

LAPORTE COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

August 27, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Time and Place:

The LaPorte County Regional Sewer & Water District monthly board meeting was held on Tuesday, August 27, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. Central Time, at 809 State Street, Room #3, LaPorte, IN 46350 and by Zoom Meeting, Login:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82015295897?pwd=SjllK0FsYnFzM3B5TFZxNUsxQ0xvdz09>

Meeting ID: 820 1529 5897 Password: 060992

Attendees:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by John Carr, roll call was taken. Those present included the following: John Carr, Mitch Bishop, Jerry Jackson, Marcella Kunstek, Mark Danielson, and Amanda Lahners

Approval of Minutes:

Mark Danielson made a Motion to approve the minutes from July 23, 2024. Marcella Kunstek seconded it. All in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comments:

No Public Comment

Reports - Finance Staff:

Steve Carter, the Board's accountant, presented the financial report to the board with the following reports and reported that month-end reports have been completed and reconciled to the bank accounts.

Financial Report

- 1.) Hudson/Saugany
 - A.) Beginning balance of \$2,294,488.92 as of July 31, 2024.
 1. Deposits: \$0.00
 2. Interest Paid: \$10,127.33
 3. Disbursements: \$18,282.33
 4. Voided check \$0.00
 - B.) Account Ending balance as of July 31, 2024, is \$2,312,771.25
- 2.) Rolling Prairie Service Area
 - A.) Horizon Bank Checking-Rolling Prairie Account - had a beginning balance of \$273,518.14.10 as of July 31, 2024.
 1. Deposits: \$14,104.04 and interest Paid \$466.67
 2. SRF Deposit Reimbursements \$7,000.00.
 3. Bond Proceeds: \$7,315.

4. Disbursements: \$2,676.30
5. Loan Principal County: \$3,660.00
6. Reimbursement: \$0.00
7. Transfers Debt Service \$0.00, Bond & Int Acct: \$0.00
8. Loan Payment paid: \$0.00
9. Transfers Debt Serv Reserve Acct: Balance \$6,800.14, Bond & Interest \$37,980.50 Acct: Ending Balance of \$228,737.50. Total ending balance \$273,518.14.

B.) Horizon Bank Checking had an ending balance of \$228,658.09 as of June 30, 2024.

3.) Hoosier Fund:

A.) Beginning balance \$355,546.98, July 31, 2024.

1. Interest Paid: \$1,630.60
2. Transfer Funds: \$0.00.

B.) Hoosier Fund ending balance as of July 31, 2024, is \$357,177.58

4.) Toll Road – Horizon Account.

A.) Beginning balance \$198,753.01 as of July 31, 2024.

1. Deposits: \$26,960.00
2. Interest Paid: \$1,972.17
3. Reimbursements: \$0.00
4. Disbursements: \$5,586.11
5. Bank Fees: \$0.00

C.) Account Ending balance as of July 31, 2024, is \$555,930.59

5.) Claims

Steve Carter presented claims for \$130,042.69.

Marcella Kunstek made a motion to approve the claims for \$130,042.69. Seconded by Mark Danielson. All in Favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reports:

Astbury

- Chris Vogeler was on Zoom from Astbury and reported last month had issues at the Wastewater Treatment plant with the electrical blowers shutting off, but this problem has been fixed. A one-week exceedance was reported to the State, but this issue has been resolved and are back in compliance. Ongoing issues with the UV System the automatic wiper is not wiping as it should. Looking at what it will take to get fully back online. The piston that moves the wiping back and forth has been replaced, but now stuck on one end and will need to be replaced. The system is working properly, but over time there will be accumulation on the sleeves when not being wiped.
- Quote for new SCATA is being worked on by Dan Byam
- Jennifer Ransbottom stated Chris Vogeler had been contacted by the Toll Road and that a cleanup around the well buildings and operator wanted growth around the building cleaned up. The property is between the water plant and the toll road. A quote for \$1,200 to clear out trees and brush the two well areas.

Mark Danielson made a motion to approve the \$1,200 quote to clear out the trees and brush in well areas. Seconded by Marcella Kunstek. All in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

JPR Billing/Collection:

- Jennifer Ransbottom reported there is nothing more than what is in the report.

Phase II Update –

- Dan Byam reported all the improvement work by BL Anderson at the lift stations for Phase II. SRF funds were to pay for the improvement and any remaining funds will get rolled into the Hudson Saugany project.

