

NEW RIVER SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
May 11, 2023

The New River Solid Waste Association Board of Directors met for the Regular Board Meeting at 12:00 p.m. on May 11, 2023 with the following members present:

Commissioner Cathy Rhoden, Chairwoman  
Commissioner Kenny Thompson, Vice-Chairman  
Commissioner Channing Dobbs, Secretary/Treasurer  
Commissioner James Croft  
Commissioner Chris Dougherty  
Commissioner Jimmy Tallman

Others present: Perry Kent, Executive Director  
Joel Woolsey, Assistant Director  
Melissa Waters, Finance Officer  
Lydia Greene, Office Manager/Admin. Asst.  
Russ Wade, Board Attorney

Chairwoman Rhoden called the meeting to order. Prayer was led by Commissioner Dobbs followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairwoman Rhoden called for a motion on agenda item #2, Approval of Expenditures for April 2023. Commissioner Thompson made a motion to approve the expenditures for April 2023. Commissioner Dougherty seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairwoman Rhoden called for a motion on agenda item #3, Approval of Regular Board Minutes for April 13, 2023. Commissioner Dobbs made a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board Minutes for April 13, 2023. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairwoman Rhoden asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. There were none.

Chairwoman Rhoden called for discussion of agenda item #5, Engineering Updates. Mrs. Sawyer, Jones Edmunds, said that DEP has approved the new Cell 7 and has issued certification. Several waste loads have already been placed in Cell 7. Mrs. Sawyer said that the concrete project for the scale ramps and roadway repair will begin this Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. The project states a substantial completion of 45 days with a final completion timeframe of 60 days and will require a one lane traffic flow for the duration.

Chairwoman Rhoden called for discussion of Agenda Item #6, Update – OPAL RNG Plant. Mr. Kent said that at the last board meeting we talked about the gas going into the pipeline and he is not aware of any issues. Mr. Kent added that two RNG revenue payments have been disbursed. First quarter was for \$81,000 and second quarter was for \$16,000. He added that he and Mr. Woolsey had met with Mr. Unger, OPAL, and as suspected, the RINs are being held due to current low market value. We did expect this to happen at times and OPAL has stated they feel that we are on target for the estimated \$800,000 revenue amount previously predicted for this year. Mr. Kent said a meeting has been scheduled with OPAL's financial team in order for New River to better understand the paperwork that is received with the revenue payments sent. Commissioner Croft asked if the national level activities against natural gas would impact our RNG project. Mr. Kent said that Mr. Unger, OPAL, said recently that since our gas project is a renewable energy project we should not see any adverse results, but that it is a good question which we will have to wait to see.

Chairwoman Rhoden called for discussion under Agenda Item #7, Discuss Fiscal Year 2022 Escrow Audit – James Moore. Mr. Brendan McKitrick with James Moore said he would be presenting both the escrow and financial audits today. The escrow audit is due to DEP by March 31<sup>st</sup> each year and there were no issues found during the audit. Mr. McKitrick said that he appreciates the help provided by Ms. Waters and Ms. Douglas in order to complete the escrow audit. The escrow audit has been submitted and accepted by DEP. Mr. McKitrick asked if the board had any questions. There were none.

Chairwoman Rhoden called for discussion under Agenda Item #8, Discuss Fiscal Year 2022 Financial Audit – James Moore. Mr. McKitrick said that he had prepared a handout for the financial audit for the board

which highlights what he will be presenting today. The Audit Report has an unmodified or clean opinion from the auditors which is the best opinion that can be given. The Internal Control and Compliance Report had no internal controls or compliance matters reported. The Chapter 10.550 Auditor General Report is the management letter and contains Special District Reporting. The prior year comment has been fixed, there were no comments and a clean opinion was issued. The Independent Accountants' Examination Report reflects that the Association is in compliance with specified statutes.

Some required communications from the audit are noted as follows: No new standards were implemented during the year; there are significant estimates contained in the audit for accounts receivable, depreciation, OPEB, net pension liability, and landfill liability; the Significant Disclosures are long-term liabilities and net pension liability (Florida Retirement System); the Corrected and uncorrected misstatements contains a note related to the income from the Nextel lease agreement but has no impact. There were no issues performing the audit and no disagreements with management.

A history of unrestricted net position and percentages of operating revenues for the past 4 years has been provided. This reflects that the Association is investing in its infrastructure which is what is expected. Other highlights shown is the net pension liability amount for Florida State Retirement which has no budgetary impact and all contributions have been made. The audit includes other reports for the Association which shows restricted cash amount, liabilities which is an estimate from the engineers, and restricted net position.

