

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The September Regular Board of Directors Meeting of Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority was held on September 28, 2020 starting at 5:30 p.m. at 100 Waterworks Rd., Edgefield, SC (ECWSA Administrative Building). No individual or organization requested a copy of the Agenda. Notice of this Board of Directors Meeting was posted in the Administration Office 4 weeks prior to meeting and the Agenda was posted September 24, 2020.

CALL TO ORDER: Kenamer, 5:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Creswell

MEMBERS PRESENT: Johnson, Clark, Creswell, Kenamer, Smith, and Kitchens.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Washington

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Hare, Business Manager Carroway

GUEST PRESENT: Grant Davis of Mauldin & Jenkins

AGENDA: A motion was made by Johnson to approve the September 28, 2020 Agenda. Second by Clark. Vote unanimous to approve the agenda.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Johnson to approve the August 24, 2020 Minutes. Second by Clark. Vote unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments from the public and no one present from the public.

PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT FY 2020 AUDIT

After a brief introduction by Administrator Hare, Mr. Grant Davis of Mauldin & Jenkins made his presentation of the ECWSA FY 2020 Audit in draft form. Mr. Davis then began a review of the draft 2019-20 financials for the Board. Mr. Davis stated that the Authority was in a strong position financially at the conclusion of FY 2020. Mr. Davis also made comments about COVID-19 impacts to other institutions, but there were no significant impacts to the Authority. He stated that his staff had some additional work on the footnotes and other parts of the financial report to produce the final audit. The final report would also include Mauldin & Jenkins opinion of the Authority's finances, but that his staff had not discovered anything that would result in a negative opinion. At the conclusion of the audit, Mr. Davis expressed his appreciation, on behalf of his firm, for continued strong working relationship and cooperation of staff at the Authority. He also encouraged the Board to review the draft, and any questions they had could be answered at the presentation of the final draft in October 2020. Chairman Kenamer also asked how the Authority compared to other like sized water providers in terms of cooperation and finances. Mr. Davis stated that the Authority operated at a high level financially and executively compared to most. Chairman Kenamer and other Board members thanked him for his work on the audit.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Administrator Hare discussed the Financial Statement ending August 31, 2020. Budget should be at 16.67%, Revenues are 18.75%, and Expenses are at 16.69%. Water Sales are behind because of excessive rain as compared to previous summers. Sewer sales by were relatively steady as compared to the previous month and previous year.

REPORTS:

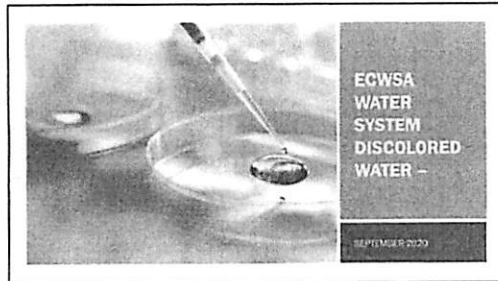
John Hare, Administrator covered the following items during the report section:

- Administrator Hare gave a brief Power Point Presentation concerning Smoke Testing of the gravity sewer system in Edgefield. This testing identifies areas that allow inflow of rainwater into the sanitary sewer system. Examples shown were storm drains, broken cleanouts and building gutters tied into the sewer. Kitchens and Kennamer questioned how the Authority would deal with SCDOT in disconnecting the storm drains. Hare explained that once everything was fully documented, they would meet with SCDOT to plan disconnection of the storm drains. Individual property owners would be contacted about disconnecting gutters and other contributors of rain water to the sewer system.
- The date for the December Board meeting is December 7, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. No business will be conducted and a meal will be provided for the Board members and their spouses. This meeting will be held at Three Star Vineyards.
- Administrator Hare also provided a news article from the *Saluda Standard Sentinel* detailing SCWSA's plans to construct a \$30 million wastewater treatment plant and disconnect from the Regional Sewer. This is expected to take about three years.

