



**Middletown Water Operating Committee
Meeting January 27, 2023, 11:00 am EST**

Due to COVID-19, Meeting to be held via Google Meets/Telephone

Committee Members:	Additional:	
Ken Klinepeter (Middletown Borough)	Bradley Pensyl (Allen & Overy)	Jenny Miller (Middletown Borough)
Don Correll (WCP)	Gideon Duke-Cohan (Allen & Overy)	Michael Winfield (Post and Schell)
Dan Sugarman (WCP)	Ken Bonn (Argo)	Michael Barger (Veolia)
Jason Kiernan (Veolia)	Justin Mendinsky (HRG)	Ryan Haigan (Veolia)
Kodi Webb (Veolia)	Angela Lloyd (Middletown Borough)	Chris Halleron (Veolia)
		Maria Tajali (Veolia)
		John Joyner (WCP)

1. Introductions/Opening Comments

After a roll call, Mr. Correll called the meeting to order. A PowerPoint presentation was presented.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

Mr. Correll made a motion to move the circulated November 29, 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Sugarman seconded. The minutes were approved. Mr. Winfield inquired about the second set of meeting minutes that was circulated from the September meeting. Ms. Webb informed Mr. Winfield that the September meeting minutes were approved at the November meeting pending the correction of Mr. Winfield's firm name.

3. Operations Update

Ms. Webb stated that annual sewer flushing, which included Ann St. and Main St., had been completed. CCTV will be completed soon. Photographs of the recently replaced ATAD jet pump were displayed. A small hole was observed in the jet pump several months ago which was temporarily fixed, preventing a catastrophic breakdown. The replacement jet pump took several months to arrive due to supply chain issues. The ATAD and SNDR Oxidation Reduction Potential (ORP) probes were also replaced. The probes require replacement every 18-24 months. The remaining biosolids that had been stored at the plant due to the plant's previous farmer retiring had all been transported to a new farm. The new farm is located within a short distance of the plant. Four employees are currently taking the Veolia Academy Introduction to Water and Wastewater course that will provide valuable knowledge and assist operators in passing their licensing exams. Safety upgrades have taken place that the plant which included individual chlorine tank storage, preventing all the cylinders from falling over if one fell over, and forklift training for new employees. The COVID threat level has remained low despite one employee testing positive. The employee self-isolated and there was no impact to operations.



Mr. Klinepeter asked if anyone was consulted in regards to the ATAD jet pump and if any operational changes needed to be made when the new impeller was installed so this doesn't happen again. Ms. Webb replied that the entire jet was replaced, which was the manufacturer's recommendation. There were several consultations with them to ensure the transition went smoothly and there were no operational impacts. The manufacturer stated that there is a life span on this equipment and they were impressed by the length of time that was received with this unit as eight to ten years is the recommended replacement frequency. Mr. Klinepeter suggested having a pump technician look at the pump to ensure proper application and size. Mr. Correll asked how old the pump was, to which Ms. Webb replied that she believed that it was the original jet pump installed when the ATAD upgrade was completed in the early 2010's.

Ms. Webb explained that there have been some equipment out of service including well 3 and well 4 which require extensive work and the VacCon had been returned from the shop after its pump repair. An anaerobic mixer was out and pending repair. In the meantime, the spare mixer had been installed. An oxidation ditch mixer was out and pending repair. A picture was displayed showing a main break at Spruce and Beechwood which coincided with a cold snap on December 23rd and 24th. A contractor was able to put a clamp on the leak and it was not worthy of a full pipe replacement. There was one service line leak on Witherspoon Avenue which was related to a contractor hitting the service line. There were no SSO's, lateral repairs, or SmartCover repairs, and one sewer backup on Spruce and Oakhill. Mr. Correll asked what size the main break was that received the clamp. Ms. Webb replied that it is a 6 or 8 inch as most of the lines in that area are 6 inch.

Ms. Webb stated that that Well #2 chemical feed upgrade had been completed. The SCADA integrator determined that the water SCADA computer needed to be upgraded to add more tags in order to complete the subsequent upgrades. This work is scheduled for February. Once the computer is upgraded, well #4 is scheduled to be completed which includes a new pump motor, new well drop pipe, new level transducer, chemical feed equipment upgrade, and a new chlorine analyzer, which will likely be completed by the end of the second quarter. The level transducer is a requirement for the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, as daily well level data is required.

Ms. Webb stated that the SmartCovers have been working well and the interceptor is looking good with minimal grit and grease accumulations observed.

4. Customer Service

Ms. Webb discussed the small meter replacement and testing program. There was a focus on replacing stopped and problematic meters due to supply chain issues and the extended lead time for receiving meters. 64 meters were replaced in 2022, with a pass rate of 67.5%. The bulk order of small meters arrived, and the meter replacement program will be completed by MeterTek and begin shortly. The target is to replace 267 meters per year. Another order has been placed but meters are still facing large lead time delays, with the last order taking eight to nine months to ship and large meters taking more than a year to arrive.

