

UPPER BLACKSTONE CLEAN WATER
50 ROUTE 20, MILLBURY, MA 01527-2199
BOARD MEETING MINUTES - BOARD ROOM/HYBRID MEETING
April 26, 2023

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>Title</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>In- person</u>	<u>Virtual</u>
Matthew Labovites	Chairman	X		X	
Philip Guerin	Vice Chairman	X		X	
John Woodsmall	Secretary	X		X	
Michael Traynor	Member	X		X	
Joanna Paquin	Member	X		X	
Donald Manseau	Member	X		X	
Robert Antonelli	Member	X		X	
Kevin Duffy	Member	X			X
Joseph Buckley	Member	X	X		
Gary Nelson	Member	X			
Jay Fink	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

ITEM II - APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – April 12, 2023

Minutes – Member Antonelli moved to approve the minutes as amended to include the correction of “NCL” to MCL (maximum contaminant level) under Item V. Communications of the meeting on April 12, 2023. Member Woodsmall 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 Duffy, yes; and Member Fink, yes.

ITEM III – APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES

Executive Session – Member Antonelli moved to approve the executive minutes of the meeting on April 12, 2023. Member Traynor seconded, and approval of the 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 Duffy, yes; Member Nelson, yes; and Member Fink, yes.

IV FINANCE

Warrants – Vice Chairman Guerin moved to approve the following warrants. Member Paquin 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 Duffy, yes; and Member Fink, yes.

Warrants	\$ 603,779.49	(04/14/2023)
	<u>\$ 262,218.72</u>	(04/24/2023)
TOTAL	\$ 865,998.21	

Breakdown of cash – Ms. Sangrey said the money market balance may be a bit inflated because there are no payables against it. However, it is accurate and reflects where we are currently.

Aging Report – Ms. Sangrey said Christine, our interim Finance Manager, is doing a fabulous job keeping everything current. She added she is not worried about Chase Harris as they are making regular payments.

Outside Revenue Position – Ms. Sangrey said the septage is behind as it has not completely returned to the levels from the upset last summer; the sludge income has exceeded budget; and the energy credits are ahead due to the cost of electricity, which means paying more on the other side as well.

Unencumbered Prior Year Bills, BAI#1 – Ms. Sangrey said due to internal accounting issues at Control Point Mechanical, Inc., they neglected to invoice Upper Blackstone for purchase orders that ranged from October 2018 through 2020. She consulted with the auditor and was told there is an obligation to pay them for up to six years from the time services were provided. The payment will include approximately twenty invoices for which we have records that confirm the work was completed and will not include interest. Member Woodsmall made a motion to approve BAI#1 for the payment of unencumbered bills for services that were provided prior to the current fiscal year by Control Point Mechanical, Inc. of Shrewsbury, MA in an amount not to exceed forty-eight thousand, eight-hundred forty-nine dollars and thirty-four cents (\$48,389.34.). Member Paquin seconded, and approval of BAI#1 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 Duffy, yes; Member Nelson, yes; and Member Fink, yes.

ITEM V – ADMINISTRATION

Integrated Planning Update – Ms. Sangrey said she received notice that the EPA has given Upper Blackstone a six-month extension to October 12, 2023, to continue negotiations. Member Fink said discussions with the EPA will resume soon. Chairman Labovites asked if alternate supplemental environmental projects (SEPs) had been proposed and Member Fink said they have been and there is interest, but there needs to be a better understanding of the penalty for budget purposes. He said there will be more to come, and Ms. Sangrey will keep this on the agenda.

Capital Improvement Projects Updates, Mike Andrus, Deputy Director -

Standby Power Design – Mr. Andrus said CDM has made progress, and there will be a meeting next week.

Regional Biosolids Study – Work is proceeding with a progress meeting next week, and there will be more to report later.

Other In-House Projects – There will be a kick-off meeting next week for the headworks project. The on-call projects are in the planning stage. The Request for Quote (RFQ) packages have been received from the HVAC engineers.

ITEM VI – OPERATIONS

Flow Summary – Ms. Sangrey said despite the rain over the past weekend, there was no wet weather blending. Member Woodsmall said the yearly, mandatory water restrictions for Holden and Millbury will begin on May 1st.

March Effluent Summary Report – Ms. Sangrey said although March was wet, Upper Blackstone was in full compliance, and she believes April's WET passed and will confirm next month.

Wastewater Effluent Monitoring Dashboards – Ms. Sangrey said Upper Blackstone has been invited to participate in another sampling similar to the Biobot study, and she wanted the Board to know about it to share

it with collection systems staff, health departments and other people who would be interested in knowing, especially with the end of the emergency pandemic conditions in May. The new program is called “Wastewater Scan.” She said the Covid monitoring link on our website is now renamed “Health Monitoring” and will have links to up-to-date data for both Biobot and WastewaterSCAN. This is a national effort to sample beyond Covid, and the site will be like that of the Covid one, but instead will provide data on the Flu, RSV, Human Metapneumovirus, Mpox and Norovirus tracking. Ms. Sangrey said she believes this is an outfit out of a couple of universities including Stanford and may be grant funded as they are paying us a \$150 stipend per sample for collecting the data. It was suggested that a press release be done, and the following options were recommended: MassLive, T&G, Spectrum, social media, and The Landmark.

ITEM VII– COMMUNICATIONS

MCWRS – Vice Chairman Guerin said a Board meeting is going to be held on Friday, April 28th at the Alden Training Center at 1:00 p.m.

He said comments for the new NPDES draft permit for potable drinking water facilities have been submitted, and the period is now closed.

Also, the plans for the in-person Symposium are being finalized, and it will be held on September 28th at the Devens Common Center. Adding, the topic will be financing sustainability and Josh Schimmel is lining up a keynote speaker.

The deadline for comments on the EPA’s PFAS MCL is May 30th. Vice Chairman Guerin said people are asking for an extension, but it is uncertain as to whether one will be granted.

ITEM VIII – PERSONNEL

Postings, New Hires, Resignations – Ms. Mailhot said there is nothing to report at this time. She said that she and Ms. Mancini will be attending two job fairs in May.

COVID-19 Cases –There are no new cases to report, and this will be taken off the agenda.

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

5/10, 5/24, 6/14, 6/28

ITEM X – ADJOURNMENT

At 1:45 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