

# **SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY**

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**August 28, 2023**

### **ATTENDANCE:**

**AUTHORITY MEMBERS:**

<b>Spring</b>	Joseph Galbraith Rodney Maney Chris McMurtrie
<b>Benner</b>	Brian Book Willis Houser, Jr.
<b>Walker</b>	Dennis Brown Dennis McDowell

**GUESTS:** Tom Eby & Jim Lanning

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** N. Warren Miller

**CONSULTING ENGINEER:** Andrew Johnson, P.E.

**EMPLOYEES:** Will Barton & Kelly Gill

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The August 28, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Dennis McDowell, Chairman. Mr. McDowell thanked everyone for attending and stated that the meeting would be recorded for transcription purposes.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Willis Houser, Jr., Secretary, took Roll Call, recording seven members present. Mr. Hughes and Mr. Kuzemchak were excused from the meeting. Mr. McDowell, Chairman, noted that with a quorum present, the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority was permitted to conduct business under the laws of Pennsylvania.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mr. McDowell, Chairman, led the Board members, Employees and Guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

Mr. McDowell asked the Board if there were any questions and/or changes to the August 14, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. Maney to approve the Minutes of the August 14, 2023 Regular Meeting as presented. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Annual Clay Shoot Invitation** – Mr. McDowell indicated that Gwin, Dobson & Foreman Engineers (GD&F) have extended an invitation to the Authority Board to attend their annual clay shoot at Warriors Mark Wingshooting Lodge on Friday, October 6, 2023. Anyone interested in attending should RSVP to GD&F by September 22, 2023.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

**Treasurer's Report:** Mr. McMurtrie reviewed the financial reports for the period ending 07/31/2023. Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the Treasurer's Report. **Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Book to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:**

Approval of Requisitions:

**Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-80**– Mr. McMurtrie presented the Board with Revenue Requisition #2020-80 in the amount of \$57,919.13. Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-80. **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Brown to approve Revenue Requisition 2020-80 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$57,919.13. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

**Semi-Annual 2020 Bond Interest & Principal Payment** – Mr. McMurtrie indicated the Authority's semi-annual 2020 bond interest and principal payment in the amount of \$159,693.13 was presented for approval at the meeting. Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the bond payment. **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. Brown to approve the semi-annual 2020 bond interest and principal payment in the amount of \$159,693.13. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. The motion carried.**

**GUESTS:**

**Tom Eby and Jim Lanning (Benner Township Water Authority)** – Mr. Eby introduced himself as the Chairman of the Benner Township Water Authority (BTWA) and thanked the Board for allowing the BTWA to use the services of the Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority (SBWJA) for operating, maintaining and managing the BTWA's water systems. Mr. Eby indicated this is a great service to the citizens who are also customers of the SBWJA. Mr. Eby commended the SBWJA staff for the excellent service they provide on behalf of the BTWA.

Mr. Lanning introduced himself to the Board indicating he is the Founder of the National Critical Infrastructure Key Resource Group, a member of the BTWA Board of Directors, a member of the Benner Township Planning Commission and the Secretary of the Spring Creek Watershed Commission.

Mr. Eby informed the Board that the BTWA has an annual budget of around \$200,000 and a low customer base, which causes challenges when needing to generate additional income to complete capital projects. Mr. Eby indicated that one of the BTWA's wells has a high nitrate level, which is nearing the maximum contaminant level (MCL). Once the MCL is reached, the well can no longer be used. The high nitrate level is associated with farming practices in the area.

Mr. Eby stated the BTWA is considering an interconnection of its water systems to include the installation of a water storage tank at an estimated cost of around \$3.1 million. He and Mr. Lanning have been meeting with federal and state legislators for assistance with obtaining grant funding. A letter was disbursed to the SBWJA Board that was provided to the Centre County Commissioners requesting grant funding to complete the exploration of a backup water source (well) in Benner Township. There have also been discussions about the need for public water throughout Benner Township, which is difficult without a mandatory connection ordinance in place. Mr. Eby indicated that the State College Borough Water Authority (SCBWA) provides water service to the area surrounding the University Park Airport and Continental Courts. He also stated that Bellefonte Borough provides water service to the Benner Pike corridor to include Penn Eagle Industrial Park, the Centre County Prison and Benner Commerce Park. Most of the BTWA's customer base is residential homes, which does not generate as much revenue as those received by the SCBWA and Bellefonte Borough for the commercial/industrial properties they serve in Benner Township. Mr. Eby provided an overview of the history surrounding the incorporation of the BTWA, the agreement reached with SCBWA to extend public water into portions of Benner Township and Bellefonte Borough serving the properties along the Benner Pike corridor.

