

**SPRING-BENNER-WALKER JOINT AUTHORITY**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**March 10, 2025**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**AUTHORITY MEMBERS:**

<b>Spring</b>	Joseph Galbraith Rodney Maney Douglas McKee Christie McMurtrie
<b>Benner</b>	Brian Book Willis Houser, Jr. William Hughes
<b>Walker</b>	Dennis Brown Dennis McDowell

**GUESTS:** None present

**CONSULTING SOLICITORS:** Michael Levandoski, Esq.

**CONSULTING ENGINEER:** Steven Gibson, P.E. & Andy Johnson, P.E.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** N. Warren Miller

**EMPLOYEES:** Will Barton, Tasha Dutton, Kelly Gill & Melissa White

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The March 10, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority was called to order at 4:00 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 nine members present. Mr. Galbraith attended the meeting via phone. 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.

**PLEGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

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

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

Mr. McDowell asked the Board if there were any questions and/or changes to the February 24, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. **Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Book to approve the Minutes of the February 24, 2025 Regular Meeting as presented.** 9 ayes, 0 nays. **The motion carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**John J. Harakal/611 Blanchard Street** - We received a letter from John J. Harakal requesting the SBWJA Board approve a reduced user fee for 611 Blanchard Street. Mr. Harakal indicated the building is being used for storage and there is no electricity to the facility. This property was formerly known as Haines Vaults. Bellefonte Borough confirmed the water is terminated to the property. Mr. Miller visited the property and verified the new electric meter indicated the power was also terminated to the building. **Mr. Book moved, seconded by Mr. McDowell to approve a reduced user fee for 611 Blanchard Street effective with the next quarterly bill.** 9 ayes, 0 nays. **The motion carried.**

**PennTerra Engineering, Inc.** - We received a letter from Ron Borger, PennTerra Engineering, requesting a letter of intent to provide sewer service for Benner Mills Townhomes. The proposed project will be located along Amberleigh Lane in Benner Township and will require 23 EDUs. **Mr. Borger was provided with a letter of intent in the amount of 23.00 EDUs for the proposed project in Benner Township on March 4, 2025.**

**Thank You** – Mr. McDowell read a thank you card from Mr. Barton for the vegetable and fruit platters provided by the Authority for the recent passing of his father-in-law.

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:**

Approval of Requisitions:

**Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-115**– Mr. McMurtrie presented the Board with Revenue Requisition #2020-115 in the amount of \$61,831.03. Mr. McDowell asked if there were questions regarding the presentation of Revenue Fund Requisition 2020-115. **Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Book to approve Revenue Requisition 2020-115 payable to SBWJA in the amount of \$61,831.03.** 9 ayes, 0 nays. **The motion carried.**

**GUESTS:** There were no Guests present for the meeting.

**SYSTEM OVERVIEW REPORT:**

Will Barton, Maintenance Crew Leader, provided an overview of the work completed on the sanitary sewer system for the month of February 2025.

**In-Home Inspections** - There were 22 in-home inspections completed in the month of February.

**Sewer Permits and/or Lateral Inspections** - Our maintenance department completed 11 sewer lateral inspections. The office staff received 6 new sewer permit applications in the amount of 6.00 EDUs and issued the permits.

**System Maintenance:**

The maintenance department completed the cleanout relocation work at 273 Sunnyside Boulevard due to the bridge replace project on Railroad Street over Buffalo Run. We replaced the battery to the generator at Pump Station #9 (Penn Eagle). Our staff collected samples from Rockview's EQ tank for PFAS testing, which is Bellefonte Borough Authority's new requirement.

There were modifications made to a piece of damaged piping approximately 15' downstream of our Spring Creek meter pit. Mr. Barton indicated a previous slip line repair made by Bellefonte Borough had caused the pipe to curl up and was catching debris, backing up flow, which made it appear we had more flow going through the meter pit.

