

JUNE 16, 2022

A REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UPPER OCCOQUAN SERVICE AUTHORITY WAS HELD JUNE 16, 2022 IN THE CHARLES P. BOEPPLE BUILDING LOCATED AT 14631 COMPTON ROAD, CENTREVILLE, VIRGINIA 20121.

A. Calling of the Meeting to Order

1. The Board of Directors of the Upper Occoquan Service Authority convened its Regularly Scheduled Meeting at 4:00 P.M.

**Directors Present:**

Calvin D. Farr, Jr. *	Shahram Mohsenin
Gary L. Fields	Jeanette M. Rishell
Michael McGrath	Nancy Vehrs

**Directors Absent:**

Tony H. Dawood  
Glenn Simpson

**Others Present:**

UOSA Staff:	Robert W. Angelotti
	Brian L. Owsenek
	Kevin D. Wolfe
	Mishelle R. Noble-Blair
	John W. Airhart
	June A. Mahoney

Legal Counsel:	Sally Ann Hostetler, Odin, Feldman, & Pittleman, P.C.
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Engineer:	Don Forgacs, Jacobs
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B. Approval of Minutes

1. Chairman Mohsenin referenced the Board Minutes dated May 19, 2022 and asked the Board for their approval.

MOTION: Director Vehrs moved to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2022 Board meeting.

SECOND: Director Rishell

VOTE: Unanimous

C. Public Comment Time

1. Chairman Mohsenin asked if there was any known interest or request received by the Public to speak at the meeting.
2. Ms. Mahoney stated that none were received ahead of the meeting.

D. Financial Reports

1. Chairman Mohsenin referenced staff memorandum, *May 2022 Financial Summary* (filed as Exhibit A).
  - a. Mr. Wolfe reported that the May Financial Summary reflected lower O&M expenses than planned primarily due to a combination of lower Personnel, Electric Power, Miscellaneous and budget timing differences for Contract Services partially offset by higher Process Chemicals expenses. Flows were 2.5 percent lower than planned for the month. Year-to-date FY-22 expenses through May were lower than budget by approximately \$1.9 million primarily due to a combination of lower Personnel, Electric Power, and Miscellaneous expenses and budget timing differences for Contract Services and Process Chemicals partially offset by higher Facilities Maintenance expenses. Year-to-date flows were 7.3 percent lower than planned.
  - b. Mr. Wolfe acknowledged that any time Operations and Maintenance categories or the Reserve Maintenance categories exceeds the approved budgeted amount by ten or more percent, staff must notify the Board and request approval to move forward with the planned purchases through the end of the fiscal year. He advised that it is a rare occasion the UOSA's budget categories exceed their budgeted amounts by ten percent or more. He said FY-22 Reserve Maintenance in total was only over budget by approximately six percent but the demand portion of the reserve maintenance category itself exceeds the budget by more than ten percent. He advised the exceedance is the result of expenses from three planned FY-21 reserve maintenance projects carrying over into the next fiscal year due to supply chain and COVID-19 related issues. The carryover project expenses are then funded by the demand category for FY-22 and the current overage only slightly offset the large under budget position of \$1.96 million at the end of the fiscal year.
  - c. In response to Director Fields, Mr. Wolfe stated that the projected funding remaining at the end of FY-21 for the planned reserve maintenance projects is returned in accordance with budget surplus procedures. The project carries over into the next fiscal year although the budget does not and expenses are recorded under the demand reserve maintenance budget category as unforeseen.

MOTION: Director Vehrs moved to approve the Reserve Maintenance procurements which exceed the authorized budget amount by 10 percent, pursuant to UOSA's Procurement Policy and Procedures.

