

MEETING MINUTES
GENESEE COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
JULY 9, 2024



A meeting of the Genesee County Water Resources Agency was held in the Large Conference Room of Genesee County Building 2, 3837 West Main Street Road, Batavia, on Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 8:00 AM.

Members Present: Bruno DeFazio, Gary Maha, Diane Fowler, Christian Yunker, Steve Mountain, and Hiedi Librock.

Members Absent: Shelley Stein, Danielle Cummins, Stephen Ferry

Others Present: In- Person: Tim Hens, Genesee County Public Works; Matt Landers, Genesee County Manager; Kevin Andrews, Genesee County Real Property Tax Services; Justin Gerace, Genesee County Public Works; Jason Foote, CPL; Mark Boylan, Genesee County Attorney; Brett Frank, City of Batavia Public Works; Mark Boylan; Todd Ferguson, Monroe County Water Authority (MCWA); Caroline Berkemeier, Genesee County Health. Via Zoom: Rachael Tabelski, Batavia City Manager

Mr. DeFazio called the meeting to order at 8:08 AM.

1) Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Hiedi Librock to approve the meeting minutes of May 7, 2024, seconded by Gary Maha and carried 6-0.

2) Phase 2 Construction Update –

i) Golden Road Pump Station

Mr. Hens reports that the building and all site work for the Golden Road Pump Station has been completed. Pump startup is scheduled for July 25th (Previously delayed).

ii) Existing Pump Station Upgrades

Mr. Gerace reports that there are still some critical materials awaiting delivery the Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) for Morgan Rd that should be delivered in the next month or two. All other VFD's have been delivered. The Xylem pumps are expected to have a 20 week lead time (expedited delivery possible). CPL received more information from Xylem to complete pump submittals to send for MCWA review. CPL has provided MCWA with an outline of all shutdowns for review. Currently adjusting schedule/sequencing for electric pumps required for all pump station shutdowns. In an effort to streamline the rehab pump submittals, Genesee County and CPL have decided to work directly with Patterson Pumps to avoid further delays. Previous subcontractor was unresponsive. The county will switch to new manufacturer for the new pumps going into the existing stations. Public Works is preparing updated information about the new pumps to send to the Water Authority. The plan is to work with Patterson Pumps on completing the Golden Road Pump Station and then to work with the new manufacturer on the remaining pumps. Public Works has prepared a schedule which depends on the pump delivery date, but the approximate completion date is summer 2025.

- 3) **City WTP Improvements Update** – Mr. Hens reports that the water production through the summer has been averaging less than 4.0 MGD. The North Road pump station is averaging around 4.3 MGD. The work accomplished at the water plant has increased efficiency and reliability quite a bit. The City of Batavia experienced an approximate week long period of abnormal water usage in the middle of June. Sudden flat lining of tanks/unusually low usage was seen for multiple days. Sources of these fluctuations have not yet been identified. Mr. Gerace reports the water plant is making progress with improvements. Precipitator materials have been ordered (48 week lead time, possible fall/winter delivery). The boiler is installed with a few remaining miscellaneous items left. The roof and repointing is completed, lime slaker installed, and new wash water pump is slated to be installed. Mr. Hens reports that Public Works met with the City of Batavia about their engineer's recommendation for additional masonry and repointing totaling almost \$200,000 in work, so that will be considered during future work. One recommendation that may be pursued sooner is for a backwash pump.
- 4) **Misc Districts/Project Update** – Mr. Gerace reports that the Halstead Rd Water Storage Tank (Alexander WD#6) has construction underway (approximately 25% complete – estimated to be online as early as beginning to mid-August). The Stafford Water District #12 project is complete and in service as of 6/17/24. The Byron WIBA #1 project has both contracts in-progress almost complete. All water mains are installed but restorations not complete. Genesee County has sent the Town of Byron a letter listing grievances relating to Rochester Pipeline's damage to county roads as well as inadequate restorations. Mr. Hens reports there was substantial damage to Byron Road between Route 262 and 237 that was caused by Rochester Pipeline. It was a fairly newly paved road and there are holes and scrapes for about a 1.5 miles equating to \$150,000 worth of damage that the county will probably perform the work and bill the town. The town has withheld \$500,000 of the contract to allow for payment of damage. The grievance letter outlines the specifics of damages. Mr. Gerace reports that the Walker Road Storage Tank (Pavilion) is currently under construction. MCWA is expecting the tank to be placed into service this fall. Mr. Hens reports that in Monroe County the Water Authority conducts its own building code reviews and have proposed doing the same thing in Genesee County, given that the Water Authority can't be beholden to a lower level government's review, so a county wouldn't have a review on their buildings. County Public Works is reviewing, but it's believed there will be no issues. The Town of Bethany is still in the process of reviewing the new water district which was updated so it will be having a public meeting and then the proposal will go back to the comptroller.
- 5) **Phase 3 Master Plan and BOD Status** – Mr. Hens reports that the hydraulic models are in the process of being finalized over the past few months. A lot of the narrative in the master plan and basis of design has essentially been done, but the hydraulics drives all the technical in those items. As of yesterday, the hydraulic model is undergoing a final review for quality assurance and quality control work to ensure no errors or omissions. The hydraulic model for the average day of demand is completed, and the review is currently examining the peak day of demand. Once that is done the project will be ready to submit to MCWA for final review.

