

EAWA WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
October 1, 2014 - 6:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The EAWA Board meeting was held in the Meeting Room at 211 W. Hummelstown St. and was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Dr. C. Dale Treese. Members present: Keith Murphy, John Buch, Jeff McCloud, Chuck Brewer, and Rick Erb. Absent: Del Becker. Also present were George Alspach, Solicitor; Mike Skelly, Authority Manager; Steve Bixler, Operations Supervisor; Pete Lusardi, Engineer; Wayne DeVan, PWD; Grace Miller, Business Manager and Michele Powl, Admin Clerk. **Other Attendees:** Rich Sheidy, John and Heather Hohenwarter.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

3. REPORTS:

Manager's Report: Cornwall Quarry - Skelly said he received the signed agreement and checks from Haines and Kibblehouse. He said the money will be used to pay down the 2008 Bond related to the purchase of the Quarry.

Action: "That the Board approves Resolution #2014-5 authorizing the agreement for Cornwall Recreation Inc."

Motion: K. Murphy **Second:** J. Buch **Approved**

Follow-up of 9/20 Pre-budget Meeting - Skelly stated that the minutes from the 9/20/14 meeting were included in the packet.

74 Old English Ln. / Galvanic Corrosion of Service Line - Skelly said Bixler received a call from 74 Old English Ln. regarding a complaint on a recurring corrosion issue for the service line. He said that Bixler and he went to the property to take pictures and document what they saw. Haldeman and Lusardi were on vacation at the time. Skelly said they spoke to the contractor and homeowner about the issue. Skelly said he received a letter on 9/19/14 from the homeowner, which he shared with the Board at the 9/20/14 meeting. The information was conveyed to Lusardi and he provided a letter to the Board with his professional opinion as to what could be causing the corrosion. Skelly displayed the samples that he took from the site and Mr. Hohenwarter brought some samples as well. Skelly mentioned that he did take a look at the soil. Hohenwarter stated that four years ago he heard water running in his house so he shut the water off inside and he could still hear it running. He called the Water Authority to advise that he may have a leak and they recommended that he contact his plumbing contractor. Wayne Lutrell, Hohenwarter's contractor, came out and found the leak at the right-a-way for the gas and electric line. Lutrell informed Hohenwarter that he had seen this before when pipes enter into the right-a-way. Lutrell advised against using copper piping; however, MJTA did not allow PVC piping at the time so copper piping was used. Recently, Hohenwarter had the same problem as four years ago. He did some research and talked to several experts across the country. The experts stated that

the current was jumping from the gas line onto the copper line. He said they had used PVC piping this time, and hopefully it will not happen again.

Murphy asked who the contractor was that built the house and why all the utilities were put together. Hohenwarter said the contractor would have followed the specifications of the Water Authority and building codes. Murphy said our specifications state that the water line will be placed in sand bedding not conduit. Murphy asked if there are any codes on how to run private water lines. Bixler said he hasn't seen anything. Treese stated that this is a rare case; however, EAWA's responsibility is only to the curb stop not to the house and it appears that it may be a problem caused by the gas line. Brewer asked about the oxidation and if the pipes were touching. Hohenwarter said the DC current goes into the ground. Lusardi asked if sand bedding was used. Lutrell said no. Brewer asked if there was any other way to fix it. Lutrell said not really. Brewer said there are thousands of homes that have a similar setup and we haven't had any other problems. Hohenwarter said he is asking the Board for financial assistance and will provide an invoice to Skelly. Lusardi noted that it was a unique situation and the piping was not embedded properly regardless of the casing or the clay soil. He said the guidelines for copper piping state it's to be placed in a clean uniform sand bed. Board discussed and decided that EAWA is not responsible. Skelly will advise Hohenwarter in writing.

2015 Marketing Projects - Skelly said the Marketing memo was discussed at the 9/20/14 meeting and Powl can provide any background information. He said staff is looking for what the Board would like to do. He said the rain barrels will not be a huge project and it may be possible to obtain grant money. Skelly said the taste issue will be a multi-year effort and could be expensive. Skelly recommended that we start by spending \$5K to have Lusardi provide some initial research as to how we would go about this issue. Skelly said a decision is needed to finalize the budget and create staff goals. Treese said rain barrels are consumer friendly and a worthwhile project to pursue. He said he thinks there will be a problem with taste and appearance no matter where you go and we need to change the perception of our customers. Treese asked the following questions: 1) Do we actually have a problem with our water; 2) Is it worth checking into; 3) Is it a general area or an isolated problem; 4) Is it the entire system; 5) Is the appearance because it is not crystal clear like bottled water? Brewer mentioned that he would like to taste water from each well. Lusardi stated that most of the complaints were earthy and musty tastes which were from the water in the reservoir. He said it is a common complaint of surface water where you have a low land reservoir because the water sits in the sun and the algae grows. He said other systems have the same problem. Powl mentioned that many customers noted that the water was heavily chlorinated and they could not get past the smell to drink the water.

Treese said we need to educate and change the perception of our customers. He noted that this would be a great way to utilize the website and mailings with the bills. Murphy asked Powl if there was a certain area that complaints were made about the water. Powl stated the complaints were system wide. Lusardi said the chlorine taste/smell would come from the wells, but the earthy and musty smell would be from the reservoir. Murphy said he thinks customers are comparing their water to private wells. Powl said that customers are comparing our water to bottled water

because they think the water is safer and purer. Treese said we have hard water and he doesn't know if it affects the taste of water. Lusardi said hard water does not impact the taste of water. Treese said there are 4 or 5 areas that we can be researched and educate our customers in quarterly mailings. Also, Treese stated that the Board will conduct a water taste test from all the wells and the plant at the 10/13/14 Board meeting.

August CRIM Accounts - Skelly said handout was provided to the Board as information.

Operations Manager's Report: Bixler stated that the list of Operators' Certification by DEP was included in the agenda packet. He said Skelly and he were discussing the budget and radio conversion for next year. Skelly noted that we have \$80K budgeted. Bixler said the radio conversion will be completed next year and he will obtain an updated quote from Tri-Star for the radio conversion for the Board meeting on 10/13/14.

Public Works Director's Report: None.

Engineer's Report: Lusardi stated that for the purposes of updating EAWA's Asset Management Distribution System Pipe Rating, GHD and staff created a map that provided opinions of the conditions of the water pipes. Lusardi said a computer model of the distribution system was created using the fire flow figures that were obtained from the most recent testing of all the fire hydrants. He said friction loss was determined for all the major pipe segments in the distribution system. A map was prepared that overlays the friction factors with the subjective condition of the piping. He said this is a tool for Asset Management and for long term planning for main replacement. He said he can provide an attachment to Board members to view. Lusardi noted that EAWA has very good fire flow compared to other systems.

4. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.
5. **NEW BUSINESS:** None.
6. **BOARD MEMBER'S COMMENTS:** None.
7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.
8. **ADJOURN: 7:50 PM**

Action: "That the Board adjourns the work session meeting."

Motion: K. Murphy

Second: J. Buch

Approved

Respectfully submitted,

M. Skelly, Authority Manager

Approved at 11/10/14 Meeting