

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
LORAIN COUNTY RURAL WASTEWATER DISTRICT  
August 11, 2011**

**Call to Order:**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Lorain County Rural Wastewater District was held at the LORCO offices, 22898 West Road, Wellington, Ohio. President McConnell called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

**Trustees in Attendance:**

Secretary-Treasurer Lahetta called the roll with the following trustees shown in attendance:

James McConnell	Neil Lynch	Thomas Lahetta
Gerald Cowie	Cindy Kurpely	Jim Wright
Dominic Ferritto	John Piwinski	Mary Beth Derikito
Jim Woodrum	Rick Hutman	Jason Richardson
Rita Canfield	Louise Grose	

**Absent:** Howard Born, Bob Meilander

**Also in Attendance:**

Becky Haines, Special Projects Administrator ALMU  
Robert Berner, Executive Director  
John Kniepper, Consultant  
Dennis O'Toole, Legal Consultant

**Call for Changes or additions to Agenda:**

None

**Approval of Minutes:**

President McConnell announced that the minutes of the regular meeting held on July 14, 2011 had been mailed to all the trustees and called for any additions or corrections. It was moved by Mary Beth Derikito, with a second by John Piwinski to approve the minutes as written. All voted yea. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

President McConnell commented the report on the grand opening would be delayed until next meeting. Cindy Kurpely commented they are requesting donations for the event.

President McConnell discussed the Executive Committee meeting held prior to the board meeting. He commented on the posting and search process for the executive director position. He indicated a budget request of \$1,000.00 would be necessary for the search.

A motion was made by Mary Beth Derikito and seconded by James Wright to amend the budget and add \$1,000.00 for expenses associated with the executive director search.

Dennis O'Toole presented the board revisions to the 812 form. He referenced Section II E concerning language to enter property. Two separate forms were

presented to replace the existing form. Form 812 Standard and Form 812 Grinder Pump were recommended to the board for approval.

A motion was made by John Piwinski and seconded by James Woodrum to adopt and the motion was unanimously approved.

**New Business:**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - President McConnell reported no new information to report and commented on the request to amend the cooperative agreement with ALMU during the monthly officers meeting.

LEGAL REPORT - Attorney O'Toole had nothing to report.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2011-011 for payment of payroll and bills was moved by Louise Grose, with a second by Cindy Kurpely, The motion was unanimously approved.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Executive Director Berner reported on the financial report and indicated next month the annual insurance payment is due. He informed the board he would be attending the Annual Lorain County Fair Breakfast on August 22<sup>nd</sup> at the fairgrounds. He updated the board on news articles and commented there was one additional article at their places along with a copy of an email from a customer asking the board to consider a senior citizen discount.

Executive Director Berner updated the board on the series of meetings with communities in Lorain County regarding regional wastewater treatment and how encouraged he was with the participation and if a regional treatment authority is created it would allow LORCO to provide cost feasible services to the western areas of Lorain County. He informed the board the note with FirstMerit Bank was paid in full. He updated the board on the requested changes to the ALMU/LORCO Cooperative Agreement. He further raised an issue with the board concerning vacant homes and a possible policy amendment. Finally, he reminded everyone that next Friday, August 19, 2011 is the final day for customers to request their tap fee be added to their property taxes

Special Projects Administrator for Avon Lake Municipal Utilities, Becky Haines gave an update on the Phase-I construction. She informed the board power has been connected to all the pump stations and the 4 plex should be powered by Friday or beginning of next week at the latest. Contractor's are working on punch list items. UUI is installing remaining grinder pumps on Dye Rd. She further informed the board leaking manholes have been repaired and user agreements are coming in steadily. She indicated 197 connections have been made to date. They have collected \$655,000 in tap fees to date.

She informed the board ALMU and Rural Water are working on billing and a test bill will go out August 20<sup>th</sup>. She informed the board of site visits from DEFA (Division of Environmental Funding Assistance) and OEPA and commented they were complimentary on the project.

Jim Wright asked about the status of a home on Indian Hollow Rd.

John Kniepper commented on the status of the bore under St. Rt. 10.

Neil Lynch questioned the phone call volume to ALMU.

Jason Richardson raised the question of the date for billing.

**Other Business:**

President McConnell called for any other business to come before the Board and no board members responded.

President McConnell then asked the audience if they had any questions or remarks. Public comments were heard from:

Del Roig asked if LORCO recommended back water preventers in gravity sewers. He also asked about the status of the bore under St. Rt. 10 and when the deadline to connect will be.

Linda Morrison commented on a letter received from Executive Director Berner and asked the record to reflect neither her nor any of the Eaton Township trustees have recommended to residents not to sign the user agreement. She asked what declares the system to be certified. She asked about the status of contract 5B and commented that 586,000 gallons of sewage has been transported to ALMU via tank trucks. She concluded by asking the board not to have an opening ceremony in Eaton Township.

Donna Hicks asked how the electric box for grinders is mounted. She also asked about a camera crew and commented her grinder has not yet been installed and inquired how much the project has cost to date.

Elizabeth Rattray thanked LORCO for swapping her grinder pump and also questioned the amortization schedule.

Richard Taylor raised a concern with the board concerning payment to the contractor who repaired his electric service. After lengthy discussion, a motion was made:

Cindy Kurpley moved and Jason Richardson seconded, "The LORCO Board recommends the electric bill for Richard Taylor be paid and funds withheld from Elite's contract for payment by ALMU unless reasonable evidence to the contrary can be presented by the close of business on Monday, August 15, 2011 as to why the bill should not be paid in full. The motion was unanimously approved.

Alice Wright raised a question on how billing is done and asked about reduced billing while they spend the winters in Florida. She also thanked LORCO for completing the project.

Carl Denk raised an issue concerning Rural Water meter reading. President McConnell asked Executive Director Berner to speak with Tim Mahoney at Rural Water on the issue.

President McConnell commented on LORCO evaluating rates and assured everyone the LORCO rates will be evaluated based on available data in the future and the operations will be monitored for efficiency. He further commented on Linda Morrison's comments concerning the sewage trucking and made the point this was the best option to allow people the most amount of time to connect to the system.

**Adjourn:**

With no other business to come before the board a motion was made by Dominic Ferritto and Seconded by John Piwinski to adjourn at 8:27. All voted yea. Motion carried.

The board will meet again in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 8, 2011 at the LORCO offices located at 22898 West Road, Wellington, Ohio 44090.

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President

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Secretary-Treasurer