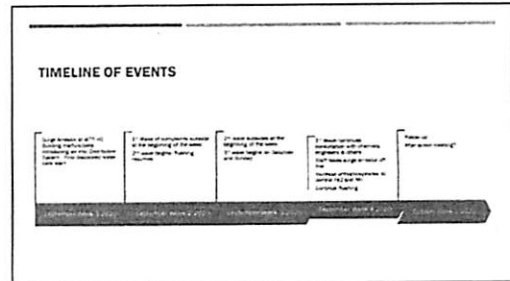
BUSINESS:

A. DISCOLORED WATER PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION

Administrator Hare held an extensive discussion and presented a slideshow concerning the recent discolored water episodes in the Authority's Water Distribution System. The cause of the discolored water is iron and manganese.



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IRON AND MANGANESE

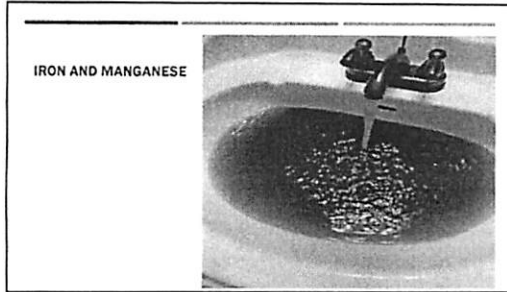
- Discoloration of the water is a combination of iron and manganese. Both of these elements are naturally present in the source of our drinking water, the Savannah River. When we treat the water from the river, we add certain chemicals to "sequester" or suspend the iron and manganese in solution in the drinking water. Over the course of time and distance, the iron and manganese deposit on the walls of the water mains that transport water from our water treatment plant to the homes of our customers.

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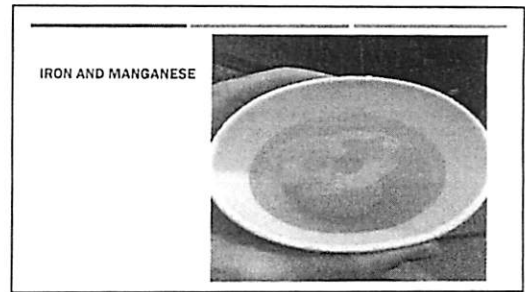
IRON AND MANGANESE

- Iron and manganese are not known to be harmful according to EPA and SCCHEC. In fact, the only limits on iron and manganese are related to aesthetics (color) of the water.

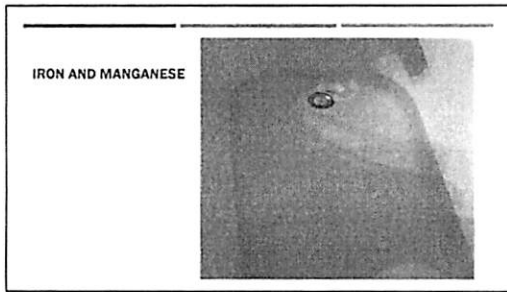
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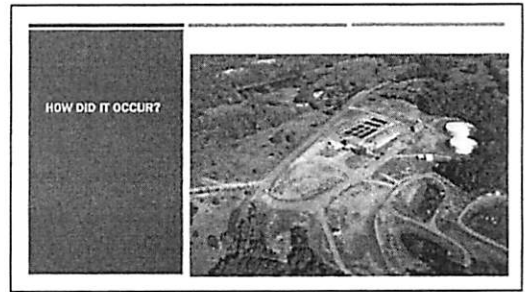
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HOW DID IT OCCUR?


SOME TIME DURING THE 1970s, AN UNIDENTIFIED SOURCE OF A MILLION GALLONS OF WATER WAS DISCOVERED THAT CONTAINED HIGH LEVELS OF IRON AND MANGANESE. THIS WATER WAS FOUND IN A WELL IN THE MOUNTAIN AREA.



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SURGE ARRESTOR

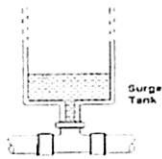
IF THE WATER FLOWING INTO THE TANKS IS TOO HIGH, IT WILL BE STOPPED BY THE SURGE ARRESTOR.



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HOW IT WORKS

THE SURGE ARRESTOR IS A TANK THAT IS USED TO STOP THE WATER FROM FLOWING INTO THE TANKS IF THE WATER FLOW IS TOO HIGH.



