

Mercersburg Water Authority  
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA  
January 19, 2023

# MINUTES

Council President Ed Twine call the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Councilpersons present: Ed Twine, Jacob Morgan, Jason Frey, Dr. Michael Pedersen, Public Works Manager – Donnie Keefer, Borough Manager  
Melissa Price

Absent:N/A

**Engineer’s Report - MERCERSBURG WATER AUTHORITY  
“CHRONOLOGY OF WATER SYSTEM PROJECT”  
January 19, 2023**

- 1) January 2015 through August 2018 – Buck Run Reservoir issues
  - a. Unable to comply with mandatory conservation release requirements
  - b. Reservoir not capable of supplying system demand and conservation release
  - c. PADEP working with Authority to evaluate issue.
- 2) August 18, 2018 – PADEP issues update to Chapter 109 Regulations
  - a. Significant updates to surface water filtration plants
    - i. Increased filter media depths.
    - ii. Elevated backwash expansion rates
    - iii. Fully automatic shut-down of all operation equipment
  - b. Buck Run WTP not able to comply with new regulations.
- 3) August 2018 through September 2019
  - a. Numerous PADEP inspections to review WTP status.
  - b. Numerous PADEP meetings
- 4) September 2019
  - a. Authority approves Dennis E. Black Engineering, Inc. to complete an “Existing Facilities and Treatment Alternatives” study (feasibility study)
- 5) April 28, 2020
  - a. Feasibility study complete and provided to Authority.
  - b. Recommended....
    - i. Remove reservoir from service.
    - ii. Locate and drill new well source near Buck Run WTP
    - iii. Construct new WTP to be compliant with PADEP regulations.
- 6) May 2020 through June 2020
  - a. Additional meetings with PADEP - require creation of Interim Operations Plan
- 7) June 1, 2020

- a. PADEP approval of Interim Operations Plan
  - b. Plan establishes operational oversight and process enhancement steps until new WTP can be constructed
- 8) September 10, 2020
- a. Authority enters into Consent Order & Agreement (CO&A) with PADEP 9) September 2020 through September 2021
    - a. Mountain well collapses (September 2020)
      - i. Authority locates and drills new well (Zimm Well)
        - ii. PADEP approves emergency permits for work & operations.
    - b. Authority rehabilitates all filters at WTP.
    - c. Authority implements additional "safeguards" as required by IOP.
      - 9654 Forest Ridge Road, Shippensburg PA
      - 17257 [HTEnv@outlook.com](mailto:HTEnv@outlook.com)
    - d. Authority completes upgrades to existing PRV Station
      - i. February 2021 through August 2021
    - e. Authority attempts to locate additional water sources.
      - i. Drilled well (dry) and evaluated two others (not enough water)
      - ii. New source located on existing well #3 property (Park Street)
- 10) September 2021 through August 2022
- a. Multiple meetings with PADEP to discuss the status of the new source.
  - b. Authority approved Glace Associates to design new Buck Run WTP c. New well drilled and tested on well #3 property.
  - d. Authority approved Glace Associates to design new WTP on well #3 property 11)
- August 2022
- a. CO&A updated to reflect new project details.
    - i. Construct new PRV station to better control system pressure
    - ii. Construct new Buck Run WTP
    - iii. Construct new WTP on well #3 property
  - b. Project estimated at \$7,580,000.
- 12) October 6, 2022
- a. Permit package for Buck Run WTP submitted.
- 13) November 14, 2022
- a. Permit package for new PRV Station submitted.
- 14) January 2023
- a. Submit permit package for new WTP on well #3 property.

Project funding has also been carefully considered and multiple avenues are being explored.... 1) PA Small Water & Sewer Grant

- a. Authority was awarded grant in 2020 and will use for the PRV Station project 2) Franklin County IMPACT Grant
  - a. Authority awarded \$199,000.
- 3) The following grant applications have also been submitted....
  - a. Community Project Funding (\$2,500,000)
  - b. LSA Statewide Grant (\$335,700)
  - c. H2OPA Grant Program (\$7,580,000)
- 4) PennVEST will also be utilized as a project funding source
  - a. Submit funding application no later than April 2023

Tentative Project Timeline

- 1) PRV Station Project
  - a. Start April 2023 / Complete December 2023
- 2) Buck Run WTP
  - a. Start July 2023 / Complete November 2024
- 3) New WTP at well #3 property
  - a. Start July 2023 / Complete January 2025

Guest/Press Presents – Sam Wiser “Solicitor – Salzman & Hughes, Lance Hoover “Engineer” HighTide Environmental, LLC, Michael Brand, Raymond Minton, Joe Creighton, Bobby Magin, Tom Heefner, Ann Sheehan, Julie Hawbaker, Andi Frey, Tucker Heebner, Megan Heebner, Elissa Nyer, Thomas Steiger jr.

Public Comment –

Treasurer’s Report.

Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report ending December 31, 2022

Motion by:	Second by:	Voice Vote:
Jacob Morgan	Michael Pedersen	All Favored – Motion Carried

Bills to be Approved.

Motion to approve Bills ending December 31, 2022

Motion by:	Second by	Voice Vote
Jason Frey	Michael Pedersen	All Favored – Motion Carried

Minutes for Approval.

Motion to approve Borough Minutes December 15, 2022

Motion by:	Second by:	Voice Vote:
Michael Pedersen	Jacob Morgan	All Favored - Motion Carried

Solicitor’s Report – NA

Plant Manager Report – Zimm Well Was turned on and running into plant with no complications water levels in well seem to be stabilized, we are mixing with reservoir and plant is doing fine. Dec 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> during single digits temps, the exposed pipes above the clear well had frozen, water was not able to be out in storage tanks, tarps were put over exposed pipes and jet heater was used to thaw pipes, looking into building a structure over pipes so this will not happen again. 5 meters were replaced at customers’ homes because they were not properly insulated, which caused them to freeze and bust. Currently working with Atlantic Tractor, to have demo set up for new pipe saw, the current saw did not perform well during the last water leak, the saw that is to be demonstrated is a Stihl and can be purchased and serviced at Atlantic Tractor. Pa Rural Water visited the water plant and calibrated all handheld chlorine testers to keep us “334 Compliant” with DEP.

Old Business – N/A

New Business – Elissa Nyer emailed a letter of interest to set on the Water Authority, to set up a follow up conversation with Elissa.

**MOTION: To move into Executive Session @8:53pm for discussion on personnel matters, Real Property/Contractual Matters – motions to be made if needed**

Motion by:	Second by:	Voice Vote:
Jason Frey	Jacob Morgan	All Favored – Motion Carried

**Motion: to come out of Executive Session @ 9:48pm**

Motion by:	Second by:	Voice Vote:
Jason Frey	Michael Pedersen	All Favored – Motion Carried

**Motion to adjourn meeting @10:02pm**

Motion by:	Second by:	Voice Vote
Michael Pedersen	Jason Frey	All Favored – Motion Carried

These meeting minutes have been transcribed and respectfully submitted for approval by Melissa Price with the use of her meeting notes and audio recording.

Date approved: 2-16-23 Motion: Jacob Morgan Second: Jason Frey