

**EAWA WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 6, 2016 - 6:30 PM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The EAWA Board meeting was held in the Meeting Room at 211 W. Hummelstown St. and was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Dr. C. Dale Treese. Members present: Keith Murphy, Jeff McCloud, Del Becker, Rick Erb and Chuck Brewer. Absent: John Buch. Also present were George Alspach, Solicitor; Peter Lusardi, Engineer; Gene Haldeman, Operations Manager; Wayne DeVan, PWD, Mike Skelly, Manager; Grace Miller, Business Manager; and Michele Powl, Administrative Clerk. **Other Attendees:** Rich Sheidy.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**3. REPORTS:**

**Manager's Report: Y-end 2015 Production, Metered and "Unaccounted For" Figures** - Skelly noted the Board received a chart for 2015 showing how much water EAWA produced, metered and water that was unaccounted for. He said the unaccounted for figures increased from 13.5% in 2014 to 17.4% for 2015. AWWA / DEP guidance recommends 10 – 15% as certain leakage/loss is unavoidable.

Skelly stated the report integrates with the water and energy audit. He said American Water Works provided reporting software to conduct a self-audit at a seminar he attended in Bethlehem. He completed computations and asked a representative from Capital Region Water to review the data and verify the calculations. Skelly said the intent of the audit is to assist in being more thorough as to how EAWA documents items and what practices EAWA can implement to save water. Skelly said if last year's unaccounted for figure of 17.4% were reduced by 5%, based on the 6<sup>th</sup> tier billing rate, it would have saved \$58,745.

**AWWA Water Audit Model, Part 1** - Skelly distributed copies of part one of the completed water audit to the Board and Lusardi. Skelly said the second part of the water audit focuses on the distribution system, valves, etc. to provide a better idea of items to fix. Becker asked if there is a trend in the unaccounted for figures. Skelly said when he started at EAWA it was approximately 21%, and the figures have been declining each year. He said he would provide a 5 – 10 year profile of the figures to the Board.

Treese asked what percentage of unaccounted for water would be considered acceptable. Lusardi said according to DEP 20% is acceptable, and it is unlikely to have figures lower than 10%. Haldeman said it is difficult to determine the amount of water loss from water lines and older meters so he provides the best estimate possible. Haldeman said a company was hired years ago to check the entire water system for leaks and found three. Brewer asked what the recommended time frame is to check the water lines for leaks. Lusardi said every five years. Treese said EAWA is always looking to see what programs are in place to reduce the numbers

for unaccounted for water and by the end of 2016, the meter replacement will be completed. Brewer suggested budgeting for the leak detection every five years. Treese said it was discussed to monitor the older sections of infrastructure and asked Haldeman what he recommends. Haldeman said he can implement a program to utilize the leak noise correlator to detect any leaks in the system. Treese suggested that Haldeman institute a leak detection program and monitor the unaccounted for figures.

**Operations Manager's Report:** Haldeman noted the following items: 1) snow damage to the roof at Water Treatment Facility repaired; 2) DEP inspection completed and no operational problems found; 3) staff attended PRWA Conference at Penn State for training and testing.

Haldeman provided a presentation to the Board on the different types of flushing that Operations performs on the Water Distribution System. The three methods are quick flush, unidirectional flush and flow testing flush. Haldeman said the quick flush requires two staff members and is where hydrant is opened and the water flows until the water is clear. The water system is divided into ten sections; one section flushed each night for ten days; and completed twice a year. The second type, unidirectional flushing, requires four staff members to follow a designated pattern with stopwatches to time the flushing. The third type, flow test flushing, utilizes a gauge and a chart to determine the flow rate during the flushing. This type of flushing is completed once every five years. Haldeman said staff starts the quick flush program on Sunday for the next two weeks, and the unidirectional flushing starts in May completing one section each month.

**Public Works Director's and Engineer's Report:** None.

**4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**5. NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**6. BOARD MEMBER'S COMMENTS:** Treese noted that John Buch will be recognized at the Chamber Gala for 50 years of community service. McCloud heard a report on National Public Radio related to the lead found in the water supply in Flint, MI. He noted the government will be requiring testing. McCloud asked if EAWA's water pipes contain lead, is it a problem and should EAWA be planning for it. Haldeman said EAWA is required to collect 30 samples once every three years, and samples are due to be collected this year. Haldeman said EAWA does not have any lead service lines, but there may be a handful of service connections that contain lead. He said EAWA has been proactive with replacement over the years. Brewer asked about EAWA's testing for lead. Haldeman said EAWA passes each year with low levels. Skelly mentioned staff attended a seminar last week and learned that EPA released a pending guideline for lead and a disinfectant ruling coming from DEP. Skelly said there will be additional reporting and testing required. He said EAWA may need to seek original building permits from the Borough. DeVan said the Borough pulled building permits to test for lead samples previously. Haldeman said EAWA uses SLI5230 as a protective barrier between the water and the service line

to protect against lead and copper. Treese noted an article he read about installing a Solar Ray over a reservoir. Skelly said Miller looked into it and it was not cost effective. Lusardi agreed.

**7. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Board met to discuss Personnel matters. No action was taken.

**8. ADJOURN: 7:34 PM**

**Action:** "That the Board adjourns the work session meeting."

**Motion:** K. Murphy

**Second:** J. McCloud

**Approved**

Respectfully submitted,

M. Skelly, Authority Manager

***Approved at 5/9/16 Meeting***