SECOND: Director Fields

VOTE: Unanimous

2. Chairman Mohsenin referenced staff memorandum, *UOSA O&M Budget Surplus Return* (filed as Exhibit B).
  - a. Mr. Wolfe reminded the Board that the O&M Budget surplus return procedures approved by the Board in 2014 indicate that a budget surplus over \$1 million at the time of the June Board Meeting will be designated as a significant surplus, and fifty percent of the surplus will be returned to the jurisdictions in the June quarterly billing. He stated that the budget surplus currently stands at \$1.9 million therefore the member jurisdictions will see fifty percent of the surplus returned in next month's billing.

\* Director Farr joined the meeting after the start time.

MOTION: Director Vehrs moved to receive and file the UOSA O&M Budget Surplus Return.  
SECOND: Director McGrath  
VOTE: Unanimous

E. Major Project Reports

1. Chairman Mohsenin referenced staff memorandum, *June 2022 Project Summary* (filed as Exhibit C).
  - a. Mr. Airhart reported on Plant Projects. He said for the NOVEC transformer replacement project, the first transformer coming from the fabrication facility in Pennsylvania will be shipped on July 12, 2022 with an expected arrival date of July 18. Once the first transformer arrives, it will be installed, energized and tested, and brought online. The second transformer remains on schedule and is anticipated to arrive in time for the tentative final completion date of September 6, 2022.
  - b. Mr. Airhart stated that the Contract AWT (Advanced Wastewater Treatment) contractors: pressure tested the new valves in Building L1 and have found no issues, replaced the corroded filter vessel hatches and the welding passed its ultrasonic testing with painting to follow, replaced the second motor control center while drain improvements began. The Substantial Completion Date is unchanged at May 10, 2023.
  - c. The Ozone Biofiltration engineer and staff continue to work through permitting paperwork with Fairfax County. He said the permitting process and documentation being requested is very similar to that of the MFF project mentioned in the project summary memo.
  - d. The Building U Centrifuge Upgrade (Project U2) engineers submitted the 90 percent design documents earlier that day for staff to begin their review.
  - e. The P2NR Plus (Phase 2 Nutrient Reduction Plus) engineer delivered the final PER to staff for their review.
  - f. The MFF (Methanol Feeding Facility) site plan review was completed and once the site plan permit is issued, the engineer will be able to formally address comments pertaining to the building permit with the application for the Certificate to Construct (CTC) to follow.
  - g. Mr. Airhart reported on the single active Delivery System Project. He said for the YPIU (Yorkshire Park Interceptor Upgrade), the engineer submitted the application for the recording of the plan.
  - h. In response to Chairman Mohsenin, Mr. Angelotti assured the Board that if UOSA's P2NR Plus project qualifies for State WQIF grant funding that staff would be sure to apply. Mr. Airhart stated that the PER is needed to apply and the P2NR Plus PER was just received last week. Mr. Angelotti also advised that UOSA responded to the annual survey performed by the State on planned nutrient related projects to alert them about which utility projects might qualify for a grant under the State's funding program.

MOTION: Director McGrath moved to receive and file the May 2022 Project Summary reports.  
SECOND: Director Vehrs  
VOTE: Unanimous

E. Staff Reports

1. Safety Briefing

- a. Ms. Noble-Blair provided a quick safety update and said the outside counter that you see when you enter the plant was at 444 days without a lost time accident.
- b. Ms. Noble-Blair reported that UOSA has seen 6 COVID-19 cases since last month with a total of 59 cases since the start of the pandemic, two years ago. She said this increase is similar to trends observed within the county and country. Fairfax County remains at a medium transmission level; mask wearing continues to be voluntary at UOSA, consistent with VOSH and CDC guidelines. She said UOSA will initiate additional protection measures should it become necessary to protect the UOSA workforce and comply with laws and regulations.
- c. Ms. Noble-Blair said unfortunately staff were unable to produce a Safety Newsletter once again this month, although it should make its return in July with the recent promotion of UOSA's own, Mr. James Robertson, to the position for UOSA's Safety Officer. She shared that Mr. Robertson has a bachelor's degree in Biology from the Virginia Military Institute and has spent the last several years in UOSA's Treatment Process Division. She said she was super excited and looking forward to having a fresh and different perspective from his experiences with our safety programs. She said she will formally introduce the Board at one of the upcoming meetings, once he has a chance to get settled.

