

UPPER BLACKSTONE CLEAN WATER
50 ROUTE 20, MILLBURY, MA 01527-2199
BOARD MEETING MINUTES - BOARD ROOM/HYBRID MEETING
April 10, 2024

ITEM I - CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Labovites called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Mancini, through a roll call, recorded those in attendance and all are noted below:

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>In- person</u>	<u>Virtual</u>
Matthew Labovites	Worcester	Chairman	X		X	
Philip Guerin	Worcester	Vice Chairman	X		X	
John Woodsmall	Holden	Secretary	X			X
Michael Traynor	Worcester	Member	X		X	
Joanna Paquin	Auburn	Member	X		X	
Donald Manseau	CVSD	Member	X		X	
Robert Antonelli	Worcester	Member	X		X	
Gary Nelson	Millbury	Member	X		X	
Jay Fink	Worcester	Member	X		X	
Austin Cyganiewicz	Rutland	Member	X		X	
Thomas Degnan	West Boylston	Member	X			X

Upper Blackstone Staff

Karla Sangrey	Engineer Director/Treasurer
Mike Andrus	Deputy Director
Elizabeth Mailhot	HR Manager
Denise Mancini	HR Assistant/District Clerk
Diane Shea	Finance Manager

ITEM II - APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – March 27, 2024

Minutes – Member Antonelli moved to approve the minutes of the meeting on March 27, 2024. Member Nelson seconded, and approval of minutes was noted as follows: Chairman Labovites, yes; Vice Chairman Guerin, yes; Secretary Woodsmall, yes; Member Traynor, yes; Member Paquin, yes; Member Manseau, yes; Member Antonelli, yes; Member Nelson, yes; Member Fink, yes; Member Cyganiewicz, yes; and Member Degnan, yes.

ITEM III – ELECTION OF OFFICERS – BAI #1

Election of Officers commenced with member nominations. Member Antonelli nominated Matthew Labovites for re-election as Chairman, and Member Nelson seconded. Member Traynor nominated Philip Guerin for re-election as Vice Chairman, and Member Fink seconded. Vice Chairman Guerin nominated John Woodsmall for election as Secretary, and Member Traynor seconded. Through a roll call, a unanimous vote was obtained to approve BAI #1 to elect the slate of officers of the Board of Directors for a one-year term commencing April 10, 2024, and running until April 2025.

ITEM IV - FINANCE

Warrants – Member Traynor moved to approve the following warrants. Vice Chairman Guerin seconded, and approval of the warrants was noted as follows: Chairman Labovites, yes; Vice Chairman Guerin, yes; Secretary Woodsmall, yes; Member Traynor, yes; Member Paquin, yes; Member Manseau, yes; Member Antonelli, yes; Member Nelson, yes; Member Fink, yes; Member Cyganiewicz, yes; and Member Degnan, yes.

Warrants	\$ 128,426.18	(03/31/2024)
	<u>\$ 582,073.58</u>	(04/05/2024)
TOTAL	\$ 710,499.76	

ITEM V ADMINISTRATION

Integrated Planning Update – Ms. Sangrey said counsel has submitted a formal request letter to the EPA for a one-year extension of the AOC deadline to initiate construction of Phase B Phosphorus upgrades, with a potential meeting date of May 16th being discussed. Member Fink anticipates having the IDDE report available for that meeting.

Capital Projects Updates, Mike Andrus, Deputy Director

Regional Biosolids Study – The final workshop for the project is scheduled for April 19th.

Standby Power Design – Negotiations are taking place with MassDEP and CDM Smith for the approval of an extended timeline and pre-purchasing the generators. The current timeline includes an RFP (to purchase the generators) going out next month to meet the SRF requirement to have a purchase order in place by June 30th.

Fleet Electrification – Mr. Andrus said the test drives of the off-road vehicles went well and he has submitted questions regarding the cost of ownership to Club Car, which will be integrated into the affordability calculations. He added, the expected life of a battery is ten (10) years, and the replacement cost is five thousand (\$5,000) dollars. In response to Chairman Labovites' question, he said the cost for electric vehicles is not much higher than those of gas vehicles. Ms. Sangrey confirmed the off-road vehicles will be the first to be replaced. Mr. Andrus added, when the time comes, the Ford Ranger pickup will be replaced with an electric mini truck as it is going to be utilized as an off-road vehicle. Secretary Woodsmall recommended speaking to Matt Stencil, Superintendent of Sutton's highway department as he currently has an electric Ford 150 truck.

Plant Water Electrical Upgrades – Nault Architects, Inc. will be issuing the preliminary designs soon.

