Hall said the contract is for 12 months, and they can renew for another 12 months.

Board member White asked if Verily was just looking at COVID or other viruses. He commented that it would add Bloomington to a national study or database and that it could be beneficial. Hall said he assumes they are only looking at SARS-CoV-2 because it is part of a national program called the Sewer Coronavirus Alert Network, or SCAN.

Ehman said we had discussed working with an IU professor and asked if this is separate. Hall said it is separate. Ehman also asked if we anticipate it being any more timely than the turnaround we get now and does this alleviate the need for any sampling we are doing now. Hall said it is not more timely and that we do not need to stop anything we are doing now for this program. Ehman asked whether we give up any rights in terms of the data usage and its publication. For example, can they use this data however they want? City Attorney Chris Wheeler answered that CBU has no authority or right to object to how Verily will use the samples once they receive them. Once Verily receives the samples, it becomes their responsibility to handle them however they wish to publish whatever they determine from their findings.

Parmenter commented that when they collect for this and something else, they take from the same water source simultaneously and see each company's results. Hall said there is an auto-sampler at the influent at each wastewater treatment plant, and it is sampling every hour for 24 hours. That container is then taken into the lab at each of the plants, and the Environmental team goes out and takes from that same container and fills whatever bottles we are filling at that time. So the sample is collected in one large container, not over separate times or in individual bottles. So it is very method-specific how the different companies concentrate and use the sample.

Burnham moved, and White seconded the motion to approve the agreement with Verily Life Sciences, LLC. Motion carried, seven ayes.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH ELECTRIC PLUS, INC.

Kelson presented a contract that closes the books on an emergency service that has already been completed. This was for one of the feed wires at the Dillman plant that goes from the pump station at the head of the plant where the lift pumps are to the polymer building transformer. That wire shorted out completely and disabled the mixers at the EQ basin and the power up there. It was disruptive to the operation. We did an emergency agreement through the Controller's office at the time, and this is now that contract being formally approved. The total amount of the agreement is \$55,545.00.

Burnham moved, and Debroy seconded the motion to approve the agreement with Electric Plus, Inc. Motion carried, seven ayes.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH WYN INDUSTRIES, INC.

Kelson presented a contract related to leaking storage tanks at the Monroe plant. Several tanks will be repaired. The first is a sodium hypochlorite bulk tank, a storage tank. There are two tanks, #1 and #2. Both tanks leak, but #2 is in a worse condition. We cannot repair both at once because we need to use chlorine at the plant. We will start with # 2 and later do #1. The fluoride bulk tank and the fluoride day tank both have highly acidic materials, and we will also repair those two tanks.

Sherman asked how much a new tank cost as opposed to repairing one.

Kelson answered a lot more; replacing them would be costly. The vendor looked at them and said they could repair them.

Burnham moved, and Debroy seconded the motion to approve the agreement with WYN Industries, Inc. Motion carried, seven ayes.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

New Business from the Board: none

New Business from Staff:

Kelson introduced Justin Greaves, a professor at Indiana University. Greaves' lab has an apparatus for doing virus scanning of wastewater. CBU staff have been meeting with him and representatives of IU, IU Health, and the Monroe County Health Dept. to look at the prospects of doing a community-wide, more comprehensive sampling program for COVID and other viruses. There have also been talks in general about Influenza and Monkeypox. Dr. Greaves' office has provided estimates for what it would cost per year to do different numbers of samples each week. We hope to have the interested parties, that would be the four interested parties, contribute to the effort, and CBU would do the in-kind step of collecting the samples and taking them to the lab. We would be able to get a faster turnaround on the results as well.

Sherman asked Greaves when you sample for COVID, can you determine the variant?

Greaves answered yes for the variant, and the method depends on the type of variant you are looking for.

White commented that there had been some meetings to discuss how this works. The encouraging thing is we have the same type of cooperation that we have had with different governments, IU Health, and other parties through COVID and continue with this discussion. So far, everyone is very optimistic about their ability to contribute financially to doing the sampling locally. This will allow us to have faster results. We are at a point in COVID where we are not institutionally testing as much. If we want to know when an outbreak will happen, how far along it is, or where it is, we cannot depend on the healthcare system because everyone is doing an at-home test, and it does not get reported. Also, it is hard to tell the concentration of a disease's prevalence in your community.

Burnham asked Greaves if he was collaborating with other universities, if there are other cities on this work, or if this is strictly something he is doing in Bloomington.

Greaves said that he had reached out to people in Chicago as they have a state-wide system. He had also reached out to some contacts in Kentucky as well. In addition, he hoped to work with a team in Indianapolis.

White asked Greaves how this might contribute to the bigger base of knowledge for infectious disease by being able to study research that you might be undertaking. How might you be able to use this to study trends so that it adds to the body of knowledge that we have for some of these diseases?

Greaves answered there is a lot of work done on this issue. One of the main things that came out of the pandemic with measuring COVID and wastewater is that we can see the peaks before hospitalizations. So we have improved that and understand the prevalence in the community.

Ehman asked if samples are taken at sites around the city or just the plants.

Kelson: just the plants

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Property and Planning Subcommittee Chair Burnham reported the committee heard plans from staff for the Winston Thomas site. The committee is starting the conversations on what it would look like to build a new location for the Utilities Service Center potentially.

Kelson added that the master plan outlines some conceptualized ideas for how a new site could be laid out. Currently, CBU is bursting at the seams in the garage and the service center. We also have vehicles that do not have adequate storage space. The master plan focuses on the future and the likely growth of CBU over time. There is room at the Winston Thomas site for us to do that. The site was a wastewater plant for a long time and is already owned by the city. The master plan was completed two years ago, and when we embarked on that master planning process, one of the board's questions was what will work look like in the future at that stage of the pandemic. Based on our discussion on the board, we are looking at the finances, the design, and the cost. After that, we can put some better numbers together. Then, we would pursue getting a design architect and engineer to look at everything we need to do to redevelop that site.

We have to look at how it will be funded and financed and how it works together with rate cases. We are not making decisions at this point.

Sherman asked if there was a timeline.

Kelson said we would like to move on it as quickly as possible, understanding that it is a complicated project. The administration downtown would like us to move as soon as possible.

STAFF REPORTS

CBU staff will bring the 2023 Budget to Council on Tuesday, August 30. The USB meeting on Monday, August 15, will include a budget presentation for the Finance Subcommittee at 4:00 p.m.

There are new vacancies in T&D, and we are working with HR to fill those as quickly as we can.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Burnham moved to adjourn; the meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Jeff Ehman, President

Date