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IRON AND MANGANESE IN DRINKING WATER

- Both of these elements are naturally present in the source of our drinking water, the Savannah River. When we treat the water from the river, we add certain chemicals (ortho-phosphates) to "sequester" or suspend the iron and manganese in solution in the drinking water. Over the course of time and distance, the iron and manganese deposit on the walls of the water mains that transport water from our water treatment plants to the homes of our customers.

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IRON AND MANGANESE IN DRINKING WATER

Water flows through the center of a pipe, near faster in center, while near the wall, it flows slower. This leads to unevenness of iron and manganese.

Each inside layer of water within the pipe is moving slightly faster than its outside neighbor.

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IRON & MANGANESE IN DRINKING WATER

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FAILURE POINT

- When the surge arrester became over pressurized, it introduced an extremely large volume of air into 24 water transmission main leaving the Water Treatment Plant. These air bubbles or pockets had the effect of scouring the lines, breaking loose or dissolving the Fe and Mn on the pipe walls thereby discoloring the water on September 2.

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COMBATING THE DISCOLORED WATER

- The primary method for alleviating the discolored water is flushing via hydrants and blow-offs. This began upon receipt of the first complaints and continues at varying levels and prices today.

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COMBATING THE DISCOLORED WATER

Challenges: Make all the discolored water land on fields.

- Because of the unpredictability of the air pockets and the extent of flushing, it has taken several weeks to clear the lines.

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COMBATING THE DISCOLORED WATER

- The Authority has flushed in excess of 10,000,000 gallons of water (approximately \$10,000) and spent an estimated 300 man hours on flushing activities.

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COMBATING THE DISCOLORED WATER

- In addition, the Authority has taken the Gulpe Airstor off-line for further evaluation, increased ortho-phosphate feeds at the WTR, consulted with numerous chemist, engineers and others to develop strategies to control and eliminate the discolored water.

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Administrator Hare and Business Manager Carroway discussed with the Board the need to upgrade ECWSA's website to better communicate with customers. The new website will allow customers to subscribe to email and/or text alerts for information the Authority wishes to push out. Administrator Hare also discussed the possibility of a social media presence in the future as the demographics of the Authority's customer base were changing. The Board discussed the pros and cons of social media. In the end, no immediate decision was made concerning proceeding with social media. Staff will monitor how many people "subscribe" to the updates from the new website, and social media will be discussed again in the future. Any complaints from the discolored water will be handled on a case by case basis.

B. PURCHASE OF MINI EXCAVATOR

Administrator Hare presented bids to purchase a mini excavator from the following:

MINI EXCAVATOR BIDS
SEPTEMBER 2020

1.	J & B Tractor Co.	Kubota KX057-4	\$54,950.00
2.	Blanchard Equipment	John Deere 50G	\$56,310.00
3.	Linder Co.	Komatsu PC45Mr-5	\$69,917.00

*Pricing reflects all applicable Governmental Discounts or lowest available price


A brief discussion was held by the Board concerning the different equipment. Administrator Hare recommended that the Authority proceed with purchase of the Kubota from J & B Tractor. Johnson asked Smith what his experience was with Kubota versus John Deere. Smith replied that although his preference was John Deere, he had owned and operated Kubota's in the past and felt they were good machines. He also stated that the service department at J & B was very good and responsive. Kitchens asked if staff had obtained a bid from Wilson Brothers Machinery in Newberry. Hare stated that they had not since the quotes reflected Governmental Pricing. Kitchens made a motion that the Authority purchase the Kubota excavator from J&B, conditioned upon checking pricing with Wilson Bros., as well. Second by Creswell. Upon discussion, it was agreed that Administrator Hare would communicate with Chairman Kennamer what the Wilson Bros. price was, and unless there was a significant difference, purchase the machine from J & B. Clark also stated that the Authority needed to take into consideration the travel difference between the two locations when the machine would need to be serviced. Vote unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The Board did not enter in to Executive Session

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Motion was made by Kitchens to adjourn.
Second by Clark
Time: 6:55 p.m., September 28, 2020
Vote Unanimous

Approved


James Earl Kennamer, Chairman