

Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority

One Highland Avenue • Monmouth Beach, New Jersey 07750
(732) 229-8578 • Fax (732) 870-1442
<http://trwra.org>

Fair Haven
Little Silver
Monmouth Beach

Oceanport
Shrewsbury
West Long Branch

TO: The Mayors of Eatontown, Fair Haven, Little Silver, Monmouth Beach, Oceanport, Red Bank, Rumson, Sea Bright, Shrewsbury Borough, Shrewsbury Township, Tinton Falls, West Long Branch, Eatontown Sewerage Authority

FROM: Michael A. Gianforte, P.E., Executive Director

DATE: October 5, 2020

SUBJECT: Community Update – September 2020

To keep all towns served by Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority informed about the activities of the Authority, we hereby provide this periodic update. This is a summary of reports and action taken at the Authority's recent public meetings.

1. 9 Million Dollar FEMA Claim for Hurricane Sandy Damage

The Authority appealed FEMA's denial of the Claim for damages to the 2-foot-thick concrete wall at the existing Main Pump Station. The appeal was granted and after substantial negotiations and documentation, FEMA has agreed to support a **9-million-dollar claim**. This money must be used towards the new Main Pump Station Project and is expected to flow directly to the I-Bank to reduce the total debt for the new project.

2. Main Pump Station Replacement (MPS)

The Authority's design Engineer, Hazen and Sawyer has completed the 90% design of the project.

3. The project's current schedule is as follows:

Design Phase Services, 100% Design:	December 2020
Permitting:	July 2021
Bidding:	September 2021
Construction complete:	December 2023

The construction cost of the project is estimated to be \$56.2 million dollars. The construction and other project costs are being funded through a loan from the I-Bank. (Formerly the New Jersey Infrastructure Trust)

The Authority has authorized a separate contract to replace the existing Sludge biofilter with a longer media life, and more effective odor control on a broader spectrum of odors. The new biofilter is to be bid on early in 2021 which will allow the old biofilter site to be used for the new MPS site.

The Authority would be pleased to discuss the impact and timing of this project with any member or customer town. Please contact me to discuss the project.

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4. Annual Budget

The retirement of the series 2000 \$50,000,000, debt this year will reduce the total annual debt service of the Authority for the next couple of years until the new MPS debt service kicks in. The Authority is performing planned capital improvement projects that will offset a portion of the debt service reduction while minimizing the impact on customer town bills.

The Annual Budget approved at the August meeting reflects a total decrease in spending over the 2020 budget of 26%. The major impact to the budget is the retirement of the \$3.4 Million annual Plant Expansion debt service and which will eventually be replaced by the Main Pump Station Replacement Project debt service.

Exclusive of the decrease associated with the retirement of the debt service, the decrease in annual expenditures is 2%.

5. Fort Monmouth Sewer Replacement

COVID-19 has delayed the contractor funded replacement of sewers in the Oceanport section of the old Fort but is expected to proceed as planned at no cost to the Authority or Customer towns.

6. Sewer Rehabilitation and Cleaning Contract

This project is out to bid with bids scheduled to be received in October. The project will be funded through a loan from the New Jersey I-Bank loan.

7. Pump Station 12 Electrical/HVAC/Control Upgrades

The replacement of the aging electrical infrastructure and HVAC also out to bid and will be funded through an I-Bank Loan.

8. NJDEP Sampling Modification

The Authority previously received approval from the NJDEP to get credit for treatment that occurs in the outfall for Chlorine. We submitted a similar request to the NJDEP for credit for treatment of Enterococcus in the outfall and await the NJDEP response. The Authority has held rigorous discussions that we believe should result in a novel approach to sampling that will help ensure permit compliance, reduce energy and Chemical costs, and reduce staffing requirements.

9. Local 1075 Union Negotiations

The Authority reached a 5-year agreement (2019-2024) with the Local 1075 Union that increase wages for the existing employees by an average of 3.15% per year. The contract reduces the rate for all new hires up to 40% and continues to reward employees for getting licenses. The Authority has had 7 recent retirements. Four of those positions have been filled at the new lower rates.

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10. TRWRA's Official Website is 100% ADA Compliant

Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority www.trwra.org has been modified to be compliant with the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) regulations. The official website has met all requirements of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA and has passed the Web Accessibility Evaluation.

11. COVID-19 Measures

The Authority rotated operational staff to promote social distancing until June 15th when they returned to full duty. The office is staffed during all business hours but is not open to the public for onsite access. All sampling and testing continue as required to satisfy all permit requirements.

Sampling for COVID-19 RNA has not progressed. The science is being improved and the State is working on what they would use the results for. In the interim, the Authority is not performing any testing for COVID RNA.

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