

**MINUTES OF THE
NORTH SHORE WATER COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020**

The North Shore Water Commission held a meeting on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 using an internet-based conferencing platform called Zoom.

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 A.M. by Mr. Botcher.

Present:

Scott Botcher, Chair (Fox Point)
Charlie Imig, Secretary (Glendale)
John Edlebeck, Member (Whitefish Bay)

Also Present:

Eric Kiefer, Plant Manager & Recording Secretary
Gerald Groth (Baxter & Woodman)

DISCUSSION OF RESERVOIR INTERCONNECT PIPE ISSUE

Mr. Kiefer provided the Commission with a report regarding the reservoir interconnect pipe inspection. He also provided the Commission with a report from Baxter & Woodman and an email from SEH regarding this matter.

Mr. Kiefer walked the Commission through the initial part of the report and asked Gerald Groth to go through his findings.

Mr. Groth explained that Baxter & Woodman was retained by the Commission to provide an independent inspection of the reservoir interconnection pipe so that the Commission could get an unbiased report of what happened the morning of December 7, 2020. In his report, he explained that air entered the reservoir interconnect pipe while reservoirs were operating in series. The metal straps were inadequate to keep the pipe in place as the resulting buoyant force was pushing the pipe up. In his report, he provided a number of pictures showing the broken straps and the various modes in which they failed.

Mr. Groth explained the process by which air gets entrained in the pipe. Essentially, water and air are entering the top of the riser overflow pipe. As the level drops in reservoir #2, the amount of air increases. He pointed out that there is evidence that the entrained air is causing an unexpected disturbance in reservoirs #1 and #2. When reservoir #2 level gets low, the level indicators (in both reservoirs) bounce erratically.

Mr. Edlebeck commented that entrained air in the reservoir interconnect pipe is not ideal, and can cause long term problems.

Mr. Kiefer explained that he has discussed various ideas with SEH, Baxter & Woodman, and others to eliminate the entrained air. The best solution to solve the problem that would require the fewest

draindowns is to install a riser pipe in reservoir #2. By doing this, the pipe will always remain full; the reservoir pipe will fill up and spill into reservoir #2 when the reservoirs are operating in series.

Mr. Kiefer indicated that SEH and Baxter & Woodman thought that design would eliminate the entrained air. Mr. Groth confirmed that was indeed the opinion of Baxter & Woodman.

Mr. Botcher asked if SEH properly designed the reservoir interconnect pipe.

Mr. Kiefer explained that SEH and Strand Associates thought the pipe was correctly designed. It wasn't until we encountered this problem that SEH started thinking about entrained air. Mr. Kiefer believes that this problem was not anticipated and was not caused by negligence by SEH nor Strand Associates. Furthermore, he believes that the proper restraints will keep the pipe in place.

Mr. Botcher asked about responsibility. Who made the mistake that led to the problem on December 7?

Mr. Kiefer explained that according to the bid documents, J.H. Hassinger was responsible for both engineering and installing the proper pipe restraints. Furthermore, Mr. Kiefer explained that in his conversation with J.H. Hassinger, they admitted fault and are working with SEH, to fix the problem.

Mr. Botcher asked if it was a common practice to have the contractor be given this responsibility: to engineer and to install the pipe supports. Mr. Edlbeck commented that it is not unusual for this kind of project.

Mr. Edlebeck also commented that SEH should design the improvement to the reservoir interconnect pipe without additional cost. However, the cost of constructing the improvement would be an additional cost for the Commission.

Mr. Kiefer explained that ordinarily, he would suggest a change order. In this particular case, it would be more cost effective to allow J.H. Hassinger to only address the problem with the restraints. This work would result in no additional cost to the Commission. After they finish, plant staff plans on constructing the improvement (the proposed riser pipe in reservoir #2). The project is relatively cheap and plant staff is capable of performing the work.

There was consensus that J.H. Hassinger and SEH are working to resolve the problem. Furthermore, the Commission believes that J.H. Hassinger will be making repairs in reservoirs #1 and #2 at their own expense and that SEH is drafting plans for a riser pipe in reservoir #2 at their own expense. Lastly, plant staff will be constructing the proposed riser in reservoir #2 after all of the other work is completed. Until this work is complete, staff intends to operate the reservoirs independently (one of them will be operating at a time while the other is drained down).

No action was taken regarding this matter.

RESERVOIR UPGRADE PROJECT PAYMENT REQUEST

Mr. Kiefer provided the Commission with a payment request for the reservoir upgrade project in the amount of \$77,342.76. Mr. Kiefer explained that he discussed this matter with Legal Counsel John Fuchs several times since the event on December 7. Considering the value of the repairs is

estimated to be \$10,000 to \$20,000 and the retainage is approximately \$140,000, it is appropriate to hold all retainage until the repairs are made. However, all other payments received to date should be paid.

It was moved by Mr. Imig, seconded by Mr. Edlebeck, and unanimously carried to approve the payment request and to authorize payment to vendors in the amount of \$77,342.76 as indicated in Mr. Kiefer's memo dated December 15, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Edlebeck, seconded by Mr. Botcher, and unanimously carried to adjourn at 8:29 A.M.

Submitted by:



12/18/2020

Eric Kiefer, Plant Manager and Recording Secretary

Date