

**ORANGE COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT NO. 1 ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**(REMOTELY)
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 2021
1:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Peter Tuohy, Chairman,
Michael Amo, Katie Bonelli, Barry J. Cheney, Laurie Tautel, John Vero

ALSO

PRESENT: Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader
Leigh J. Benton, Legislator
Thomas Faggione, Legislator
Joseph J. Minuta, Legislator
Betsy N. Abraham, Legislative Counsel
Langdon Chapman, County Attorney
Joseph Mahoney, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Erik Denega, Commissioner, Department of Public Works
Robert Gray, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Works/EF&S
Anthony Griffin, Principal Sanitary Engineer, Department of Public Works
Mary Beth Bianconi, Partner/Senior Project Manager, Delaware Engineering, D.P.C.
Dina Sena, Budget Analyst
Gedalye Szegedin, Administrator, Clerk, Village of Kiryas Joel/Town of Palm Tree
Lou Medina, Mayor, Village of Harriman
Carol Schneider, Deputy Mayor, Village of Harriman
Robert Jeroloman, Supervisor, Town of Blooming Grove

Mr. Tuohy called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. All committee members were present with the exception of Mr. Amo who arrived at 2:01 p.m.

Ms. Bianconi provided an update to the committee by stating they are working on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). They continue to work on the hydraulic analysis of the county portion of the collection system. They have a no action alternative option which means what happens if they do nothing. They have an alternative that is to upgrade the plant for longevity only and no expansion. They have an alternative to look at a different technology for expanding the plant from a 6 MGD to 9 MGD. They have an alternative to expand the plant and comply with the current SPEDES permit which would require the installation of reverse osmosis or another type of technology to treat total dissolved solids (TDS) and chloride. The base project is to expand the plant and upgrade it for longevity going from 6 to 9 MGD. Another alternative is to evaluate how much of a larger wastewater treatment plant can accommodate. They have regional alternatives to expand the Harriman Plant such as a Hudson River discharge or other locations. They will be working on preparing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) throughout the summer. They will have documents for Mr. Denega, Mr. Grey, Mr. Chapman, Mr. Mahoney and Mr. Griffin by the end of the summer or early Fall. It will incorporate all of the aspects of the EIS that are outlined in the final scoping document. That document will go before legislative committees to determine if the document is complete for public review and then a public review process. The public review process will include information sessions, a public hearing and a written comment period. They will respond to any questions that are asked and then the last part of the process is the findings. They expect the findings statement to be issued in early Spring of 2022.

Ms. Bianconi continued to share other areas they worked on is the SPEDES permit. It has multiple compliance aspects to it that are beyond the routine compliance that the individuals at the Orange County Sewer District No. 1 work on. They have been working together on that and are up to date and submitted everything that is required by the SPEDES permit. They continue to work on the variance application that they submitted. One of their solutions in expanding the Harriman Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) includes upgrading the plant to extend the useful life of what is there, adding the sequencing batch reactor (SBR) technology to add another 3 million gallons a day of treatment capacity and how the TDS and chloride would be addressed through a variance for compliance. The application they submitted for the current permit has been received by New York State and they informed them they need additional information which they expected. They are working with technical staff to make sure they understand exactly what they are seeking.

Mr. Tuohy asked when the current SPEDES permit expires.

Ms. Bianconi replied that SPEDES permits in New York State last five years. This SPEDES permit became effective on March 1, 2020 and will expire in 2025.

Ms. Bonelli asked if they were on track to obtain the variance.

Ms. Bianconi explained that the variance application they submitted which was on February 1, 2021, was received by the D.E.C. on February 17, 2021. On April 19, 2021 they received notice that they needed additional information. When it was submitted, they talked to D.E.C. staff and they were trying to understand under what regulatory process they will review it. The variance applications are not a common thing. There is information that is requested but is outside the control of the Orange County Sewer District so there is a process they need to go through to get the information. They have an internal staff review for that which was conducted about a month ago. They wrote a letter to the D.E.C. asking for guidance and clarification. The D.E.C. responded that they received their letter and they are reviewing it. They are on track where they need to be.

Ms. Bonelli asked if the D.E.C. indicated what additional information they need and when it should be submitted by.

Ms. Bianconi replied no, they did not.

Mr. Tuohy mentioned that there has been talk in the news about infrastructure dollars and asked if there were any additional funds available.

Ms. Bianconi responded that in the 2020-2021 budget the state did not run any of their traditional grant funds for infrastructure. There were a few small programs released from the state earlier this year for grant applications. There is State Revolving Fund dollars (SRF) and this project would qualify for that, but the funds are limited. They do not expect to see new programs. All the money would run through existing programs. She recently spoke with two Hudson Valley congressional representatives, they both said not to expect movement on this until August.

Mr. Vero asked if there was any information that the affected municipalities need to provide.

Ms. Bianconi responded that over a year ago, they discussed with the various communities about what they anticipated their future needs to be in regard to sewer demand.

They have the information but will reach out to them again to get it updated since so much has changes. Last time they reached out, everyone was very responsive and very helpful.

Mr. Tuohy asked about the RFP for the meters. Last he knew they were going to put it back out to bid. He asked what the status was and what impact inflation will have on it.

Mr. Denega responded that the meter RFP was put out to bid twice. There is newer technology that has come out with some of the meters. They recently received a handful of portable meters which may be something they can incorporate into a future bid when it is appropriate.

Mr. Griffin added that they were working with the engineer to go out for a third bid and they expect the bids to be less so the overall price of the project will have a reduction.

Mr. Tuohy asked when the next bid was going out and Mr. Griffin responded that it would be going out in about two to three months.

Mr. Tuohy inquired about the status of the north interceptor.

Mr. Griffin explained that most of the pipe has been constructed. It has been indicated that the north interceptor will be complete by September 1, 2021.

Mr. Tuohy thanked everyone for the update and added that once the draft EIS is ready to be presented they will meet again.

The meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.