

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Environmental Authority
Held on Wednesday, 19th February 2020
At the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Botanical Gardens, Paget**

PRESENT: Mrs. Winnifred Fostine-DeSilva, Chair
Mrs. Susan Armstrong, Member
Mr. Andrew Barnes, Member
Mr. James Morrison, Member
Mr. Eugene Saunders, Member
Mr. Jonathan Starling, Member

ADVISORS: Dr. Geoff Smith, Environmental Engineer, DENR
Dr. Shaun Lavis, Hydrogeologist, DENR
Mr. Tom Crossan, Chief Environmental Health Officer
Mr. Armell Thomas, Senior Environmental Health Officer
Ms. Patricia Hollis, Environmental Officer, DENR, Recording Secretary

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Ian Maule, BHB Facilities Manager
Mr. Adam Diel, Water Infrastructure Group

ABSENT: Mr. Kirk Outerbridge, Chief Engineer, Public Works
Mr. Tarik Christopher, Principal Engineer (Water & Sewage), Public Works

1. Welcome to New Member

The Chairman welcomed a new member, Mr. Andrew Barnes, to the Authority.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2020 were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Confirmation of Conditions related to other Acts

The Attorney General's Chambers have confirmed that the Environmental Authority may include operating licence conditions that require compliance with other Acts.

4. Elbow Beach Waste Water Treatment Plant

The Authority **TOOK NOTE:**

- i. That Water Infrastructure Group (WIG) implemented short term improvements on 21 November 2019.
- ii. Any improvement in effluent water quality is difficult to quantify because water quality is directly related to hotel occupancy (which has been low this Winter).
- iii. A letter was sent on behalf of the Environmental Authority to Elbow Beach after the 5 February 2020 meeting to require the completion of the back up effluent disposal borehole and to implement the longer-term solutions as recommended by WIG.
- iv. The Elbow Beach Board is due to consider the longer-term solutions at their meeting in March 2020.

The Authority **REQUESTED:**

that another letter be sent to the Manager, Elbow Beach Hotel, and copied to the Permanent Secretary of DENR, to confirm the implementation of the longer-term solutions by 31 December 2020.

5. Tynes Bay Waste to Energy Facility disposal of unconsolidated ash at the Airport Waste Facility

The Authority **TOOK NOTE:**

that the Ministry of Works and Engineering (MWE) are continuing to dispose of unconsolidated ash at the Airport Waste Facility, in contravention of their operating licence conditions. It is understood that MWE has too few cement trucks in service for the purpose and that there is a ban on the required overtime.

The Authority **REQUESTED:**

that a letter be sent to the Permanent Secretary requesting a response to the Authority's letter of June 2019. In addition, the letter shall include a request for a long-term plan for the Airport site and incinerator ash use or disposal.

6. Presentation by the Bermuda Hospitals Board on the MAWI WWTP

Mr. Ian Maule and Mr. Adam Diel described the operation of the MAWI waste water treatment plant over the last year. It was reported that the plant is working very well and the effluent quality has been within the limits. Mr. Diel said that challenges are presented by the inflow of rainwater after heavy rain events. Although the exact source of the rainwater is not known, the most likely source is the historic connection of storm drains into the sewer system. Heavy rainfall events can increase the inflow from 7,000 gpd to 35,000 gpd.

Mr. Diel said that the installation of a coarse screen upstream of the plant would minimise the risk of the macerator pumps becoming bound, but no suitable location has been found for them.

Mr. Diel commented that should the effluent borehole become blocked, a nearby tank, presently out of use, would be available to store effluent until it could be trucked away or the borehole repaired.

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the BHB application for reissue of OL-851, subject to the same conditions as before.

7. BHB Presentation on the Steam Sterilizer Macerators (SSMs)

Mr. Ian Maule apologised on behalf of the BHB for the lapse in reporting on the operation of the steam sterilizer macerators. He said that since the start of his employment there last year, he has worked to prepare the overdue annual reports.

Mr. Maule confirmed that Bermuda Water Consultants continue to be engaged to analyse liquid effluent samples from the SSMs on a monthly basis to ensure compliance with standards. On a quarterly basis, efficacy of the sterilization process is checked using inhouse technicians.

Mr. Maule reported that the operation of the SSMs is challenging, especially when the staff and outside facilities (labs, doctor's offices) bag up unacceptable items in the SSM waste. Operating room linens, metal tools and the like have damaged the maceration equipment, causing outages and the need for repair by Red Bag Solutions (the contracted maintenance company).

The SSMs are used for the sterilization and maceration of biological wastes. Chemical wastes and any unknown wastes are stored in refrigerated containers until being shipped overseas for appropriate disposal. About 4 to 5 twenty-foot containers are shipped overseas annually.

Mr. Maule said that extra effort will be made to ensure full compliance and timely reporting of the operation of the BHB controlled plant.

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the BHB application for reissue of the controlled plant listed in OL-229-6 and -7, subject to the same conditions as before. It is noted that other operable controlled plants on this collective operating licence condition were also approved and would be licenced individually going forward using standard licence conditions for Gensets (i.e. OL-229-4 and -5). It is understood that the boilers (OL-229-2 & -3) have since been decommissioned.

8. Bermuda Electric Light Co. Operating Licence

The proposed changes to BELCO's operating licence were reviewed, including the insertion of a condition to require BELCO to report spills that had the potential to enter waterways within 1 hour, and another condition requiring appropriate storage and disposal of hazardous substances (including batteries)

The Authority **APPROVED:**

BELCO's Operating Licence subject to the conditions as presented.

9. Applications for Construction Permits and Operating Licences (New)

8.1 OL-1070 Overnight Construction

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the application for an operating licence submitted by Overnight Construction for a mobile sand sifter for use in permitted building sites, subject to standard conditions.

10. Applications for Operating Licences (Reissue)

10.1 The Authority **APPROVED:**

the reissue of operating licences on the one-page printout, subject to standard conditions, with the exception of OL-887 Sardis Development waste water treatment plant and OL-622 Collingwood Holdings propane storage/filling facility. OL-887 was deferred pending submission of the annual report. OL-622 was approved with the notation that it is not in compliance with all conditions.

10.2 The Authority **TOOK NOTE:**

that OL-857 BLDC WWTP was compliant with its operating licence conditions, even though its operation is challenged by the ingress of sea water. The Authority **REQUESTED:** that a letter be sent on their behalf to BLDC recommending the installation of new pipework to reduce the saline intrusion.

11. Applications for Water Rights (Reissue)

The Authority **APPROVED:**

the issue of water rights as listed on the two-page printout with the exception of three indicated as withdrawn.

12. Request for Representative on BOPP

Ms. Susan Armstrong volunteered to serve as the Authority's representative on the Bermuda Ocean Prosperity Programme (BOPP). Mr. Eugene Saunders offered to assist at times when Ms. Armstrong is unable.

13. Boat Fires, Pier 41, Dockyard

The Authority **TOOK NOTE:**

that there was a recent fire at Pier 41, Dockyard, that destroyed two large (60 foot) live-aboard yachts. The cause of the fire has yet to be confirmed but is believed to have been an electrical malfunction. About 1,000 gallons of diesel leaked into the marina area which required significant efforts of DENR, Marine & Ports, Works & Engineering, WEDCo, and the Bermuda Regiment to contain and collect in addition to large amounts of charred debris. The total weight of bagged spent oil adsorbent pads/boom and charred remains that was sent to Tynes Bay Waste to Energy Facility was 6 Tonnes.

14. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set for 8:30 am, Wednesday, 25 March 2020.



CHAIRMAN

26/8/2020

DATE

