

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
LORAIN COUNTY RURAL WASTEWATER DISTRICT  
November 8, 2012**

**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 7:00 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	Jim Wright	Thomas Lahetta
Tom Steigerwald	Cindy Kurpely	John Piwinski
Neil Lynch	Bob Meilander	Jim Woodrum
Gerald Cowie	Rita Canfield	Rick Hutman
Bob Walrod	Louise Grose	

**Absent:** Howard Born, Mary Beth Derikito

**Also in Attendance:**

Becky Haines, Special Projects Administrator ALMU  
Robert Berner, Executive Director

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

None

**Approval of Minutes:**

President McConnell announced that the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 11, 2012 had been sent to all the trustees. It was moved by Cindy Kurpely with a second by Tom Steigerwald to approve the minutes as presented. All voted aye. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT** – President McConnell discussed committee assignments and indicated it has been a tradition of the board to assign officers and trustees from communities where LORCO operates a system to sit on the Executive Committee. In accordance with this tradition he assigned Bob Walrod to sit on the Executive Committee. He then discussed a date for the next Executive Committee Meeting and after input from several committee members it was decided to have an Executive Committee Meeting on Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm for the purpose of evaluating the Executive Director.

**LEGAL REPORT** – Attorney O'Toole had nothing new to report to the board.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT** – John Piwinski reported the Finance Committee met prior to tonight's meeting. They reviewed the 2013 budget and are

recommending it for approval at the December board meeting. He indicated the committee thought the budget was as tight as it possibly could be and still maintain operations.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-19** was presented concerning establishing the rates LORCO charges for Tap-in Fees and monthly services. Discussion ensued with Nile Lynch offering a correction to the resolution as drafted. Tom Lahetta commented that if development picked up annual rate increases could be averted. Bob Walrod questioned the business plan behind the rate plan. Louise Grose commented there have been negative complaints from constituents concerning the rate increase. Jim Woodrum commented rates have to be adjusted to avoid going into default. Bob Walrod further questioned the forecast with Pheasant Run Village being added. Jim McConnell replied that even if Pheasant Run is feasible and the project was done, LORCO would not see any revenue from those connections for at least 3 years. Neil Lynch made the case for a three year increase for tap-in fees but only a one year increase for the monthly rates. He then asked how many are only paying the minimum monthly because they are not connected. A motion was made by Cindy Kurpely to approve with resolution 2012-19 with a three year increase in tap-in fees and only a one year increase to the monthly rate. It was seconded by Jim Wright. The resolution was approved 14 – 0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2012-20** for payment of payroll and bills was presented. It was moved by Tom Steigerwald with a second by Bob Meilander to approve the resolution. The motion was unanimously approved.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - Executive Director Berner reported nothing unusual on the financial report. He also indicated a new news article was at their places. He informed the board of the meetings he has been having with Todd Danielson of ALMU and updated the board on the Arcadis and Pheasant Run project. He indicated he spoke with the county administrator concerning working together on mutual interests. He also informed the board of a potential developer in Eaton Township and informed the board he is still waiting on an opinion concerning the LORCO FPA definition. He informed the board he cancelled his trip to the Fall Ohio Rural Water meeting due to weather.

He then presented the Phase I Financial Report.

### **The October report from ALMU:**

**859 homes are connected**

**1,010 customers were billed in October for \$53,662.76**

**Meter reading at pump station from October 5 – Nov 5 shows**

**8,289,700 gallons sent to plant for treatment.**

**Gallons of RLCWA 3,832,817**

**The treatment cost for October was \$11,958.39 per the contracted rate. Wholesale rate \$3,181.24 Booked Amount \$8,777.15.**

**The October O & M expenses were: \$11,976.95**

***\$5,676.27 wages and benefits***

***\$566.66 office, billing expenses and utilities***

***\$987.46 Utilities***

***\$4,359.56 Operation and Maintenance***  
***\$387.00 Unemployment Taxes***

**LORCO received \$15,000 per Cooperative Agreement**

**Total Expenditures for October: \$26,976.95**

**Balance in Custodial Account: \$1,946,440.56**

**Booked Billable Hours for October: \$7,060.72**

Executive Director Berner concluded with thanking the board for the last three years of employment with his anniversary coming up on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

The first question which came up was the number of gallons of water through the pump station. Neil Lynch calculated that 1" of water on one acre would be 27,154 gallons of water. Carl Denk confirmed the calculation. Jim Wright questioned how the water was being conveyed into the system. There was general discussion concerning illegal connections to the system to drain storm water. Executive Director Berner commented the best prevention is for people who see something to say something and LORCO could investigate. It is in everyone's best interest to not have illegal connections or excessive storm water entering the system.

Rita Canfield asked about the meeting with Pheasant Run and wanted the information reported in the Rural Urban to be corrected for accuracy. She also wanted to ensure a meeting takes place with the LaGrange Township Trustees to discuss the project before it progresses.

Special Projects Administrator for Avon Lake Municipal Utilities, Becky Haines reported no new information and indicated one new tap were sold and the Robson Road and Royalton Road yards have been restored.

**Other Business:**

President McConnell called for any other business to come before the Board. Hearing none he then moved to audience participation.

Linda Morrison had some questions:

1. She thanked Becky Haines for moving forward with the Cooley Rd. Repairs.
2. She quoted Mayor Stauss from LaGrange concerning Pheasant Run Village tap fees. Jim McConnell rebutted his comments.
3. She questioned if the 89 new connections in 2013 were new homes.
4. She asked again about the 54 homes on Island Rd. Executive Director Berner responded to her concerning the types of connections required to connect those homes and they would receive service by gravity when the section near the Tri-plex pump station is developed.
5. She concluded with a billing complaint. She presented a repair

Donna Hicks questioned where new homes are going to be connected and commented the developer who wants to build apartments in Eaton Twp wants to

build them in an area not zoned for high density. She concluded by asking about the water problems.

Carl Denk had questions concerning developer commitments and asked about dates on when connections will be made for those not connected. He commented it is his opinion Rural Water should do connections for sewers. He concluded by asking how many customers are billed and don't make payment.

Elizabeth Ratrey asked how many board members are connected to LORCO Sewers.

Comments concluded with Tom Lahetta asking if back-up generators worked during the storm. Becky Haines responded yea.

**Adjourn:**

With no other business to come before the board a motion was made by Tom Steigerwald and Seconded by John Piwinski to adjourn at 8:18 pm. All voted yea. Motion carried.

The board will meet again in regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2012 at the LORCO offices located at 22898 West Road, Wellington, Ohio 44090.

---

President

---

Secretary-Treasurer