2. Executive Director's Report

- a. Mr. Angelotti reminded the Board of the upcoming Annual Service Awards celebration for long-term employees and taking the opportunity to properly acknowledge the UOSA folks that retired during the pandemic by inviting them back for the celebration as well. He said this year the luncheon is at the plant, onsite under a tent near the lake, on Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:30.
- b. Mr. Angelotti informed the Board of the recent developments regarding PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances). The EPA released new health advisory levels (HALs) for four PFAS compounds. These HALs are not enforceable regulatory limits of any kind and are only a determination by the EPA that for concentrations below these established values, EPA does not expect any adverse health effects. Out of the four specific compounds named in the overall PFAS chemical group, two are previous legacy compounds known as PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic acid) and PFOS (Perfluorooctanoic sulfonate) and the prior HALs were revised to several orders of magnitude lower than the previous ones. The revised HALs were set at values less than the reporting limit for the EPA approved tests which are used to quantify their concentration in water. UOSA routinely finds these two compounds in its product water, at concentrations below the previous HAL values, but above the revised HALs. PFOS and PFOA are being

voluntarily removed from production through what Mr. Angelotti referred to as evolutionary societal changes, similar to what was observed with DDT and PCBs. They are recognized as molecules that are bad actors that society needs to move away from using or consuming. The other two HALs are new and are for PFAS compounds designed as replacements for PFOA and PFOS. These two PFAS compounds are being used in industrial processes and commercial products to replace the use of PFOA and PFOS as those are being phased out. HALs for the two newer PFAS compounds, PFBS (Perfluorobutanoic sulfonate) and a compound known as GenX, are set at much higher concentrations suggesting these may not pose as much health concern as PFOA and PFOS.

- i. In response to Director Farr, Mr. Angelotti confirmed that he has been in communication with Fairfax Water via email and that their sensitivity to this issue is reasonably heightened. There is an effort to engage regional stakeholders such as the Occoquan Watershed Laboratory, UOSA, Fairfax Water, Virginia Health Department (VDH), Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ) and other water purveyors such as Prince William County Service Authority (PWCSA) to discuss this emerging issue and the implications for issuance of the new HALs by EPA.
  - ii. In response to Director Rishell, Mr. Angelotti described “evolutionary societal change” to be when a compound is determined to be a bad thing for public health or for the environment, and often this results in societal pressures for producers of that compound to reduce or eliminate its production or use over time. This happened with DDT in the 1950s or 1960s and removal of PCBs from transformers saw a similar evolution as these compounds were phased out of production and use. The two compounds, PFOA and PFOS, have already been recognized as not a good thing for human beings so manufacturers have voluntarily ceased production, at least in some parts of the world. He said societal public pressure and potential liability sometimes precede regulatory control and can drive compounds out of regular production and use.
  - iii. In response to Chairman Mohsenin, Mr. Angelotti said the EPA has a strategic roadmap for PFAS and plans to release MCLs for PFOA and PFAS and that should help the water industry tremendously. The industry could then respond appropriately to some known and measurable water quality values that we can all work towards achieving. In the interim a communication strategy on how to deal with inquiries by the public are beginning to become more important. EPA has left us whirling a bit and back on our heels, trying to deal with the latest development. He reported previously that UOSA has seen an increase in some PFAS compounds through the plant, not because we are adding these chemicals to the treatment process, rather because there are known precursor compounds, like very large, fluorinated plastic telomers, that enter the treatment plant and biotransform with these big molecules breaking down into smaller ones that are then measured in the test, essentially increasing the concentration of the particular compound of interest from influent to effluent.
- c. Director Farr stated that the Board of Supervisors for Prince William County recently discussed the Occoquan Policy and salt levels in the watershed. He emphasized that this topic continues to garner local

attention and now there is also concern about PFAS. He said PWCSA and Fairfax Water are both working on communication strategies that might help explain these emerging water quality issues to their rate payers who are seeking information. He asked if UOSA had received inquiries from the public on these topics.

