

A Regular Meeting of the Minnesota River Valley Public Utilities Commission was held on Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> in the Conference Room at the Wastewater Treatment Plant with Commissioners Present: Favolise, Huntington, Sullivan, Tiegs, Geldner and Wartman. Commissioners Absent: none. Also present: Rich Kucera, Public Services Director, Jasper Kruggel, Le Sueur City Administrator, Jeff Shodean with Agropur and Ron Lafond with Stantec.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Favolise.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Motion by Commissioner Tiegs, Seconded by Commissioner Sullivan to approve the February 28, 2019 minutes, all voted in favor.

**Stantec/Project Update:** Ron Lafond gave update. Contractor got started on 2<sup>nd</sup> half of project. Two static screens are gone, new screen is in temporary location due to new channels being constructed. Next step is demo concrete and start forming channels and new screen will be moved to permanent location. Screen project should be done by the end of April. Discussion was made regarding motor failure and cause. Last step will be paving outside where the centrate work was done.

**Contractor Pay Application Request #2:** Discussion was made about City of LS employees charging MRVPUC time to do project reporting that should be reported by Todd Arlander, Project Manager or Stantec. Power line for influent meters was cut by Gridor on Friday and not repaired until Wednesday. Repair expense will be billed to Gridor.

Motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Contractor Pay Request by Commissioner Tiegs, Seconded by Commissioner Tiegs, all voted in favor.

**Plant Liquid Process:** Building B dryer floor has been replaced. Sludge handling pump is back from repair and ready to be installed. Centrifuge had a VFD failure. Agropur assisted with VFD failure and will be submitting an expense credit request towards their monthly bill. A ferric pump failed in Building C. Hach Company was called in to calibrate phosphax analyzer and get it back to standard. Chlorine basin is up and running. Henderson lift station transfer switch controller failed, need to replace motor starter on odor control station at Henderson Intermediate lift station. Mayo Park lift station repairs needed. Valve broken on dump pit, working on getting some type of screen system build to catch rocks/debris so our internal system is not affected. Grit classifier motor failed, contactor starter also failed. Roof top air units in Building B and C need work, contractor is scheduled. Centrifuge is down, parts are here, GEA will be here next week to start rebuilding the centrifuge. The vertical conveyor from the centrifuge to the silo has a bearing bushing that needs repair.

**Scada Upgrade:** Scada is up and running, working on getting permission for staff through the City network.

**Bio-solids:** Produced less due to problems and repairs.

**Agropur Update:** Continuing to work towards upgrades. Nothing new to report.

**Financials:** Motion was made by Commissioner Tiegs, Seconded by Commissioner Sullivan to approve the February 2019 financials, all voted in favor.


**Bills:** Motion was made by Commissioner Tiegs, Seconded by Commissioner Sullivan to approve the bills for January 2019 but hold the land purchase payment until the deed is transferred, all voted in favor.

**Rate Increase:** Discussion was made regarding the MPCA study on the MRVPUC facility regarding the NPDES permit and MPCA's request for financial information from the Cities. The Board reviewed the proposed increases of 20%, 25% and 30%, discussion was made. Surcharges were previously 100% but reduced to 25% in June 2017. Rates were previously reduced to spend down the fund balance as recommended by the Board. A Motion was made by Commissioner Tiegs, Seconded by Commissioner Sullivan to restore surcharges to 100% of unit cost starting with April 1, 2019 billing, all voted in favor. Discussion was made about Springsted doing a MRVPUC cost study. A Motion was made by Commissioner Tiegs, Seconded by Commission Sullivan to increase rates by 20% effective April 1, 2019 for 2 months until special meeting with Springsted to discuss cost study, all voted in favor.

**Cost of Service Study:** Discussion was made, will schedule a special meeting/work session to have Springsted come and do a presentation. Chairman Favolise will coordinate the special meeting date with Board Members.

Motion by Commissioner Sullivan, Seconded by Commissioner Geldner to adjourn the meeting, all voted in favor.

The next regular meeting is Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 5:30 pm.

  
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Secretary-Treasurer

  
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Chairperson