

Lewes Board of Public Works  
Contingency Committee Meeting Minutes  
January 23, 2024  
1:30pm

## **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- Virtual
- Sumner Crosby, Committee Member- Absent
- Daphne Fuentevilla, Committee Member- Absent

The meeting was called to order at 1:41 pm.

## **Key Takeaways**

- The meeting was about finalizing the report and preparing for a presentation to the Board of Public Works (BPW), with an emphasis on addressing feedback, particularly concerning the impact of sea level rise and wastewater treatment options.
- Ms. Curtis is tasked with updating and correcting the report as per the committee's input.
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- The participants highlighted the need for an updated cost assessment for all three options and discussions around the feasibility of new wastewater treatment technologies, with concerns about odors and sludge disposal being addressed.

## **Current Workflow**

- The committee discussed finalizing the report for the BPW Board, reviewing minutes, and upcoming presentation preparations.
- It was emphasized to incorporate recent changes and feedback for document accuracy.
- The finalized report is to be distributed and discussed at the special board meeting on the 29th.
- Evaluation of newer wastewater treatment technologies highlights AGS technology's low energy consumption.
  
- There were concerns raised about sludge handling due to the plant's vulnerability at its lowest points.
- Concerns raised about odor management and sludge disposal in both current and potential new facilities.

- Compared SBR and AGS technologies for suitability at the current location.
- AGS system will meet the BPW permit limits easily.
- Evaluated new wastewater treatment plant sites for feasibility of discharging into wetlands.
- The need to reduce the WWTF's footprint.

## **Challenges**

- Committee discussed possible pushback from the community and the Board including but not limited to:
  - Distance to residences.
  - Possible odor
  - Sludge handling

## **Future Feature Requests**

- Acknowledge the necessity of exhaustive site investigations and visits to validate committee findings and ensure thorough analysis.
- An updated cost assessment was mentioned as necessary due to recent changes, possibly making some data in the GHD report outdated.
- The committee recommends the Board request an engineering study from HDR for both the onsite and offsite options. Propose a 6-month timeframe to the Board.
- Encourage Board members to go on a site visit to see an AGS plant in operation.

## **Action Items**

- Ms. Curtis is to consolidate and clarify report content for brevity and accuracy, and prepare the presentation for the Board.
- Sharon Sexton is responsible for adding appendices to the report, although she was not present at the meeting.

## **Follow-up Meeting**

- Monday, January 29, 2024, will be the presentation to the BPW Board.

Respectfully Submitted  
Sharon Sexton  
Executive Assistant