

Lewes Board of Public Works
Contingency Committee Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2023
1:00pm

Committee Members

- Barbara Curtis, BPW Assistant Treasurer, chair
- Earl Webb, BPW Board Director
- Tim Ritzert, City Council Ex-Officio
- Mark Prouty, Committee Member
- Bob Heffernan, Committee Member
- Austin Calaman, BPW General Manager
- Donna Colton, Committee Member- Absent
- Sumner Crosby, Committee Member- Absent
- Daphne Fuentevilla, Committee Member-Absent

Others Present

- Sharon Sexton, BPW Executive Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 1:14 pm.

Key Takeaways

- The meeting was a continued discussion on Aqua Nereda Aerobic Granule Sludge (AGS) technology.
- The main issues discussed were concerns about technology reliability and the retirement of a key team member from Sussex County, Hans Medlarz.

Current Workflow

- Mr. Prouty outlined the treatment process at the Whitefish plant, involving extracting sewage from sewers, using alum chemical to precipitate phosphorus, and addressing ammonia removal issues in cold weather.
- The Whitefish team currently has four members working on the project.
- The Whitefish team Expressed satisfaction with the effectiveness of the wastewater treatment system in Whitefish, Montana.
- The BPW plant currently operates for 8 hours a day with one person on call.
- The sludge buffer tank serves an important purpose in the plant's operation.
- Discussed the AGS technology at the Whitefish plant and its benefits in terms of energy savings, lower overall costs, smaller tank sizes, and reduced concrete requirements. The sludge buffer tank serves an important purpose in the plant's operation. Impressed with the speed with which the facility was able to be built.

- Mr. Prouty shared that he has had a positive experience with Aqua Nereda, highlighting their customer support and 24/7 phone service.
- Smaller tanks of AGS technology and the decrease in operational cost are beneficial.
- Discussed the granulation process in the AGS system, especially for new sites with time constraints.
- Discussing the Cape Henlopen State Park treatment system and the option of discharging waste into the ocean.
- Emphasize the need for improved screening at treatment plants to prevent contamination.
- BPW has already committed to upgrading headworks and looking to put a reinforcement ring around the top of the EQ tank. Would need to invest 500,000 to 1,000,000 dollars in the EQ tank if staying at current site.
- The board approved a sludge line to be installed from the bottom of the digester building to a cam lock so that the county can easily access the digester.
- Mr. Prouty advocates for reusing water or using it for irrigation instead of pumping it into the ocean or a canal.

Objections

- May be skepticism from Board Members about the proven technology, implying potential objections from stakeholders.
- Board Members have raised concerns about the reliability and effectiveness of the AGS system.

Goals

- Learning about Wolcott, Kansas' systems implementation and improvements.
- Exploring greenfield sites for building. Discussed Schley Avenue as an option.

Challenges

- Need to do an impact study on the receiving water body due to the discharge pipe being at a different location.

Action Items

- Contact Wolcott plant and discuss the pros and cons of the AGS technology.

Follow-up Meeting

- Contingency Meeting will hold another meeting on January 11, 2024, at 1:30pm.
- Sussex County Council meeting on January 9, 2024. GHD report will present with

Respectfully submitted,
 Sharon Sexton
 Executive Assistant

