

South County Sewer & Water Authority

(Serving the Townships of Brady, Pavilion & Schoolcraft)

7510 East "Q" Ave., Scotts, MI 49088 Ph (269) 321-8925 Fax (269) 321-8943

Email: office@scswa.org

Website: scswa.org

DRAFT: submitted for approval on 5/28/24.

Authority Regular Meeting Minutes of Tues. Mar. 26, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

Regular Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Board Chair John Speeter. In attendance were Vice Chair Tracy Locey (Brady Township Supervisor), Secretary/Treasurer Don Ulsh (Schoolcraft Township Supervisor) and Mike Rochholz (Village of Schoolcraft President). Also in attendance were SCSWA Executive Director Frank LaPierre and Attorney Rob Thall.

Review and Set Agenda-

LaPierre requested to move up the presentation by Prein&Newhoff prior to active projects so the presenters could leave following their presentation. Today's meeting agenda was presented for review. Motioned by Ulsh, seconded by Speeter to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried.**

Review of Minutes-

The draft minutes of the Feb. 27, 2024 meeting were presented for review. Motioned by Ulsh, seconded by Speeter to approve the draft minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Hear those present – Councilman John Gisler updated on various topics previously presented. The Downtown Justice Center will be dedicated on 9/7/24. Gisler will run for re-election in November.

General Correspondence- LaPierre updated that 2 FOIA requests were processed with no issues.

Active Project Status-

- Prein&Newhof Master Planning and USDA Loan Submittal Presentation- Jason Washler of Prein&Newhof presented the proposal for services to create a Master Plan and potentially prepare and submit an application for the USDA funding of the services and construction for SCSWA to connect to the Village of Vicksburg force main. Washler explained that the results of the previous feasibility study were positive and that the Master Plan will analyze various alternatives for the connection of the SCSWA system to the Vicksburg force main. LaPierre confirmed that the project looks very positive and includes many benefits for the long-term system affordability and sustainability of the SCSWA system. LaPierre also confirmed that the costs for the feasibility study, master plan and USDA application services can be included in the USDA funding and reimbursed to SCSWA. LaPierre confirmed that the next steps are for Prein to immediately present updated SCSWA financials to the USDA for preliminary approval, which will be presented at the April Board meeting for the potential vote to approve the Prein proposal. Assuming approval of the Prein proposal, the USDA application should be ready to submit in September or October, which is in-line with the Vicksburg timelines. Additional CIPs and upgrades to the SCSWA system will be included in the USDA application.

- Village of Schoolcraft Update- Rochholz updated that LaPierre and Kuhlman presented at the Village of Schoolcraft council meeting and that the Village has interest in the Water and WWTF projects. The Village is listening and observing at this point. Rochholz and LaPierre updated that a water project work session is scheduled for 4/2/24 at Lockport Township and include the Village of Schoolcraft, SCSWA and the Lockport Water Board. The agenda will include updates from the water feasibility study and present various roles that the participating municipalities may fill in a future, collaborative water organization.
- St. Joe and SCSWA WWTF and Water Projects- LaPierre updated that throughout 2024, the strategic planning for the submittal of applications for available 2025 Grants and state and federal earmark programs to support the potential projects, will occur.
- Lockport Water Project Update- LaPierre reiterated that the Water System Feasibility study is currently in-process with results expected in May or June.

New Business

- Force Main Agreement and Waiver Review- LaPierre and Thall confirmed that the approval of the waiver by the Village of Vicksburg should have occurred. LaPierre will secure a signed copy of the waiver from the Village of Vicksburg. Thall confirmed that he and Catherine Kaufman will begin to negotiate the terms of the Agreements for joint tenancy in the new Vicksburg force main.

Old Business-

- Maintenance Update- The Feb. GLSWA 2024 O/M reports were included for Board review.
- SCSWA System LS Valve Condition Presentation- Aaron Grogg of GLSWA presented the current condition of the SCSWA LS valves. LaPierre confirmed that he and GLSWA are planning on including the valve repair, and other CIP projects and upgrades, in the USDA funding application.

Financial Review-General Operating Expenses/Payroll Register/Financial reports- General Operating and Payroll Expenses were presented as of Mar. 15th, 2024. The SCSWA financial reports of Feb. 2024 were presented. Motioned by Locey, seconded by Ulsh to approve the operating and payroll expenses and accept the financials as presented. **Motion carried.**

Closing Comments: N/A

Meeting Adjourned- The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 a.m. Motioned by Locey, seconded by Ulsh to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried.**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 23rd, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. at Pavilion Township.

Submitted for approval on: 5.28.24, 2024 Approved by: Don K. Ulsh
Don Ulsh / Secretary