We located our Rockview forcemain to determine the depth along the Benner Pike near the Candlewood Hotel project site. The information was required to finalize the design for extending gravity service.

The maintenance department continued their annual pump station cleaning and repaired three (3) push cameras. Our staff also exercised all pump station valves and repaired several ARVs.

**Video Truck** – We recorded 19,050 feet of sewer mainline and inspected 51 manholes in February.

**Vactor Truck** – We cleaned 19,050 feet of sewer mainline and 270 feet of lines for Murmac Farms in February.

**Sewer Extensions** – Our staff reviewed and redlined construction drawings for the gravity line that will serve the Candlewood Hotel and Benner Pike Carwash. We reviewed and approved the construction drawings for Bridleridge, Phase 1 and reviewed the revised construction drawings for Harvest Meadows, Phase 2 in Benner Township.

**Inter Municipal Work** – The Authority videoed three (3) storm pipes for Benner Township.

**Benner Township Water Authority** – We collected samples for routine testing at both systems, met with Keystone Engineering to update the SCADA system and obtained quarterly water readings for both systems.

**Call Outs/ PA One Calls** – There were three (3) call outs for the month of February. A pump #2 fail and low system pressure alarm was noted at the Grove Park Well and an emergency PA One Call was marked on Axemann Road due to the replacement of a power pole. The final call out was for a grinder pump alarm at 2952 Benner Pike. Mr. Barton ended the report with a total of 57 PA One Calls being located in February.

**Spring Creek Meter Pit** – Mr. Book asked how much of an impact Bellefonte Borough's distorted pipe affected the flows at our Spring Creek meter pit and for how long. Mr. Barton estimated 100 gpm more for several days.

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

**Melissa White** – Mr. Miller introduced Melissa White to the Board. Mrs. White filled the Office Clerk/Secretary position with the Authority on March 3, 2025.

**Shiloh Road Sewer Extension Right-of-Way Compensation** – Mr. Miller asked that an Executive Session be held this evening to discuss the Shiloh Road Sewer Extension right-of-ways, negotiations and compensations.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Mr. McDowell recessed the Board for an Executive Session at 4:11 p.m. to discuss Real Estate. The meeting reconvened at 4:29 p.m.

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

**Shiloh Road Sewer Extension Right-of-Ways** – Mr. Levandoski informed the Board of an email he received from attorney Gary Delafield. It was noted that Mr. Delafield is the attorney representing three (3) residents from the Shiloh Road Sewer Extension Project. Mr. Delafield indicated James & Susan Houser of 625 Rock Road met with a SBWJA representative regarding their issues and they are now satisfied with the information provided to them and have agreed to execute their right-of-way. Mr. Levandoski stated that he has tried to contact attorney Delafield on several occasions to discuss Robert & Virgen Delafield of 580 Rock Road and Cheryl Delafield Dawson of 595 Rock Road concerns. Mr. Levandoski will continue to try to contact attorney Delafield and will report back to Mr. Miller with his findings.

**Mr. Book exited meeting at 4:30 p.m.**

**Benner Township Water Authority (BTWA) Contract Termination** – Mr. Levandoski informed the Board that he also represents Benner Township Water Authority (BTWA) and that he received a telephone call from Benner Township Supervisor's solicitor, Rodney Beard, to discuss BTWA. Mr. Beard stated that the Supervisors began discussions, at their March 3, 2025 meeting, regarding SBWJA terminating their contract with BTWA. It was noted the Benner Township Supervisors began discussions of dissolving the BTWA and the Supervisors questioned if SBWJA would be interested in operating the water system as their own. Mr. Levandoski asked the Board to consider the request to operate the BTWA if the Supervisors would decide to dissolve the BTWA. Mr. Miller stated initial discussions should be held in Executive Session due to it being an existing contract. Mr. Levandoski stated that a decision does not need to be made at this time, that the Supervisors would just like to know if SBWJA would be interested in this opportunity before their April 7, 2025 meeting so they may determine if this an option for them. The Board will add this matter to their March 24, 2025 agenda, which may involve an Executive Session due to the current contract with the BTWA.

