

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH  
AUTHORITY  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 5, 2019 – 6 p.m.  
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823  
[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting of the March 5, 2019, 2019, Bellefonte Borough Authority was called to order at the Bellefonte Borough Municipal Building at 6 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**ROLL CALL:**

**AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**PRESENT:** Mr. Frank (Buddy) Halderman  
Mr. Joe Falcone  
Mr. Joe Beigle (via teleconference)  
Mr. Greg Brown  
Mr. Doug Johnson

**EXCUSED:** Mr. Mike Schmidt  
Mr. Brian Walker

**STAFF:** Mr. Ralph Stewart  
Bob Cook  
Matt Auman

**ENGINEERS:** Mr. Eric Lundy  
Mr. Bob Decker

**AUDIENCE:** Joanne Tosti-Vasey  
Jon Eaton  
Nancy Perkins  
Roger Herman

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**MINUTES:**

**Mr. Brown moved to approve the February 20, 2019 Authority meeting minutes;**  
**Mr. Johnson seconded the motion;**  
**Motion carried.**

**ORAL:**

**Improved Concept for the Big Spring Cover  
(Roger Herman)**

Mr. Roger Herman gave comments on the aesthetics of the existing spring cover. An underwater facility was proposed a few years back but that was unsuccessful. He spoke before the Authority with an idea that he had for an improved spring cover. The concept included weights and a barrier between the ground and the surface water, and a concrete plug which prevents surface water from leaking into the ground water.

Authority members thanked Mr. Herman for his time and proposal.

**Spring Creek Watershed Plan Overview  
(Joanne Tosti-Vasey, President, Bellefonte Council,  
Commission member of the Spring Creek Watershed Commission)**

Ms. Tosti-Vasey was asking for comments from Authority members. She indicated that they could be emailed directly to her at [jtosti-vasey@bellefontepa.gov](mailto:jtosti-vasey@bellefontepa.gov). She stated that individuals can also send comments to her directly, or to the watershed's administrative coordinator, at [info@springcreekwatershedcommission.org](mailto:info@springcreekwatershedcommission.org).

The Spring Creek Watershed Commission was looking for feedback and willingness of municipalities and planning commissions and water authorities to support the report before finalizing. A previously scheduled meeting was cancelled due to weather. There will be a detailed discussion at the March SCWC meeting. It most likely will not be finalized until May 2019.

One Water is a concept to integrate all of the factors within a watershed to create a good quantity and quality of water. The plan considers the water cycle, breaks down how the current water systems are managed, creates collaboration on water utilities and the focus is on water and how it integrates with everything else in the community. There was also a white paper submitted to the commission from the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, which is also part of the watershed. They describe what a water plan is in the paper.

The One Water concept was developed by the Water Resource Foundation. They state, "an integrated plan and implementation approach to managing finite water resources for long term resilience and liability meet both community and ecosystems needs." This concept uses a collaborative formula to match all forms of water in a sustainable a resilient manner. The One Water plan builds upon existing plans, processes, and partnerships within a community to

provide the framework for collaborative actions among multiple but separately connected entities such as the water utility and municipalities and water and user groups.

The idea behind the plan is to protect and manage the water and resources in a manner that fosters sustainability and economic activity. Ms. Tosti-Vasey stated that at Phase II, now, they are creating the framework stage. Phase III will include development of a financial strategy, implementation of the plan and tracking the checklist.

There are two boundaries (showing map), surface water and ground water. Ms. Tosti-Vasey stated that Spring Creek is a high-quality, cold-water fishery. There are certain parts of the watershed that are impaired. She stated that with this plan, they hope to designate the entire watershed area as a high-quality cold-water fishery, or HQCWF.

There are nine impaired sections of Spring Creek Watershed. This is according to the Pennsylvania DEP. This includes the headwaters of Spring Creek and five of its tributaries for a total of 25.6 impaired streams. The types of impairments include siltation, organic enrichment, oxygen, and thermal modifications. There are population changes that effect the watershed. Although Bellefonte has remained pretty stable, Spring Benner and Walker are all growing rapidly. Benner is the fastest growing in population partially due to the increased population at the prison.

Phase I was done about 15 years ago and with that plan, the problems in the watershed were identified. There was a listing provided of problems found at that time. As a result of Phase I, several communities did take action. The SCWC environmental control is the item that Bellefonte has had the most involvement with a well as the well head protection plans. Basically, the environmental controls are the ordinances that were created to help improve the environment, i.e. air pollution and solar power ordinances.