- 6) **Source Supply Change Sampling** – Mr. Gerace reports that the sample kits for the Water Sampling Plan have been delivered to the Batavia WTP, which will be used as a hub for operator pickup each month. Still waiting on some additional testing equipment for monochloramines and orthophosphates which needs to be tested once within the 6-month sampling period so awaiting delivery before starting the sampling period as well as a few other testing meters for orthophosphates, but otherwise is ready to go. Work is estimated to commence the 6 month sampling period within the next 2 weeks once all equipment has arrived. Public Works has not received many responses yet from residences at 19 sample locations throughout the county that were sent an instructional sample letter. If the response rate remains low, Mr. Gerace plans to have staff knock on doors to grow interest in participating. Mr. Gerace plans to conduct in-field testing for the city and expects the rest of the operators within the county will handle the remaining sites.
- 7) **Funding** – Mr. Hens reports that the county received an NYS EFC IMG Award for \$30,000,000 for Phase 3 of the County Water Project. Mr. Gerace is currently processing several grants that have come through from EPA for the North Road Water Storage Tank and the Prole Road Transmission Main. Public works had submitted an NBRC application for additional funding for the Prole Road Transmission Main but was unsuccessful due to not providing significant enough economic development impact. Public Works submitted a public funding request through Schumer/Gillibrand for two projects: Golden Road Suction Main (USACE and EPA) & Macomber/Galloway Rd Water Mains (EPA) and also submitted for Tenney's office for the Golden Road Suction Main (USACE). Public Works is looking into obtaining funding through the Army Corp. of Engineers (USACE) allocation.
- 8) **Other Communications** – Mr. Hens reports that there was a low recharge of groundwater this year. Normally the recharge is 16 feet from bottom to top and this year it only recharged about 6 feet. The current level is concerning given that groundwater will continue to drop between July and December, so unless there is some kind of flood event there won't be any gain. Public Works continues to monitor the situation very closely. Mr. Landers is concerned that if O-AT-KA ends up not having sufficient water they will end up relying on the water plant which is not modeled to provide the large volumes of water they will require. There is concern that another business, Seneca, expects to rely on the water plant and which will not be able to support high water volumes needed by their operation. Mr. Mountain reports there the county currently working to obtain funding sources for a million dollar study to work with USGS to model groundwater and better understand and assess the recharge to aquifer. Mr. Hens reports that the two lowest recharges in recorded history over the past 40 years have occurred in the last 6 years. Most of the recharge comes from ice jam flooding out of the creek and there hasn't been a winter cold enough to cause thick ice to make an ice jam in the spring.
- 9) **Next meeting** – October 8, 2024 - 8:00 AM at County Building 2 Large Conference Room.
- 10) **Adjournment** - A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Maha, seconded by Ms. Libroek and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 AM.