

TRI TOWN BOARD
of Water Commissioners
Braintree, Holbrook, Randolph

MINUTES

Thursday, November 16, 2023

Johnson Chamber - Braintree Town Hall and Tri – Town Water Treatment Plant site

Present: Mayor Charles C. Kokoros, Chair, Town of Braintree, Bill Alexopoulos, Town of Randolph, Katherine Goldrick, Town of Holbrook (arrived 9:25 a.m., departed 10:40 a.m.

In attendance: Helen Gordon, Lorraine See, Jim Arsenault, Brian Howard, Chris Dapson, Ed Spellman, Justin Rosenberg, Stephen DeFrancesco, Erin Joyce, Kate Naughton

Mayor Kokoros opened the meeting at 9:14 a.m.

Mayor Kokoros took roll call attendance –present: Mayor Charles Kokoros, William Alexopoulos.

Construction schedule update:

Helen Gordon (Environmental Partners) noted no major updates on the schedule. Last meeting the extension was approved for the tribal work that had to be done. The new substantial completion date is January 28, 2026. Currently on that schedule. Ms. Gordon reminds all that with construction there are ups and downs, but are currently on this schedule.

**Budget Update/
SRF Reimbursement Update**

Ms. Gordon (EP) updated that the 1st SRF reimbursement has been received. Braintree and Holbrook received their reimbursement, not sure about Randolph. This was the first reimbursement which took some time on Mass DEP's end because each community has a different loan to draw down on and they had to coordinate those. Now reimbursements will be on a monthly basis and should be coming in more frequently. This flow should be smoother.

Mr. Alexopoulos questioned the dollar amount that Randolph received. Ms. Gordon will get that information to the board member.

Mr. Alexopoulos asked if the reimbursements will now be coming in on a monthly basis. Ms. Gordon confirmed the monthly reimbursements.

Chris Dapson (EP) –Stated that Drawn down 2 is under final review. It will be submitted later this week. Drawn downs 5,6,7, and 8 will be submitted through the end of July, then move to 2nd year loan. Hopefully those will move on a monthly basis.

Helen Gordon (EP) stated that Draw down number 2 will be a big number. Chris Dapson (EP) estimated dollars amounts to be: Braintree \$3.5 million, Randolph about \$2.6 million. Chris wills end exact numbers when he is back in the office.

Helen Gordon (EP) stated that money should be received in the next month or so. Then received monthly.

Brian Howard questioned SRF and trying to determine end of ARPA funds.

Helen Gordon (EP) explained ARPA funds and additional principle forgiveness. We were originally talking about 19% and 6% on principle forgiveness. They gave significant increase. There will continue to be at least principal forgiveness that was originally discussed.

Brian Howard questions if he use ARPA funds for this

Helen Gordon (EP) thinks (gut feeling – not specific information) that some of the principle forgiveness money is coming from the infrastructure bill. Subsequent years in states SRF loan fund gets funded on previous years expenditures.

MWRA Pilot Testing Proposal:

Helen Gordon (EP) Submitted for the permit for the discharge of the residual biosolids. MWRA has indicated they have concerns because of PFAS. Got a limited permit. Not being used. The limited permit indicated that they wanted to see pilot conducted. Worked with AECOM to put together a scope and budget. It has been reviewed by MWRA, they are satisfied with the approach and what is going to happen. Budget set aside was \$200,000 – scope is within that dollar amount.

Stephen DeFrancesco (AECOM) – stated that to discharge to the MWRA sewer system the MWRA is requiring Tri- Town to perform a pilot study. The main purpose of the study is to collect the sludge that comes off the dissolved air floatation clarification system. That gets sent to a lab and tested for PFAS concentration. AECOM is retaining firm named Blue – Leaf.

At 9:25 a.m. Ms. Goldrick joins the meeting.

AECOM has used Blue Leaf before. Blue Leafs specialty is running pilot treatment plants. The pilot will take about 3-4 weeks. Most of the time is used for set- up and break – down. They will bring in a small DAF clarification unit. This will draw water right from the reservoir, run through the miniature system add the same chemicals that are added now and at new plant. With the clarification process, you are floating the sludge, skimming the sludge and sending it off for testing. Going to test a couple of filter medias, granular activated carbon filter medias. The finer granular removes more PFAS, but plugs up quicker. Test a couple of gradations to find the right balance, that you get long enough filter, but get maximum PFAS removal. The best one will be used in the full-size plant.

AECOM will retain Blue Leaf, coordinating connections (electrical, water, waste) perform jar testing to make sure chemical dosages are correct. Blue Leaf will prepare report – AECOM will edit. EP and MWRA will receive the report.

Mr. Alexopoulos questioned the time frame. Mr. DeFrancesco stated that they will start in April in warmer weather. Expect results in June or July.

The price of the scope of \$190,000. \$ 123,000 is for Blue Leaf the operator of pilot plan the rest is for AECOM.

Mayor Kokoros explains to Ms. Goldrick that this pilot is to show what kind of PFAS is discharged.

Mayor Kokoros asked if you can have 20 parts for trillion in take – why would they make it zero?

Helen Gordon (EP) currently reg is 20 parts per trillion. EPA is coming out with new regulations.