## **ENGINEER' S REPORT:**

**Annual Chapter 94 Report** – Mr. Johnson presented the Board with the annual Chapter 94 Report for 2024 and referenced some key points. In 2024, the peak three-month hydraulic loading to the system was 802,227 gpd, which did not include Rockview. The Authority's ratio of peak three-month flow to annual average flow for 2024 was 1.07, which is an indication of a tight system with very little inflow and/or infiltration.

The number of EDUs billed by the Authority increased from 7,392 in 2023 to 7,582 in 2024. In 2024, 199.20 EDUs were added to the SBWJA collection system. In 2025, the Authority is projecting the addition of at least 130.29 EDUs through developer and/or individual connections to the system.

In 2024, over 175,377 linear feet (33.22 miles) of gravity sewer was inspected and recorded and 175,745 linear feet (33.29) was jetted and cleaned. It was also noted that 2,500 linear feet (0.47 miles) of newly constructed sewer line was mandreled and pressure tested.

In 2024, the Authority completed an in-home sewer inspection of 389 properties and approximately 2% of the inspections resulted in problems that were identified and corrected.

Mr. Johnson reviewed Table 5 within the Chapter 94 Report, which outlined the average and peak flows not including Rockview. The annual average daily flow, not including Rockview, was 751,268. The annual average daily flow including Rockview was 1,412,380 with a 3-month average peak of 1,469,675 GPD and a 3-month peak average to average daily flow (ADF) ratio of 1.04.

In 2023, the Authority's maintenance department re-lined and epoxy coated the wet wells at Pump Station #1A (Springfield) and Pump Station #12 (State College Regional).

In April 2019, the Benner Township Supervisors and Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority authorized completion of an Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Special Study for evaluating the need of providing public sewer in southern Benner Township along Shiloh Road, Rock Road, Big Hollow Road and Walnut Grove Development. The Act 537 Plan Special Study was approved by PA DEP in the spring of 2021. In 2021 and 2022, Benner Township and the Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority were defending this plan against litigation efforts filed by one of the homeowners affected by the project. On November 18, 2022, the PA Environmental Hearing Board (EHB) adjudicated the suit filed against the Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority, Benner Township and the PA Department of Environmental Protection by the affected homeowner. The allegations presented to the EHB were dismissed. In this same timeframe it was determined that the groundwater in and around the State College Regional Airport was contaminated with perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. This investigation and public comment have significantly delayed the environmental permitting of this project. The Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority plans to obtain the necessary permits to complete this project and will begin construction when permitted.

Mr. Johnson reviewed Chart 1 which outlined the 2024 historical and projected flows for Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority. The flow projections for 2025 to 2029 are based on 150 new EDUs connected per year from sewer extensions and the five-year average flow per EDU (102.0 GPD) was utilized to project the average flow. The previous five-year average flow to average peak 3-month flow ratio (1.07) was utilized to project the three- month peak.

Mr. McDowell asked if there were any questions regarding the presentation of the Annual Chapter 94 Report for 2024. **Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Houser to approve the Annual Chapter 94 Report for the 2024 calendar year as presented and to authorize Mr. Miller to execute the signature page of the report.** 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. **The motion carried.**

**Shiloh Road Sewer Extension Project Permitting** – Mr. Gibson took a moment to update the Board on the progress with satisfying PA DEP’s new riparian buffer requirements. Gwin Dobson & Foreman (GD&F) met with the PA Fish and Boat Commission on several occasions, over the past two (2) weeks, regarding some potential properties that may help us meet the riparian buffer requirements. GD&F is currently working with the PA Fish & Boat Commission’s attorney to verify they approve the protective easements and the verbiage. Mr. Gibson believes this agreement seems promising. It was noted that we do have a submission deadline of next week and Mr. Gibson feels we will likely require an extension. Mr. Miller stated this is one of the final steps in our permitting process before the environmental permits are issued.

