

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ROCK RIVER WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2015**

President Massier called the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Rock River Water Reclamation District to order at 12:00 noon in the Board Room at the District Administration Building, 3501 Kishwaukee Street, Rockford, Illinois. The following Trustees were present:

Donald Massier	President
Lloyd Hawks	Vice President
Donald Kerestes	Clerk/Treasurer
Rick Pollack	Trustee
Elmer Jones	Absent

Staff members present: Steve Graceffa, District Director, Dana Carroll, Engineering Manager; Larry McFall, Plant Operations Manager; David Cook, Supporting Services Manager; Michael Robertson, Information and Technology Services Supervisor; and Deborah Lyons, Executive Services Coordinator.

Others present: Troy Stinson, Randy Wirtz, and Scott Stearns, of Strand Associates, Inc.

President Massier stated the meeting was being recorded; the first item on the agenda was Main Pump Pumps 1 & 3 Replacement.

Engineering Manager Carroll stated two bids were submitted. Neither respondent met District's qualifications so both bids have been rejected and the project has been re-advertised.

President Massier stated the next item is Consultant Services, Dewatering Centrifuges Replacement, Capital Project No. 1659 – Candidate Interviews.

Engineering Manager Carroll stated staff previously explained to the Board the centrifuge project and the centrate equalization work that needs to be done. Staff received proposals and interviewed three firms. Two firms are presented for the Board's consideration for the project.

Scott Sterns stated Strand has local presence, with experts within an hour's drive of the District. Employee owned and managed, Strand is ranked 19th by the ENR. The firm offers full service and all disciplines. Mr. Sterns reviewed the qualifications of each team member of the project. They have worked hard to try to understand the District's needs.

Troy Stinson stated Strand offers comprehensive wastewater expertise to the District and collaboration with District staff is important. If Strand is hired for the project, Randy Wirtz will manage the planning, design, and construction phases. The firm serves numerous large wastewater agencies similar to the District, including some in Illinois. Strand has experience in nutrient removal and is familiar with upcoming regulatory changes.

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Randy Wirtz stated Strand addresses key process issues to ensure long-term efficiency. The centrifuges are the focal point for the project as that is where most of the money will go. Strand offers significant experience with centrifuges and centrates, and early equipment procurement with clear and concise specifications including clear accountability. Thorough communication with contractors is essential to the District's satisfaction. The firm's understanding of the District's plans for the project was reviewed, as well as the risks to be considered, the importance of maintaining flexibility for the future, and cost control.

Trustee Pollack asked if the target completion date was May 2016.

Mr. Wirtz stated yes.

Trustee Pollack asked if Strand was planning to use a different type of pump.

Mr. Wirtz stated the current pumps are centrifugal, which have worked fine but that is not what most people use these days. A rotary lobe pump or a progressive cavity pump would provide more positive displacement and better control.

Trustee Pollack stated he appreciated the schedule presented in their proposal.

Mr. Wirtz stated once you get through preliminary design you have a better understanding of what the schedule is going to be. If you want the job done quicker, Strand has the horse power to get it done more quickly.

President Massier stated he understands this has become something we need soon.

Plant Operations Manager McFall stated the maintenance of the centrifuges and their break down rate suggests that the District move quickly. They were installed in 2000-2002. The technology has worked well for us; our only problem has been a specific piece that has not held up as well as expected.

Trustee Kerestes asked if the plan is to replace District's two existing centrifuges with three smaller ones.

Mr. Wirtz stated the District currently has two centrifuges. Normally, one of the new units would run under typical conditions. The second would run as needed. The third would be a redundant unit. They can operate more efficiently on a continuous basis, and the centrate coming back is produced on a continuous basis so it has less impact on the plant.

President Massier asked if staff has done business with Strand before. Staff stated Strand did a planning study on the gravity belt last year; it was a successful project.

The Strand Associates team left the meeting; HDR Engineering, Inc. representatives Eric Berggren, Dave Bachtel, and Ron Sova came into the meeting. Engineering Manager Carroll introduced the team to the Board.

Eric Berggren stated HDR is a global firm with offices in Chicago and Springfield. They will tailor solutions from national experts for this centrifuge project. They bring strong local project management to their projects and are committed to listening to and understanding the District's needs prior to moving forward. They are familiar with solids handling. HDR has completed dozens of centrifuge projects and offers unmatched experience in the evaluation, selection, and procurement of centrifuge equipment. Mr. Berggren would be the project manager for the District's project.