Mass reg – PFAS 6. There are 6 PFAS that have to come within the 20 PPT. EPA is probably going to identify 2 or 3 of the PFAS that exist (which are thousands). They will most likely set the limit at 4PPT per compound. MWRA has decided that they are not going to let any new permits with PFAS be approved until they know what the level is. Since Tri-Town is not discharging until the new regulation comes in, what they have done is say that Tri-Town has to be ready for the new regulations.

Jim Arsenault – Braintree issues permits for new plans or developments that come in. So far permits have been issued with no restrictions. MWRA seems impartial.

Helen Gordon (EP)– that is a concern and there have been conversation in executive session. Counsel is in an appeal process. Engineering prospective that water quality standards in to a sewer system is appropriate.

Jim Arsenault questioned where is the point source?

Helen Gordon (EP) answered - Tri-Town Water district is considered an industrial source. The point is as it enters Braintree collection system at the plant. It is not at the end where Braintree waste water collection system enter the interceptor at MWRA.

Mr. Alexopoulos: We are doing pilot program running water capturing solids. Then going out for testing to see what PFAS levels are. Isn't evidence going to tell use higher than 4?

–We have to collect sludge on clarifier. PFAS isn't removed in clarifier. Testing sludge off of clarifier.

Mayor Kokoros - we will also be able to look at which level of granular works better - will save money in the end.

Mr. Alexopoulos: do you replace all at once? Or different chambers at different time?

Steve DeFrancesco (AECOM) – There are 5 filters, maybe replace 2 a year.

Helen Gordon (EP) GAC takes out organics. Will be good to test most recent GAC Formulas Since new regulations coming, everyday there is new technology that is being looked at . Ms.. Gordon noted that there is extra space on the treatment plants foot print for new technologies. Regulations will only get more stringent.

Ms. Goldrick asked for clarification on testing. Is it in 2024 or 2026?

Steve DeFrancesco (AECOM) – confirmed 2024. Just waiting on warmer weather.

Helen Gordon (EP) Stated that a challenge is that if MWRA does not allow Tri Town to discharge, lagoons will need to be built. Discharge will need to be taken away, which is a problem. Companies that take away discharge have the same regulations. Not necessarily taking sludge with high PFAS.

Ms. Goldrick - asked if discussion of back up plans will be had.

Helen Gordon (EP) Budget information already provided. If we do pilot now will now, by the time results are received, new regulations will be out. Based on results we will know if they are giving a permit. If not, there will be time to design lagoons – and add that in.

MOTION: A vote to approve AECOM’s Amendment No.4 for the Tri-Town water Treatment Plant Project in the amount of \$190,181.00. Amendment no.4 covers the cost of the pilot testing to analyze DAF residuals for PFAS compounds as required by the MWRA Sewer Use Permit.

MOTION: Ms. Goldrick

SECOND: by Mr. Alexopoulos

o No Discussion

Mayor Kokoros – Yes

Mr. Alexopoulos – Yes

Ms. Goldrick – Yes

Vote : Unanimous

Document Signature/Utilizing an electronic signature for SRF Reimbursements:

Chris Dapson (EP) Hello Sign will be tested on SRF #2. Documents will be uploaded and signature fields added for each community, AECOM and EP. AECOM and EP will review and sign first then communities will get a notification that there is a document ready to review and sign. Only communities signature line will appear. It will go back to EP, and EP will forward the fully signed document. Each community will get a copy of the fully signed document. If it works well with Drawn down number 2 – it will be continued to be used.

Helen Gordon (EP) added that video conference calls will be scheduled for the communities to learn the product.

Proposal for Tri-Town Water District Website:

Helen Gordon (EP) Currently monthly update posted on Braintree's website. Discussion if it is time for Tri-Town to have it owns website. A proposal was put together on creating website and maintaining it until 2026 and then turn over to Tri Town management team. Discussing purchasing and managing a propriety URL for Tri Town. Will meet with staff to make sure what is wanted will be on the site. Site would be built and monthly maintained. Budgeted an annual fee of \$13,000. 4 hours of monthly support to continue to update web site. Providing pictures and more content. Proposing \$19,000 for creation of the website and \$13,000 annual maintenance fee.

Ms. Goldrick stated that she doesn't know the going rate of website management and questioned if this is for going forward or for a 1-year project.

Helen Gordon (EP) restated that it would be maintained until Tri- Town was up and running at that point it would be turned over to Tri-Town.

Mayor Kokoros – asked about the URL.

Helen Gordon (EP) – there are a number of URLs that the board can choose from.

Brian Howard -recommended using Civic Plus.

9:52 a.m. Mayor Kokoros -stated that the meeting will be continued on site. Meet at 195 Bay State Drive to meet with safety group.

10:19 a.m. group rejoined at 195 Bay Sate Drive – meet with Walsh construction for a safety introduction. Group walked over to construction site.

10:40 a.m. Ms. Goldrick departed meeting.

11:09 a.m. site visit ended

11:09 a.m. meeting adjourned

Motion to adjourn

MOTION: Mr. Alexopoulos

SECOND: Mayor Kokoros

Mayor Kokoros – Yes

Mr. Alexopoulos – Yes

Vote : Unanimous

*Respectfully Submitted,
Kate N. Naughton
Recording Secretary*

