

DES MOINES WASTEWATER RECLAMATION AUTHORITY  
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Des Moines Wastewater Reclamation Facility  
3000 Vandalia Road  
Des Moines, Iowa

February 8, 2022  
1:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

ITEM 1: Call to Order

Shane Kinsey, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Scott Hutchens introduced Lisa Etnyre who is the new Administrative Professional who will be helping with minutes in the future. The Committee welcomed Lisa.

ITEM 2: Roll Call

**Members in Attendance**

Dan Scott, Altoona  
Don Clark, Ankeny  
Jeff May, Clive  
Wayne Schwartz, Norwalk  
Shane Kinsey, Johnston  
Gary Patterson, Pleasant Hill  
Bret VandeLune, Polk County\*  
John Larson, Urbandale  
Brian Hemesath, West Des Moines  
Larry Hare, WRF

**Others in Attendance**

Scott Hutchens, Operating Contractor  
James Beck, Operating Contractor  
Melissa Schlickbernd, Operating Contractor  
Lisa Etnyre, Operating Contractor  
Roxane Vaughan, Operating Contractor  
Ben Warren, Operating Contractor  
Bob Veenstra, Veenstra & Kimm  
Brian Bakke, HDR Engineering

\* Participated in the meeting via telephone due to the fact that it was impractical or impossible to participate in the meeting in person due to proximity to meeting location

ITEM 3: Minutes for the December 14, 2021 meeting - Approval

Brian Hemesath made a motion for recommendation. Don Clark seconded that motion. All in favor. The motion carried.

## ITEM 4: Minutes for the January 11, 2022 meeting - Approval

Wayne Schwartz made a motion for recommendation. Jeff May seconded that motion. All in favor. The motion carried.

## ITEM 5: WRA Southern Tier Interceptor, Phase 10, Segment 24 – Contract Recommendation

James Beck noted that bids were received on February 1, 2022 for the project which is a parallel sewer to the WRA Southern Tier Interceptor. The low bid received was from Rognes Corporation in the amount of \$3,231,000.00 which was approximately 22% over the engineer's estimate. It is believed that several factors contributing to increases in bid pricing factor into the increased pricing including labor shortages, material price increases, and inflation increases. Bob Veenstra noted there is a shortage of contractors for this type of work which could be contributing to pricing increases and several of the member communities have several projects bidding which bidders are competing for.

Brian Hemesath made a motion for recommendation. Wayne Schwartz seconded that motion. All in favor. The motion carried.

## ITEM 6: WRA Ingersoll Run Outlet Sewer, Phase 28, Segment 3 – Contract Recommendation

James Beck explained the project is the first segment of the WRA Ingersoll Run Sewer to bid. Bids were received at 11:00 AM today and the apparent low bid received was from Minger Construction Company in the amount of \$4,388,521.00 which was 8% below the engineer's estimate. Staff did have the opportunity to discuss the bid with Minger after the bid opening and Minger indicated they are comfortable with their bid and that a significant portion of the project is tunnel work which they quoted to all of the other bidders. Bob Veenstra noted that Minger had an advantage as they do a lot of tunneling work and that the WRA was working through the Programmatic Agreement negotiation for this segment and other segments that will bid in the future

Don Clark made a motion for recommendation. Gary Patterson seconded that motion. All in favor. The motion carried.

## ITEM 7: Professional Services Agreement for the WRA Treatment Facility Plan Update – 2024 with HDR Engineering, Inc., in an Amount Not to Exceed \$504,900.00 - Recommendation

James Beck explained requests for proposals for the WRA Treatment Facility Plan Update - 2024 were sent to multiple firms on August 9, 2021 and were required to be submitted by September 24, 2021. The WRA received two proposals from two firms and the Consultant Selection Committee met on October 21, 2021 to evaluate the proposals. The committee discussed the proposals that were received and elected to recommend selection of HDR Engineering, Inc. as the professional services provider in the best interest of the WRA for the WRA Treatment Facility Plan Update – 2024.

Brian Hemesath made a motion for recommendation. Gary Patterson seconded that motion. All in favor. The motion carried.

ITEM 8: Supplemental Agreement No. 1 to the Professional Services Agreement for the WRF Digester No. 3 Structural Evaluation with HDR Engineering, Inc., in an Amount Not to Exceed \$106,706.00 - Recommendation

James Beck explained the overflow event of Digester No. 3 where the digester was fed sludge all night without discharging. The digester experienced an overflowing event in which the hydraulic level inside of the digester was higher than the digester was designed for which caused damage to the digester's structural and sealing systems. Staff submitted an initial insurance claim to ICAP for the failure and ICAP hired a Structural Engineer come to evaluate; however, Staff did not agree with the repair method proposed by the engineer hired by ICAP. In June 2020 a professional services agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc. was approved by the WRA Director for evaluation of the structural integrity of Digester No. 3 in the amount of \$24,071.00. In the time since that agreement was approved Staff had the solids removed from Digester No. 3 through a separate contract so that the tank could be safely entered and inspected by HDR Engineering, Inc. The [evaluation](#) determined that the waterstop and joint liner at the intersection between the tank lid and wall had been compromised and would require replacement in order to regain full functionality of the tank. Supplemental Agreement No. 1 will amend the professional services agreement to provide preliminary and final design phase services along with bidding phase services for the repair to Digester No. 3. Approximately \$26,406.00 of the \$106,706.00 fee is related to the actual repairs necessary to return the tank to its full functional state, and approximately \$80,300.00 is for enhancements that will be made to prevent similar events from happening in the future.

Brian Hemesath asked if the cause of the failure had been determined. James Beck noted that it was a combination of human error and equipment failure.

Brian Hemesath made a motion for recommendation. Gary Patterson seconded that motion. All in favor. The motion carried.

ITEM 9: WRA Fiscal Year 2023 Capital Improvements Program and WRA Fiscal Year 2023 Operation & Maintenance Budget Summary - Discussion/Recommendation

Roxane Vaughan provided an overview of the Operations and Maintenance budget included in the packet. James Beck provided an overview of the Capital Improvements budget.

Larry Hare made a motion for recommendation. Gary Patterson seconded that motion. All in favor. The motion carried.

ITEM 10: Industrial Waste Ordinance – Information

Larry Hare noted 36 inspections were completed in Des Moines, Johnston, and West Des Moines, and he noted three exceptions were received in January. Larry also discussed the restaurant FOG hauled to the WRF and how there has been an increase over the past year after seeing a decrease due to the pandemic.

Shane Kinsey noted that his community was appreciative of the job shadowing that the FOG group was allowing.

ITEM 11: Contract Status Update – Information

James Beck gave a brief overview of the sheet and noted that more construction contracts should be added in the next several months.

ITEM 12: Other Business

James Beck noted that next month we expect to have a presentation to provide the Committee with an overview of the industrial rate study that has been completed recently.

ITEM 13: Adjourn

Jeff May made a motion to adjourn. Gary Patterson seconded that motion.

Meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.