**Shiloh Road Sewer Extension Project Easements** – Mr. Gibson stated there were a few minor adjustments made to the easements required for the Shiloh Road Sewer Extension Project; therefore, GD&F updated those easements last week.

**Rockview Forestry Pump Station #6A Upgrades** – GD&F is currently working through the design process and is obtaining pump information for the upgrades to Rockview Forestry Pump Station #6A. Mr. Gibson is planning to submit permits later this spring. It was noted that we may be required to obtain a Chapter 106 Floodplain Management Permit due to the pump station being located in the floodplain.

**Zion Back Road Sewer Line Extension** – GD&F made a few minor adjustments to the layout of the sewer mainline for the Zion Back Road Sewer Line Extension. Mr. Miller indicated a right-of-way easement agreement between SBWJA and Walker Township Supervisors was previously approved on November 4, 2009; however, he wanted to verify the developer and Walker Township were still in acceptance of the terms associated with the agreement. Once the developer reviews the terms of the right-of-way, Mr. Miller will then present it to the Walker Township Supervisors for their review.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was no Old Business presented for discussion.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Revisions to Rules & Regulations (Section 02315 – Boring, Jacking & Tunneling) –** Mr. Miller stated there has been discussions regarding a gravity sewer line proposed to be installed under the Benner Pike, which resulted in a few concerns he had regarding our current rules and regulations. It was noted the developer for the Candlewood Hotel and RNW Carwash had submitted an HOP for approval and that PennDOT was allowing the developer to install pipe under the Benner Pike without it being encased for protection. Mr. Miller spoke with Mr. Book regarding this matter and they feel it would be in the Authority's best interest to update our rules and regulations to reflect we have the right to require casing to protect our sewer pipe when installed under highway or railroad crossing. **Mr. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Maney to approve the revisions to the Rules and Regulations, Section 02315 – Boring, Jacking & Tunneling as presented and made a part of these official meeting Minutes. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

**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. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Hughes to adjourn the meeting at 5:08 p.m. 8 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent. The motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Willis Houser, Jr., Secretary

  
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Tasha L. Dutton, Recording Secretary

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

SECTION 02315

BORING, JACKING AND TUNNELING

PART 1. GENERAL

1.01 RELATED SECTIONS

- A. Section 02151 - Shoring
- B. Section 02225 - Excavating, Backfilling and Compacting for Utilities
- C. Section 02600 - Utility Piping
- D. Section 03300 - Cast-in-Place Concrete

1.02 QUALITY ASSURANCE

- A. Provide work in this section in accordance with these specifications and the Standard Detail Drawing Nos. 16 & 17.
- B. Workmen Qualifications:
  - 1. Use only personnel thoroughly trained and experienced in the skills required.
  - 2. Welds shall be made only by welders, tackers, and welding operators who have been previously qualified by tests as prescribed in the Structural Welding Code AWS D1.1 of the American Welding Society to perform the type of work required.
- C. Design Criteria:
  - 1. Encasing conduit under highways shall be of sufficient strength to support all superimposed loads including an American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials H-20 Loading with fifty (50) percent added for impact.
  - 2. Design and execution in railroad rights-of-way shall comply with all requirements of the Railroad Company.
  - 3. In rare circumstances Highway and Railroad Crossings may be allowed by the Crossing Entity to be uncased; however, this Authority reserves the right to require casing to protect its sewer pipe and assist in the repair or replacement of its utility.
- D. Requirements of Regulatory Agencies:
  - 1. Work of this Section within State Highway right-of-way will be subject to inspection by representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the work must be performed in accordance with the requirements of the latest edition of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Code, Title 67, Transportation, Department of Transportation, Chapter 459, Occupancy of Highways by Utilities.
  - 2. Work of this Section within the railroad right-of-way will be subject to the inspection of representatives of the Railroad Company and all work and materials must be in accordance