

**AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY, HELD ON THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2015, 7:00 P.M., MULTI PURPOSE ROOM #2, MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA:**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	William Brown	-Chair
	Christopher Tuck	-Vice Chair
	Mary Biggs	-Secretary-Treasurer
	Annette Perkins	-Member
	Matthew Gabriele	-Member
	Gary Creed	-Member
	Todd King	-Member
	Robert C. Fronk	-PSA Director
	Karri Cridlin	-Secretary to PSA Board
	Craig Meadows	-County Administrator
	Marty McMahan	-County Attorney

**ABSENT:**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair William Brown called the meeting to order and determined that a quorum was present.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion by Matthew Gabriele, seconded by Todd King, and carried; IT WAS RESOLVED, that the Public Service Authority hereby approves the Consent Agenda, dated September 08, 2015.

The vote on the foregoing motion is as follows:

AYE	NAY	ABSENT DURING VOTE
Mary Biggs		Annette Perkins
William Brown		
Christopher Tuck		
Todd King		
Gary Creed		
Matthew Gabriele		

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**1. Monthly Activities Report**

The August 2015 report is attached for review.

**2. NRV Regional Water Authority Demand Projections Meeting**

The NRV Regional Water Authority (NRVRWA) Board established a subcommittee during their June 17, 2015 meeting to evaluate future water demands for all members. The members and MCPSA provided future demand projections through 2050 to NRVRWA staff by May 5, 2015. The goal of the subcommittee was to evaluate current and future demands relative to the available system supply for impacts to the upcoming water transmission main projects. A subcommittee meeting was held July 23, 2015 with representatives from Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Montgomery County engineering, planning and economic development. Numerous demand issues were reviewed including the future Montgomery County industrial park demands and locations.

Subsequent to this meeting, Montgomery County withdrew its support for the 1 million gallons per day (MGD) demand for an industrial park in the Bethel/Exit 109 area. This reduction in demand is expected to have significant impact on the PSA Joinder Interconnection Projects PER by reducing the scope and cost of the projects.

**3. Employee Workers Comp Claim**

On August 27, 2015, Michael Wilson injured his ankle and knee due to a partial trench collapse while replacing a fire hydrant in the Merrimac area. Michael was taken to the emergency room for evaluation and released about 2 hours later. A Workers Comp claim has been processed. Michael is scheduled for a follow-up evaluation for his knee.

A thorough review of the incident was conducted the next morning. While no glaring safety violations were discovered, several procedures were identified that may have prevented or minimized the incident. These procedures were identified and will be implemented for future trenching operations.

Trench safety training for all employees had already been scheduled in October 2015 and this incident will be reviewed during the training.

**4. Garden Meter and Pool Meter Usage**

PSA Regulations were revised in June 2015 to allow customers to purchase Garden Meters for sewer credit for outside water use and for customers to rent Pool Meters for sewer credit

for filling of swimming pools. To date, 9 Garden Meters have been sold and 9 Pool Meters have been rented.

#### **5. Elliston-Lafayette Wastewater Treatment Plant Clarifier Project**

One of the FY15 Capital Improvement Projects was re-coating of the existing internal metal components of the two secondary clarifiers at the Elliston-Lafayette Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) with a budget of \$25,000. This project was predicated upon the existing metal components being in good condition with little deterioration. In preparation of project specifications/bid package, the clarifiers were drained, cleaned and thoroughly inspected. This inspection found several significant flaws that would require complete disassembly and replacement of several clarifier components which would prevent a simple re-coating project. Several of discovered flaws required immediate correction to prevent failure of the clarifier.

This situation was reviewed during the April 2015 PSA Meeting and the project scope and funding were modified for replacement of the metal components with new materials with a revised budget of \$120,000. The new clarifier metal components were ordered from the original equipment supplier, Envirex/Evoqua and the installation work solicited by bid.

The installation work started August 13, 2015 upon delivery of the materials to the WWTP. The work was completed August 28, 2015 and both clarifiers placed into service. The final project cost was \$94,000.

#### **6. Water Breaks / Pipe Failures at Elliston-Lafayette Elementary School**

We experienced eight water main breaks on the 8" PVC pipe main to the new Elliston-Lafayette Elementary School from October 2012 to July 2015. The pipe failures were straight-line splits in the "bell" end of the pipe. The estimated repair cost was about \$2,500 for each repair. We kept damaged pipe joint sections from several of breaks and sent one to the pipe manufacturer for evaluation. The pipe manufacturer's report dated July 7, 2014 stated the pipe failure was the result of improper installation and "additional joints are susceptible to similar stress induced failures."

We brought this issue to the attention of Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) staff in September 2014 who in turn contacted the general contractor, Branch & Associates claiming a "Latent Defect" in the water line installation. The contractual relationship and responsibility for the waterline construction is between the general contractor and MCPS. The PSA took over ownership of the waterline based upon certifications and warranties from MCPS and their agents. While there has been communication between MCPS and Branch, there has been no resolution and another water main break took place subsequent to these discussions.

The situation is disconcerting as the PSA is being made financially responsible for the "Latent Defect" while having done nothing wrong other than accept the assurances and certifications from MCPS that the water main was properly constructed.

During the August 3, 2015 PSA Meeting, the PSA Director was instructed to send a letter to the Superintendent of the Montgomery County Public Schools seeking reimbursement for the cost of the water main breaks. A letter dated August 6, 2015 (copy attached) was sent to Superintendent Blackburn outlining the situation and requesting reimbursement of \$17,814.70 from MCPS for repair of the water main breaks.

In preparation of an upcoming meeting, an inquiry was sent to the pipe manufacturer relative to the claim of pipe failures due to over-compaction as made by the pipeline subcontractor. The manufacturer's Engineering & Product Design Manager response (copy attached) stated "National has seen no evidence that would indicate to use (*us*) that the failure of these joints are due to any other cause than severe over-insertion of the integral bell."

A meeting was held on August 26, 2015 with a Branch representative, MCPS staff, County Attorney and PSA Director to review. It seems MCPS is continuing to negotiate with Branch, rather than resolve the matter with the PSA as requested in the August 6, 2015 letter.

### **AUTHORITY MEMBERS' REPORT**

Member Gabriele- No Report

Member King- No Report

Member Perkins- No Report

Member Creed – No Report

Member Biggs- No Report

Member Tuck - Would like to check into offering broadband as a PSA service. If offered this would help people in rural areas to get internet. Would like for everyone to think on this and the pros and cons of offering this service.

Member Brown - No Report

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned this meeting to the next meeting scheduled for October 5, 2015 due to the observance of Labor Day.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY/TREASURER