

WWTF Contingency Committee Meeting no. 3
September 12, 2023
Lewes BPW Conference Room
2:30pm

Participants

- Barbara Curtis, BPW Board Director, Chair
- Earl Webb, BPW Board Director
- Mark Prouty, Committee Member
- Donna Colton, Committee Member-Virtual
- Bob Heffernan, Committee Member
- Tim Ritzert, City Council Ex-Officio
- Austin Calaman, BPW General Manager
- Daphne Fuentesvilla, Committee Member- Absent
- Sumner Crosby, Committee Member- Absent

Others

- Michael Wolgemuth, Inframark- Virtual
- Jeffrey Kerrin, Inframark
- Mike Mazetti, Inframark
- Hans Medlarz, Sussex County
- Sharon Sexton, BPW Executive Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 2:37pm.

Key Takeaways

- The main topics discussed were regulations, operations plan, water flow and discharge, sludge processing, and potential technology changes.
- Discussion of batch reactor systems and potential to visit a local facility.
- Reviewed and finalized question list for technology vendors.
- Open questions included concerns about the impact of new technology on the current system and the need for better waste management solutions.
- The next steps include scheduling future meetings, gathering more information from utilities in Alabama, and exploring possible solutions for improved efficiency and sustainability.

Goals

- Gather more information for informed decision-making.
- Interest in exploring new technology for solid waste handling, focusing on improved efficiency and sustainability.

- Discussed reaching out to utilities in Alabama for more information.
- Schedule future tour of Berlin SBR system and Aqua-Nereda presentation.

Discussions

- Postponing discussion on discharging to the wetlands to a future meeting. Concern is with salinity discrepancy to the wetlands. Further investigation into state regulations is needed.
- Encouraged committee members to attend a virtual presentation by Aqua-Nereda to highlight technology aspects and current facility operations.
- The committee would like to host Aqua Nereda representatives to discuss BPW needs more specifically.
- Discussed solid handling agreement with Sussex County for waste disposal.
- The process of removing effluent during the settling period in the SBR system involves two different methods of effluent removal.
- Mentioned Aqua Aerobics SBR system as a possible solution in addition to the Aqua Nereda.
- Concerns about having to change the current sludge management process due to the introduction of a new technology (Nereda) and its impact on workflow. Mr. Medlarz stated that Sussex County would not be able to move the granules. Sussex County and BPW currently have a solid handling agreement.
- Nereda advantage is flow can be taken during the settling process.
- Discussed flaws in current system where sludge gets pumped back up via a grinder pump.
- Discussed the need for a comprehensive solution that effectively emphasizes more than just a compact system.
- The Berlin Parkson facility utilizes jet aeration and mixing.
- Discussed current workflow involving flow equalization and highlighted benefits of a batch reactor where items are processed immediately upon arrival.
- Extended duration process and time-consuming nature of existing system.
- Reaching out to utility companies in Alabama to gain insights on technology implementation.
- The Q&A session with Aqua Nereda is an important part of the upcoming presentation as it allows the audience to actively engage and seek clarification on any unclear or confusing points.
- Mr. Medlarz stated that the South Coastal facility produces very similar effluent to the BPW facility.
- Lewes' seasonality works to the benefit of both Sussex County and BPW to keep the plant stabilized. BPW was Sussex County's first wastewater partner.

Alternative Technologies

- Aqua Nereda and SBR technologies are being considered as alternatives to the current MBR system. Still in the information gathering process.

Challenges

- Discharging fresh water into the marsh is probably not feasible.
- Raised issues with the MBR option, citing higher maintenance requirements and energy consumption as drawbacks.
- Concerns raised about the new technology disrupting the sludge management process and causing operational issues due to potential changes in the process.

Action Items

- Sharon Sexton
 - Send virtual meeting details to everyone for the webinar from Aqua Nereda scheduled for Thursday, September 14, 2023.
 - Send a poll for Aqua Nereda presentation dates to committee members.
 - Send a poll to determine the best date for the next meeting.
- Mark Prouty
 - Contact Megan to schedule a visit to Berlin, MD SBR facility.
- Austin Calaman
 - Contact Aqua-Aerobic and other utility companies for information on their technology, processes, size, disposal methods, and more.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:54pm. Meeting video can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ka6qpxs4hqQ&t=68s>

Respectfully Submitted
Sharon Sexton
Executive Assistant