Phase II was started last April with a forum at CPI. About 120 persons attended. This forum was led by a law class on environmental law. Substantive issue were raised as concerns: development, infrastructure, tourism, agriculture, drinking water, mining, transportation, and PSU's role in dealing with the watershed. Agencies to be involved included, wastewater treatment plant, water suppliers, regional planning and county and state departments. The Bellefonte Borough Water Authority and Sewer Authority and Council and the Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission were involved.

After the forum, background information was reviewed to see what could be done and what could not be done. One thing was the challenge of a Pennsylvania water law. This is a very complex area with groundwater regulated differently from surface water. Some of the laws are not designed for future demands and emergencies. This was one of the first challenges that the commission saw – the complexity of the water law.

The second challenge was headwater streams. Basically, this means what happen up stream will affect what happens downstream. Although Bellefonte has plenty of water due to the spring, upstream communities have had issue with stream drought. The One Water plan can assist in helping those upstream with low quantity issues.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey then spoke about the time line for the plan. July 10 there was another public forum and about 50-60 persons came to that meeting and spoke about their concerns. August through November, two technical groups were developed, one for quality and one for quantity of water. December 4 a third forum was held to review the draft of the One Water Phase II report and gather input on plans for implementation. The report at hand is the report that came out of that final forum.

The report contained a vision statement of the SCWC. It was built upon the original mission statement of the SCWC about 20 years ago. The statement was deemed still timely and where the commission needs to be going in the future. From there, principles were developed and created by the tech groups for quantity and quality of water. Brian Walker represented the Water Authority on this committee. The other members of the tech groups included members of other water and sewer authorities, Clearwater Conservancy, environmental volunteers' groups, and members of the SCWC.

There were four guiding principles of the plan. The first was that the plan was not an effort to change local government but to integrate management. The SCWC has no power to enforce and only to encourage and coordinate planning. The second is to ensure that there is a broad avenue of stakeholders involved to ensure a coordinated and integrated watershed plan. The third focused on local commitment as well a funding. Outside funding will be looked. This is part of the Phase III focus. Fundraising efforts, grants and other funding will need to be considered. The fourth is looking at the water shed as an integrated system that benefits many. It is the ultimate goal to create a high-quality watershed for all.

Goal statements, objectives, and metrics to be used and outcomes expected were discussed. There are three major goals. The first goal focused on the ecosystem. The second goal dealt with sustainable water use for human consumption. The third is integrating and managing the water plan. This was particularly important to Bellefonte with the fly fishing in the area and cultural assets.

If Phase II is accepted, the final planning will be completed, and the tech group would continue to meet with expansion of these groups. They will assist in the funding strategy. The SCWC communications contract would continue to monitor and maintain all of the paperwork.

Phase III is expected to cost about \$500,000 over time. This may take 3-5 years. Regardless of where the funds come from, there will be no extra charges to water or sewer bills because of the plan, once Phase III is in place.

Mr. Beigle commented that the Fish Commission should be a resource for consultants and he discussed the cost of Phase III. The County should have a role in paying for Phase III. Ms. Tosti-Vasey spoke with the Commissioner's office, and the funding will not be charged to local Authorities; the funding would be coming from the County and other agencies, and environmental groups that want to see this report in place. The One Water plan has gained national attention and there are now other groups that wish to undertake a comprehensive water plan.

Stewart stated that he wished the plan was more comprehensive in looking at development as it is a big driver of pollution. The report seems to focus on groundwater and wastewater but does not speak to control of land development, particularly upstream from Bellefonte Borough. He was concerned about taxing residents, knowing that the Borough has no room for future development.

Bellefonte's population is comprised of a lot of older individuals, retirees, with incomes that are leveled off. He stated that there are a lot of good ideas out there, but someone ultimately has to pay for them.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey said that the comments will be considered, and the report will be tweaked. The plan at the table is just a middle process towards the plan. She stated that the land development issues will be included in Phase III.

Penn State's inclusion in contribution was discussed briefly.

Mr. Halderman was against the plan. In the future, Bellefonte will have water and the idea of the Borough being mandated to supply water to someone upstream that may be running low was not acceptable.

Mr. Eaton stated that it was important to have a planning document that would give planning authorities a basis for moving into the future in making decisions relative to what will happen with groundwater or surface water. He stated that the pricing of any mandated water supply to other municipalities should be a consideration in the plan. Ms. Tosti-Vasey stated that the One Water Plan will not be mandating anyone to do anything in particular. It is a coordinated effort.