HDR selects and procures centrifuge equipment prior to general contractor selection, allowing delivery when the contractor is ready to install. District's currently unused ferric chloride tanks could be a viable option for storing centrate. Centrate management will include a struvite evaluation so the current issues can be eliminated.

The contract would be preceded by a Preliminary Design Memorandum and an Operational Narrative. The Memorandum ensures that the design criteria and other things the District wants in the project are included. The Narrative is to make sure both parties understand what the District wants for controls in the equipment and how it is going to work with the District's SCADA system. Mr. Berggren spoke of HDR's approach to quality assurance/quality control.

Dave Bachtel, HDR's centrifuge expert, stated centrifuge selection has a major impact on the District's long term budget. Discussions would include how many hours a day the District wants the equipment to operate, standby capacity, and how much control is desired. Service and support are important in how well the facility operates, its economics, and the owner's overall satisfaction. HDR will do prescriptive specifications along with performance specifications to get the type of equipment that the manufacturer will support well.

Ron Sova spoke of their successful project in Lincoln, Nebraska, and how it operates.

Eric Berggren stated he is confident HDR can exceed the District's expectations.

Trustee Pollack asked for clarification on using dilution to control struvite formation.

Mr. Sova stated struvite is formed when ammonia, magnesium, and phosphorus come together. Effluent water is used to dilute centrate which changes the solubility of the material so that struvite will not form.

Mr. Berggren stated they had one project that had an equipment delay of three months. The centrifuges were pre-procured and HDR was assured the equipment was headed for the boat. About a month before the equipment was due to arrive at the site, HDR was told there was a three-month delay due to problems with the paperwork. Penalties were turned back on the manufacturer and the owner ended up basically whole. There were liquidated damages on the procurement documents.

Trustee Pollack asked what is the projected completion date?

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Mr. Berggren stated July 2016.

Trustee Pollack asked what would be the situation if limits became lower in a couple years.

Mr. Berggren stated the plans for the project would be developed so that this job does not limit District's options in the future.

Mr. Bachtel stated phosphorus removal may result in some reduction in cake solids. He often recommends the design be for normal operation at 60-70% of the claimed capacity. This provides a longer detention time in the centrifuge, resulting in drier cake solids. The cake solids are maximized by using the machine within its most optimum range. The solids then have enough additional residence time in the machine to minimize the impact of the reduction in cake solids from phosphorus removal.

District Director Graceffa asked how old is the Lincoln project?

Mr. Sova stated the centrifuges were started up about three months ago.

Trustee Pollack asked if HDR's design typically uses monitoring equipment?

Mr. Bachtel stated typical monitoring includes temperature monitoring on the main bearing of the rotating assembly and an accelerometer on the centrifuge base to designate major imbalance problems. Accelerometers on the main bearings can be added for a continuous readout of the bearings.

The HDR representatives left the meeting.

Trustee Pollack stated he respected staff's opinion because they have to deal with this first hand. The first group took a holistic approach, weighing risk and liability. The other group gave more detail. The first group projected an earlier completion date and estimated fewer hours. The smaller company (Strand) may actually do a better job for the District.

Trustee Kerestes stated the first group was more thorough in regard to knowledge of this District. Also, bigger does not mean better. The District should select the group that staff prefers.

President Massier stated the first group talked about the possibility of using the existing tanks and seemed to be familiar with our situation, mentioned Illinois regulations, and seemed more in tune with staff. The second group had the three month delivery delay problem, did not mention Illinois regulations, and talked about things not relevant to our situation.

Plant Operations Manager McFall stated staff spent time with both groups and feel either company would do a good job for the District. Staff recommends that the District proceeds to work with Strand Associates.

Trustee Pollack moved to instruct staff to proceed with negotiations with Strand Associates to provide Consultant Services for the Dewatering Centrifuges Replacement project, Capital Project No. 1659; seconded by Trustee Kerestes; **motion passed** upon roll call as follows:

Lloyd Hawks	Aye
Donald Massier	Aye
Donald Kerestes	Aye
Rick Pollack	Aye

Staff will be bringing a contract to the Board for approval.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Trustee Pollack moved to adjourn; seconded by Trustee Jones; meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

Clerk