Hudson/Saugany Update:

1. General

a. Proposed Project Contracts

i. Phase I

1. Contract A – Saugany Lake Pump Station and Force Main
2. Contract B -Saugany Lake Wastewater Collection System

ii. Phase II

1. Contract A – Travel Plaza #3 WWTP Expansion
2. Contract B – Hudson Lake Pump Station and Force Main
3. Contract C -Hudson Lake Collection System I

iii. Phase III

1. Contract A -Hudson Lake Collection System II
2. Contract B -Hudson Lake Collection System III
3. Contract C -Hudson Lake Collection System IV

2. Wastewater Treatment Plant

a. Design of WWTP Improvements to be included in the Phase I Project are ongoing.

- i. JPR has the IDEM Wastewater Treatment Plant Construction Permit package completely assembled and is ready for the District Board President's Signature. However, during a review, it was found that there are still several design changes to be made, so the submittal of the IDEM permits shall be delayed by a few weeks until after John can review the plans.

b. Proposed WWTP Expansion for Phases II and III will be designed in 2025.

3. Wastewater Collection System

a. Preliminary Plan and profile alignment and drawings

- i. Finalizing alignment of revised force main route along county roads.
- ii. JPR has the IDEM Sanitary Sewer Construction Permit completely assembled and is ready for the District Board President's Signature. However, during a review, it was found that there are still several design changes to be made, so the submittal of the IDEM permits shall be delayed by a few weeks until after John can review the plans.
- iii. Hudson Lake pressure sewer system plan and profile drawings to continue to be worked on into 2025.

4. Land Acquisition

a. Grinder Station Easements (Saugany Lake Only)

Owners with Parcels that need easements	262	
Needed but not completed	155	59%
Needed but not completed (main, no GS)	3	1%
Completed	104	40%
Exemptions Granted	0	

5. Income Study Results

a. Saugany Lake

Respondents above MHI Threshold	67	66%
Respondents below MHI Threshold	34	34%
Total	101	

b. Hudson Lake

Respondents above MHI Threshold	102	36%
Respondents below MHI Threshold	179	64%
Total	281	

6. Equipment Preselection Packages

- a. Equipment Preselection Package pricing expires on October 26, 2024. This will be before we are able to bid on the Phase I project, so JPR will be negotiating pricing extensions with the preselected vendors prior to bidding.
- b. There is no timeframe for the award of the Phase II and Phase III projects. For the preselected equipment at the wastewater treatment plant expansion being provided in Phase II and Phase III, JPR requests authorization to return the bid bonds/certified checks submitted by these equipment companies as part of their preselection packages. Pricing for these will be renegotiated during the design of Phases II and III. These preselected equipment items are as follows:
- i. AeroMOD Package WWTP Equipment
 - ii. Mechanical Screening Equipment
 - iii. Sludge Dewatering Equipment
 - iv. UV Disinfection Equipment

Jerry Jackson made a motion to approve returning bid bonds for Phase II and Phase III. Seconded by Mark Danielson. All in favor. The motion was approved unanimously.

Engineering Committee

- The Engineering Committee - no meeting held.
- Notice of Statutory Exemption and Extension of Service Letters will be sent once the permits are signed.

New Business:

- Next Meeting, September 24, 2024.
- Pre-Agenda Meeting, September 17, 2024 @ 9:00 AM, Attendees: John, Marcella, Barry, Steve C, Dan, Jennifer, and Steve H.

- Transit Development District – possibilities for Saugany/Hudson project – John Carr reported there is not much to update. He had some discussions regarding the South Shore and the opportunity to capture dollars for the Hudson Saugany project.
- Whisper Isles Subdivision Correspondence – John Carr stated he had a conversation with Ron Nowak regarding available lots. At that time Ron indicated 5 lots were being sold. Regarding a conversation regarding the sewer, he stated to Ron that in the future the person purchasing all the lots there would have the potential that they could be liable for hookup. A conversation was also held regarding the subdivision covenants and taking care of lots as well as anyone that buys a lot in the subdivision has to have a home built within 12 months. A memo to Jennifer Ransbottom from Paulette Bird was read regarding water and sewer plans for Whisper Isle. John Carr stated he called Mr. Bird to let him know that the study was conducted 3 years ago, and the cost was \$750,000 to run sewer connections to 12 homes and at that time it was not feasible. The Sewer Board decided to table that. In the future, this could occur but cannot predict the future. It was stated at the last meeting that this was not going forward at this time.

Old Business:

- Interlocal Agreement – County - \$1.5M – Barry McDonnell reported he sent a draft of the proposed Interlocal agreement to Attorney DeMarco. Even though all the information has been forwarded from SRF and would like something more concrete funding numbers are available. As soon as this information is available, he will forward this information to Attorney DeMarco as well as how the money is being spent. Steve Carter to send an email to William Harkins at SRF regarding the status of funding.

Adjournment:

Marcella Kunstek made the motion to adjourn at 9:31 a.m. Seconded by Mark Danielson. All in Favor. The motion was approved unanimously.