The prior Nestle issue was discussed briefly.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey stated that the Phase II report is out in the public for comment and they have been asked to have their comments in by the end of the month. She stated that the commission is trying to get all of the municipalities and authorities to weigh in with their comments before the middle of March so that at the May meeting, the report can be revised.

Authority members thanked Ms. Tosti-Vasey for the presentation.

**COMMUNICATIONS WRITTEN:** None.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

### **Water/Sewer Fund Report**

The water fund shows collection of 19% revenue on the water side and spent 15.6% of expenses and the overview shows the budget on target.

The sewer fund has only 3.7% billed and on the wastewater side early numbers show most thing in line except for a few items that were a little high. The utilities were discussed. The profit and loss is a bit under.

**ENGINEER REPORT – WATER:**

**Engineer Water Report February and March 2019**

Mr. Lundy reported that last month the approved change orders were submitted for the piping to the contractor with the recommendation. They were to sign it and send it back and nothing has been received yet. Mr. Stewart discussed an email from Alan Nealy and Tom Shrack asking if things can just be wrapped up. Mr. Stewart would like to speak in executive session. He will then touch base with Mr. Nealy next week.

Water service plan review request was received from Keller Engineers for Eco-Lawn and it is believed that all comments were addressed, and they are to work with Matt Auman on installation.

Hydrant flows were requested at the water front parking lot. Mr. Lundy told them to coordinate that with Mr. Auman and the crew.

**ENGINEER REPORT – SEWER:**

**Engineer Sewer Report February and March 2019**

The north unit is up and running now. Things are going smoothly at the project. There were some changes made in keeping the contractor moving. The biomag equipment room is near completion.

Last month work directive change 5 was done.

Mr. Decker presented pay application No. 11 from McCrossin in the amount of \$114,818.63. There was also a pay application 9 in for \$97,550.47 that has been reviewed and needed to be approved by the Authority.

**Mr. Falcone moved to approve Pay Application No. 9 and 11;  
Mr. Brown seconded the motion;  
Motion carried.**

The NPDES permit was received and Mr. Cook is working on getting comments back to the DEP.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **2018 Water Loss Capture report**

### **Daily Water Withdrawal Reports December 2018 and January 2019**

### **Spring Creek Watershed Commission Phase 2 Report/Executive Summary**

### **Water Report January and February 2019 (Matt Auman)**

January 2, 2019 leak was repaired at Valentine Hill meter pit; January 3 replaced lateral at 229 N Thomas Street; January 7 leak detection was done; January 8-9 repaired a one inch service line at 304 North Allegheny; January 10-11 more leak detection was done; January 14 repaired at 6 inch main break at 441 Shope Street; January 15-17 leak detection and found substantial leak – 12 inch main was repaired in the playground at the elementary school; January 21 repaired 24 inch main break at 414 Shope Street (across the cemetery); January 23 repaired 2 inch main brake at 334 E. Logan; January 25 another break was discovery at Airport and Triangle Road; January 30-31 did multiple shutoffs and read meters.

February 3 a 10 inch break was repaired at 468 Blanchard Street; February 5 installed a new cub stop shut off at 1250 Zion Road; February 6 repaired a 4 inch main break at 526 Ripka; February 7 and 8 started to replace the main propeller shaft at Pump 1 at the Corning Pump House; February 18-22 more leak detection and repaired a leak at 145 Cole Street; training was done at the end of the month.

Two water crew members were off on sick leave this past month. They are short staffed, but the crew switches it up and pitches in where needed. The possible hiring of part time was discussed.

Mr. Stewart commended both the water and wastewater crews on their outstanding work during the WWTP project and the cold weather. They pitched in and did a great job.

### **Sewer Report February 2019 (Bob Cook)**

February sales were about 23,300 gallons

February 6, training was started for the A.S unit and clarifier. The second anoxic tank was placed in service; February 7 training for the mixers started as well as the pump; February 26, replaced North AS unit online; February 27 based the sludge holding tanks on line and started training; February 28 replaced the new sludge digester online; there were two noncompliance violations during January. March 5 the subcontractor called and stated that there are issues with new blowers and they said that the motor needed to be rebuilt. That was just found out today. The blowers are for the new digester.

Mr. Stewart would like to schedule a tour in April for the Authority members of the new facility. He took a tour the other day and he was very impressed with the workmanship, and the quality. He believes it will be a great improvement.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Mr. Falcone moved to adjourn;  
Mr. Brown seconded the motion;  
Motion carried.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. followed by EXECUTIVE SESSION.**