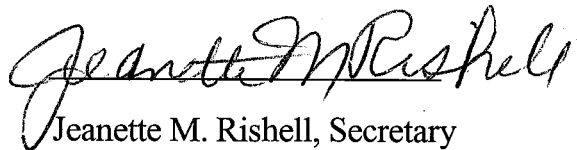
- i. Mr. Angelotti said that UOSA typically does not receive direct inquiries from the public, although staff responds if possible when inquiries come. He added that over the several decades he has worked in the watershed, UOSA has been very successful in responding to the emerging challenges of the day. Whether that was a prior emerging concern about risks from pharmaceuticals and personal care products, or another emerging issue; he expressed confidence about our ability to also deal with today's issues related to sodium and PFAS.
  - ii. Director Farr said that his organization is communicating with Fairfax Water and calls have been placed to VDH and DEQ about how to deal with the new situation. He did advise that there is a webinar scheduled for June 23, 2022 on the topic and is hoping there will be some general talking points shared. Currently, the focus and discussions are on the drinking water side, about health impacts. Responses to a number of frequently asked questions can be found on the VDH website. He said our challenge is to answer anticipated questions on what utilities are doing about it.
  - iii. In response to Chairman Mohsenin and Director Farr, Mr. Angelotti stated that an MCL on the water side would better position UOSA for an adequate response, to see if it affects the downstream drinking water supply. He also acknowledged the possibility for UOSA's CIP to be impacted although we would really need to see what an enforceable standard would be before identifying the best course of action, whether that be through removal in the plant or looking in the collection system for sources or controlling those through UOSA's pretreatment program.
  - iv. Chairman Mohsenin stated it would be most helpful to have similar talking points with some kind of joint coordination so that the utilities are providing consistent information to the public. Director Farr was in agreement with a collaborated effort to create and distribute information on the topic to the public.
- d. Mr. Angelotti announced that UOSA was recently recognized by a new nutrient smart or "NSmart" award program. The Water Environment Federation (WEF) in collaboration with the EPA, recently launched this program to support reductions of nutrient loadings in waterways and to recognize water utilities that are environmental leaders and innovators within that space. Silver, Gold and Platinum Awards recognize tiered levels for percent removal of nutrients by the treatment facilities, with awards given to all the applicants in that area that qualify. Therefore, if you apply and you are removing a certain amount, you receive the corresponding award level. On a competitive basis, a single large utility is selected nationally for innovation and leadership in nutrient management. Mr. Angelotti said he was pleased to report that UOSA, in this first inaugural year of the program was selected for the Platinum award. Additionally, he was also proud to report that UOSA is the inaugural winner of the Large Utility Innovator Award for Leadership in Nutrient Management based on its active role in managing nitrogen within the Occoquan Reservoir in a unique and active way.

3. Legal Counsel's Report

- a. Ms. Hostetler reported that she is still awaiting final comment from one member jurisdiction's counsel on the proposed Service Agreement Amendments. She said a meeting is scheduled for the beginning of July. She hopes that she may have a revised amendment for the Board to consider at an upcoming meeting, which can be sent to the member jurisdictions for adoption.
- b. Director Vehrs took this opportunity to congratulate the law firm of Odin, Feldman, & Pittleman, P.C. on their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since being founded.

I. Adjournment

MOTION: Chairman Mohsenin moved to adjourn at 4:43 P.M.  
SECOND: Director Rishell  
VOTE: Unanimous



Jeanette M. Rishell, Secretary  
UOSA Board of Directors

Date: July 21, 2022

*These minutes are unofficial until signed.*