Mr. McKittrick asked if the board had any questions. Commissioner Dobbs said that it was a good presentation and easy to understand. Mr. Kent said that Ms. Douglas is still helping with the audit process and that many conversations have taken place about audit requirements by the Association. He added that he is pleased with the audit. These are permanent records at New River and is very important to the staff. Commissioner Dougherty stated that he would like to complement staff for the good audit.

Chairwoman Rhoden asked for a motion to approve both the escrow and financial audits. Commissioner Dobbs made a motion to approve both the escrow and financial audits for Fiscal Year 2022. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairwoman Rhoden called for discussion under agenda item #9, Discuss Damaged EGC Liner. Mr. Kent stated that about a month ago a portion of the EGC liner had been damaged due to a fire caused by lightning and will require repair. Several prices have been obtained and a piggyback is being worked on now that can be used from Comanco who does a lot of government work. Mr. Kent said this repair needs to be done as soon as possible and he would like board approval to replace the liner when the price has been confirmed. Mr. Kent said that the cost to repair should not exceed \$150,000. Commissioner Dobbs asked how big is the area requiring repair. Mr. Kent said approximately 8 panels 20 foot in width and 300 foot long. Since this is part of the closed landfill, we don't have a lot of choices about repairing the EGC Liner.

Chairwoman Rhoden asked for a motion on proceeding with the EGC Liner repair. Commissioner Dougherty made a motion to repair the damaged EGC liner in an amount not to exceed \$150,000. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairwoman Rhoden called for discussion under agenda item #10, Discuss Proposed Budget FY 2023-2024. Mr. Kent said that the proposed budget for FY 2023-2024 is a balanced budget. The current tonnage estimates are what we expected. The tipping fees for the first 5 years of the Alachua contract were increased by 50 cents each year and are now at \$30 per ton for the next 5 years of that contract. The Alachua contract provides for two 5 year renewals. The contract renewal discussions with Alachua County will need to start within the next few years.

Proposed Expenditures: Mr. Kent said that the budget includes a 5% increase for employees. Engineering: Monitoring and Title V/Gas Systems are both down by \$15,000, Title V Operations Permit Renewal is down by \$35,000, Miscellaneous Services is up by \$15,000. City Works Engineering has been removed from the budget as an engineering expense. Mr. Kent said that there was only one change in the remainder of the proposed expenditures and that was a \$1000 increase for maintenance to CityWorks system.

Other Expenditures: Mr. Kent said the Closure Escrow has increased by \$720,364 and is due to Cell 7 becoming an active waste cell. The budget includes a new Caterpillar 340 Excavator in the amount of \$403,321. This replaces the old excavator with 9000 hours on it. Also included is a Massey Ferguson Agriculture Tractor in the amount of \$137,429 and is priced under

Ringpower's state contract price. A John Deere UTV in the amount of \$37,000 under state contract is also included. The UTV is to be used for working the gas wells on the side slopes. Mr. Kent said he planned to ask OPAL to cover the cost of the UTV but if they do not, we still need it for that type of work.

Commissioner Croft asked about showing anything in the budget for RNG revenues. Mr. Kent said this revenue would not be shown in the budget but would be a separate documentation of money received and disbursed at the end of the year. Commissioner Dobbs asked if the old tractor would be kept. Mr. Kent said he plans to keep it for backup due to requirements for mowing at the landfill.

Chairwoman Rhoden called for a motion on the proposed budget for FY 2023-2024. Commissioner Dougherty made a motion to approve the proposed budget as presented. Commissioner Tallman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairwoman Rhoden called for discussion under agenda item #11, Alachua County Issues/Items. Mr. Kent said that Mr. Allen Betz with Alachua County Solid Waste was at the meeting today. Mr. Betz said he did not have anything for discussion.

Chairwoman Rhoden asked for discussion under agenda item #12, Attorney Issues/Items. Mr. Wade stated other than reviewing the contract for the concrete ramp project, he had nothing for discussion.

Chairwoman Rhoden asked for discussion under agenda item #13, Executive Director Issues/Items. Mr. Kent said he did not have anything else for discussion.

Chairwoman Rhoden asked for discussion under agenda item #14, Board/Chairman Issues/Items. No comments from the board.

Chairwoman Rhoden called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Dougherty made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Tallman. The meeting was adjourned.