Other in-house projects - HVAC improvements to solids processing complex – Tighe & Bond is working on designing a replacement for the heat exchanger and has issued a draft report. Mr. Andrus said their recommendation was not to fully electrify all the heating, but rather putting in more efficient gas-fired boilers may be a more cost-effective way to go about heating that building. He is still reviewing the details in the report and said it is well written.

Asset Management Plan Project – BAI #2 – Member Fink motioned to approve BAI #2, A motion to authorize the Engineer Director/Treasurer to complete the Upper Blackstone Clean Water Asset Management Plan project, as partially funded by the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust Asset Management Grant Program. To complete the project, the Engineer Director/Treasurer (on behalf of the District) will enter into a contract with Tighe & Bond for professional services related to the Asset Management Plan in the amount of two hundred thousand (\$200,000) dollars, and District staff will provide fifty thousand (\$50,000) dollars in "in-kind" services, consisting of staff time, bringing the total project value to two hundred and fifty thousand (\$250,000) dollars. The project has been included on the 2024 CWSRF Intended Use Plan list of Asset Management Planning Projects for a grant of one hundred fifty thousand (\$150,000) dollars, the proceeds of which will be used to lower the total overall cost to the District. Funding for the balance of the project cost was included in the FY2025 budget approved January 2024. Member Cyganiewicz seconded, and approval of BAI #2 is noted as follows: Chairman Labovites, yes; Vice Chairman Guerin, yes; Secretary Woodsmall, yes; Member Traynor, yes; Member Paquin, yes; Member Manseau, yes; Member Antonelli, yes; Member Nelson, yes; Member Fink, yes; Member Cyganiewicz, yes; and Member Degnan, yes.

Chemical Bids FY2025 – BAI#3 – Member Fink motioned to approve BAI #3, as amended to only include Ferric Chloride, to award the following contract to the low bidder for a period beginning July 1, 2024, as noted below, and to authorize the Engineer Director/Treasurer to execute the contract on behalf of Upper Blackstone:

FERRIC CHLORIDE

Northeast/Merrimack Valley Chemical Consortium – UB2024-07

Borden & Remington

\$0.6677/dry lb.

Term twelve (12) months

Vice Chairman Guerin seconded, and approval of BAI #3 is noted as follows: Chairman Labovites, yes; Vice Chairman Guerin, yes; Secretary Woodsmall, yes; Member Traynor, yes; Member Paquin, yes; Member Manseau, yes; Member Antonelli, yes; Member Nelson, yes; Member Fink, yes; Member Cyganiewicz, yes; and Member Degnan, yes.

ITEM VI – OPERATIONS

Flow Summary – Despite the recent rainfall and high flows, there has not been any blending.

ITEM VII – COMMUNICATIONS

MCWRS – Vice Chairman Guerin said the booth at NEWWA’s 2024 Spring Joint Regional Conference & Exhibition was a success.

A workshop will be held on Tuesday, June 4th at UMass Dartmouth which will focus on some of Fall River’s and other’s NPDES draft permits/POTW permits.

Comments on the DEP’s draft TMDL for pathogens are due on June 10th and the DEP announced there will be two webinars in May, which are posted on their website. Ms. Sangrey said she forwarded the information to Zach Eichenwald of CDM Smith as he assists with Upper Blackstone’s River monitoring program, for advice on whether to attend the sessions or comment. She said she will send the information to the members as well.

The EPA is finalizing its MCL for six (6) PFAS compounds in drinking water today. Vice Chairman Guerin said not much has changed from the draft, aside from the addition of one hundred fifty thousand (150K) comments, adding a link is available to see the response to comments. Ms. Sangrey said anyone interested in getting notifications can contact the Coalition and can also subscribe to NACWA as an Upper Blackstone board member, adding NACWA has been a good source of information regarding the level of funding, and giving a voice to its insufficiency. The Vice Chairman said the financial impacts will be greater on the suburban and rural communities using ground water and will pose a big challenge across the country. He said the DEP had implemented its own MCL in 2020 and now must update its standards to meet the federal standards.

Sub-committee to Review Insurance – The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17th.

ITEM VIII – PERSONNEL

Postings, New Hires, Resignations – Ms. Mailhot said Joshua Sweares, Industrial Electrician 2 started today; and interviews are continuing for the summer lab/pre-treatment tech internship.

ITEM IX - DATE(S) NEXT MEETING(S) AGENDA TOPICS

4/24, 5/8, 5/22, 6/5, 6/26

ITEM IX – ADJOURNMENT

At 2:04 p.m. Member Manseau motioned to adjourn the meeting. Member Traynor seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Mancini

Denise Mancini,
District Clerk