

# **North Kent Sewer Authority**

## **Regular Meeting Minutes**

**February 6, 2020**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Steven Grimm called the meeting of the North Kent Sewer Authority (NKSA) to order at 2:30 p.m. at the PARCC Side Clean Water Plant, 4775 Coit Avenue, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Present were Board Members Terry Bartels (Courtland Alt.), Steve Grimm (Chairman) (Cannon Township), Jean Wahlfield (Alpine Township), Cameron VanWyngarden (Plainfield Township) and Thad Beard (City of Rockford).

Also in attendance were NKSA attorney Jim Scales, Director Scott Schoolcraft, Mark Prein, P.E., NKSA employees Rob Edgar and Jeremy Pitsch.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Thad Beard, seconded by Jean Wahlfield, to approve the December 5, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no members of the public present and no comments were made.

### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR**

Director Scott Schoolcraft presented a written report.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A. Potential Emergency Connection Agreement with City of Grand Rapids.**

Director Schoolcraft discussed an emergency connection arrangement with the City of Grand Rapids. This had been considered in 2010 but was not finalized. There still remains a connection of the North Kent sewage collection system to the City of Grand Rapids which could be utilized in the event of an emergency. It would be contemplated that this would be used only in localized emergency situations, such as a tornado, or as a back-up in situations like the recent repairs to the generator. It was the consensus of the Board that staff should work with the City of Grand Rapids to determine if they have interest, and work on bringing a definitive agreement to the Board for further consideration sometime in the future.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Election of Officers.**

Motion by Beard, seconded by Bartels, to elect to retain the current officers – Chair, Steve Grimm; Vice-Chair, Cameron VanWyngarden; Secretary, Jean Wahlfield; Treasurer, Linda Lehman – for the upcoming year. No objections being made to presentation of the question for election by slate, the motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of 2020 System Flow Percentages.

Mark Prein introduced the proposed cost sharing proportions based on observed flows from the previous year for review and consideration by the Board. Motion by VanWyngarden, seconded by Beard, to approve the 2020 system flow and allocation sharing percentages for the joint system components and shared use local components with last revision date of January 28, 2020, as attached to the letter from Prein & Newhof dated January 30, 2020. Voting in favor: Grimm, Bartels, Beard, Wahlfield, VanWyngarden. None opposed.

C. Floodwater Mitigation – Submerged Fixtures.

Director Schoolcraft introduced the subject as part of the overall planning for flood events, which result in significant increased flows to the WWTP as a result of infiltration of floodwaters into the system. Mark Prein presented charts showing that baseline flows to the plant have increased about 1 million gallons per day over previous observations, raising concern about capacity during flooding events. The flow of the Grand River has increased significantly over historic levels, and even outside of precipitation events the river is running near flood stage. Using an example of a toilet with a 4-inch lateral connected to the system, submergence of that fixture could result in 140 gallons per minute of flow into the sewer system. 700 gallons per minute of flow equates to 1 million gallons per day of flow to the WWTP.

The Board discussed an attorney-client privilege letter prepared by attorney Scales. Plainfield Township will bring this issue to its Floodplain Committee for input. In the meantime, the Authority will schedule an educational meeting for residents connected to public sewer in flood prone areas to educate them on the need for their assistance in blocking drains and fixtures before flooding events, train them on the methods to do so, and provide supplies – such as sand bags and tape – for their use.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at about 3:30 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

March 5, 2020 at **2:30 p.m.**

Jim Scales  
Acting Recording Secretary