Mr. Eby stated if any questions ever arise, he welcomes any SBWJA Board member to contact him. Mr. McDowell thanked Mr. Eby and Mr. Lanning for taking the time to attend a meeting to introduce themselves to the SBWJA Board.

## SYSTEM OVERVIEW:

Mr. McDowell asked Mr. Barton if he had anything to report. Mr. Barton stated he didn't have a system overview to report for this meeting. Mr. Miller suggested Mr. Barton discuss the recent callouts to Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridge) and Pump Station #6 (Rockview).

**Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridge)**– Mr. Barton stated last month the PLC at Pump Station #7 (Zion Ridge) was repaired by Radwell, re-installed and functioning properly. Last week a communication failure occurred and the PLC was returned to Radwell for repair under warranty. There is currently an 8-week lead time on the repair. Mr. Barton indicated that the pump station is currently running on the secondary level control (floats).

**Pump Station #6 (Rockview)** – Mr. Barton informed the Board that he received a call out to Pump Station #6 (Rockview) this past Saturday for a pump failure. One of the breakers inside the control cabinet failed and will no longer reset. The breaker has been discontinued by the manufacturer (Allen Bradley). Allen Bradley has a replacement, but the footprint is not the same and Mr. Barton is unsure if it will fit in the panel. Allen Bradley technical support sent over a specification sheet, which Mr. Barton will be reviewing to determine if it will fit. Through speaking with Mr. Johnson this evening, Mr. Barton became aware of a place in Ebensburg that refurbishes electronics, which may be an option. Mr. Barton informed the Board that three options exist. The options include having it repaired (Radwell quoted \$400 with an 8–10 week lead time), purchase a used one (Radwell quoted \$1700) or purchase a new one. At this time, Mr. Barton is unsure of the price of a new one or if it will even fit in the panel.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

**Shiloh Road Sewer Extension Project** – Mr. Miller stated we haven't moved forward with the Shiloh Road Sewer Extension Project and haven't heard anything further from the PA Game Commission about the conservation easement. Following the last meeting Mr. Miller contacted the PA Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) to discuss the Fish Habitat Enhancement project and the PFBC will apply for grants in connection with a 2025 construction year.

## ENGINEER'S REPORT:

**Walker Township Act 537 Plan Update** – Mr. Johnson informed the Board that the PA DEP has approved the Task Activity Report (TAR) submitted for the Walker Township Act 537 Plan Update. A meeting will be set up with the PA DEP to discuss the next steps associated with the Act 537 Plan Update. Mr. McDowell stated we should have guidance from the Walker Township Supervisors and Mr. Johnson stated they will likely be included in the meeting. Mr. McDowell stated he would like to be included in the meeting as well.

**Rockview Forestry Pump Station #6A Upgrades** – Mr. McDowell inquired about the status of the upgrades to the Rockview Forestry Pump Station #6A. Mr. Miller stated Rockview has forwarded the request to Central Office for further guidance, but we haven't heard anything further.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Bridleridge Subdivision** – Mr. Book referenced a letter from the PA DEP in the August 14, 2023 board packet pertaining to the Bridleridge Subdivision and asked if there were any updates. Mr. Miller stated no, we haven't received any further correspondence indicating the project was administratively complete.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was no New Business presented for discussion.

**QUESTIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** There were no questions asked of the Executive Director.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Personnel & Community Relations Committee:** Mr. Galbraith had nothing to report.

**Facilities Committee:** Mr. Houser had nothing to report.

**Financial Committee:** Mr. McMurtrie had nothing to report.

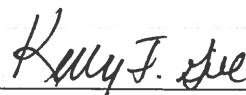
**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mr. Galbraith moved, seconded by Mr. McMurtrie to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.**  
7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. **The motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,



Willis Houser, Jr., Secretary



Kelly J. Gill, Recording Secretary

CC: Benner Township \_\_\_\_\_  
Spring Township \_\_\_\_\_  
Walker Township \_\_\_\_\_

> emailed  
9-13-23  
JRG