5. Capital Investment/Engineering Report

Ms. Webb explained that the 2018/2021 project was awarded to Wexcon and construction had started on January 26th. Wexcon began with the wastewater portion and there was a small portion of water main installed near the Turnpike Tank in order to collaborate with a bridge project that was going on to prevent tearing up freshly paved road. The 2018/2021 project is anticipated to reach substantial completion in June or July 2023. Veolia and HRG met to discuss locations for the 2022/2023



Underground Infrastructure Replacement project. The sewer replacement and lining will take place on North Union Street and East Water Street, and the water main replacement will take place in the same area so the street is not paved twice. There have been a lot of leaks with the UGI project on North Union Street, so that area is likely to be included in the project.

Mr. Joyner asked why those areas were selected. Ms. Webb stated there have been issues on East Water Street, specifically where the grappling hook was found. The south portion of North Union Street sewer was completed already so this would be the opportunity to tie it all together. There have been several service line leaks there and a main break due to the UGI project on North Union Street. Mr. Klinepeter asked for the proposed area. Ms. Webb explained that it would be around Spring Street to Main Street. Photos were displayed of the progress made on the High Street tank. The High Street tank was being filled and tested per DEP and the tank will be placed back into service. The mixer was installed in this tank as well.

Mr. Klinepeter asked if the mixer was installed in this tank. Ms. Webb confirmed a mixer was installed.

Mr. Correll asked for an updated schedule. Ms. Webb explained that the Turnpike Tank was schedule to mobilize in late February. A meeting was held with HRG to discuss the fire flow issues with removing the North Union Street tank from service.

Mr. Klinepeter asked about fire flow and the valve between the two systems. He explained that there is an emergency cut in valve at the booster station that separates the high and low pressure zones. Ms. Webb explained that HRG had done hydraulic modeling for this project to figure out the additional flow for that area. Ms. Webb stated that she believed the valve was considered during the hydraulic model testing. Mr. Mendinsky confirmed that HRG performed hydraulic modeling and that he would verify if the valve was utilized in the plan.

Mr. Correll stated that the 5 year CapEx plan is due March 1st and a special abbreviated meeting will be scheduled prior to submitting this plan.

6. CPI and Impact on Future Rate Increases

Mr. Sugarman explained the CPI for the Northeast region was annualized at 6.1% in December. The CPI continued to decline from the peak observed earlier in 2022. The CPI is fixed for the year in June.

Mr. Correll expressed that there had been discussions regarding the rate increase since June or July of 2022. Mr. Sugarman submitted a draft report indicating what the rates would be and this was discussed at the November 2022 meeting. The rate increase of 13.2% would take effect on the next bill cycle. The calculations show 13.7%, but due to the issue with the management fee associated with the capex. The rates will go into effect as scheduled.

Mr. Correll stated the Water Recovery Report was filed in draft. It i's not a specific requirement of the agreement, but it has been established as precedent to ensure the Borough has all the information about the rate increase and the calculations. That has been submitted and those rates will go into effect next week.



7. Royalton Agreement

Mr. Correll stated he believed there had been an extension granted.

Mr. Winfield stated that there was an extension that was put into place but there were not any discussions. All discussions have been pursued by the Joint Venture but the Borough hasn't had any discussions with Royalton. Mr. Correll asked if anything had been presented to Royalton yet, or if the Borough or Mr. Winfield were waiting for any additional information from the Joint Venture at this point in terms of the outline of the proposal.

Mr. Winfield stated that at the September 2022 meeting, the proposal was being discussed, but the Borough had not seen it. Mr. Winfield indicated during the September 2022 meeting that the Borough should be provided with a copy of that and he believed Mr. Correll agreed with that, but the Borough hadn't seen anything so the status and terms are unknown.

Mr. Sugarman stated that is correct, nothing has been shared with Royalton and there is an understanding that it needs to be shared with the Borough in advance. There is a draft that is currently with Veolia legal for review.

Mr. Correll stated that would be a takeaway to work with Veolia legal and get it to the Borough, as it was a six month extension. Mr. Pensyl added that once it was received from Veolia legal, it would be shared with Mr. Winfield.

8. Community Service

Mr. Halleron stated Veolia sponsored the Frosty 5k on December 3, 2022. Veolia will be working on securing the funding that was promised for The Middletown Historical Society. Veolia is open to entertain other community involvements, the more lead time the better and we will continue to support worthwhile events. Ms. Webb shared pictures from the Frosty 5K.

9. Next Meeting

Mr. Correll suggested having an abbreviated operating meeting to discuss the 5 year Capex Plan at 10 AM on February, 28, 2023.

Mr. Correll suggested that the next regular meeting be held at 11 AM on April, 27th, 2023

10. Adjournment

Mr. Correll asked for any other business. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.