

South Sangamon Water Commission  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners  
July 21, 2025  
Water Plant, 9199 Buckhart Road, Rochester IL

**Commissioners:**

Present: Jim Roth, Cindy Morris, Dave Johnson

Absent: None

Quorum: Yes

**Others Present:**

Stephen Bivin and Autumn Tibbs (SSWC), Randy Segatto (Barber, Segatto et al) and Max Middendorf (MECO Engineering).

**Proceedings:**

- The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Jim Roth, and roll was taken.

**Operating Report:**

- Stephen Bivin gave report and discussed highlights of the June 2025 report. The total gallons pumped from the well field was 46.972 million gallons of water and 38.675 million in finished water. Sampling was within limits.

- Stephen reported that we had a couple of call outs in June 2025. Stephen had to come in and reset some equipment.

- Stephen reported on brine testing to get concentration right. Kuritas was here and reported that we don't have a hydrometer to do brine testing. They recommend 35-50% brine. We assume that when Woodard-Curran left, they took the hydrometer with them. It could have gotten broken. But, we got another one.

- Stephen reported that we got the leak outside of New Berlin fixed. It was a decent leak caused by an air valve issue.

- Stephen reported that he got a quote from Lee Electrical for \$22,500 for a High Service Pump #3 VFD replacement (the internal thermostat failed). A new one is approximately \$47,000 and a rebuilt one is approximately \$32,000. A Schneider brand VFD is approximately \$22,500 with Joe Lee installing. Max Middendorf stated that we may be able to get a rebate on the Schneider brand product. Stephen reported that we do have two other pumps that are working as they should. The quote from Lee Electrical is good for about 30 days. There is a 4 week lead time involved.

- Commissioners discussed approving the purchase of a new High Service Pump #3 VFD, not to exceed \$25,000.00.

MOTION by Roth, second by Morris to approve purchasing a new High Service Pump #3 VFD, not to exceed \$25,000.00.

Roll call vote: Morris – yes    Johnson – yes    Roth - yes            Motion carried.

- Stephen reported on a lightning strike at Well #9 that occurred on 7/8/25. It took out Well #9, surge protectors and the brand new VFD is gone. We might have lost some flowmeters also. We are still assessing the damages. We have filed a claim with our insurance company. We have a \$2,500 deductible on that policy. We do have lightning rods on each end of the building and on tanks. But, we may want to consider if there is any more lightning mitigation that we can do. Lee Electrical and Bodine Electric have both been out. Bodine replaced fuses. We had one full day that we were off-line; the same day Chatham had a water line break.

- Stephen reported on Chatham's water line break and stated that Chatham had opened up CWLP for a little bit. Dustin Patterson (Village of Chatham) contacted CWLP directly. Chairman Roth reported that he had spoken to Todd Lafountain (CWLP) regarding our contract with them and working on an agreement. But, Todd stated they are not ready yet. Chairman Roth reported that Pat McCarthy (Village of Chatham) stated it had been 2+ years since they had to get water from CWLP.

- Stephen reported that Joe Lee noticed some arching between tree limbs and our power lines. It wasn't actively arching. This may/may not be due to the lightning strike. That said, we need to trim some trees. Stephen received a quote from Rumble Bee Tree Service for \$17,830. Stephen spoke to Joe Lee about it and he gave Stephen a referral. Union tree trimmers must abide by prevailing wages. But, if they do as a side job, they'll typically do for time and materials. They could write it "as not to exceed \$13,000". If we have it done quicker, it may not even be that much. Stephen reminded that we own the power lines with what he thinks is a 30 foot easement. Chairman Roth suggested we get 2-3 quotes before making a decision. Commissioner Morris suggested we reach out to Tony McGlaughlin at To The Top Tree Service at 217-502-9811 as he did a good job for her. Chairman Roth asked Stephen to bring quotes to the next Board Meeting.

### **Engineering Reports:**

- Max Middendorf reported that he had spoken to Dana with Brotcke to get an update on the punch list schedule. The biggest thing we are waiting on is final test results. Pace Analytical is who does their samples. We are just waiting on a response from them so we can set the schedule to finalize the permit for operating Well #11. We've got a few other punch list items. We were able to submit updates to the Floodplain Director for Sangamon County. We did receive an extension because final gravel hadn't been done. Grate work is pretty much done. Once it is finalized, he'll get final pictures.

- Commissioners discussed that we pay a couple hundred thousand every year for brine waste hauling. Chairman Roth stated that Pat McCarthy (Village of Chatham) mentioned to him that he knows someone who likes to deal with issues that require taking on legislature to make change. Max reported on our NPDES permit and limits set by the receiving streams for aquatic life. If we can demonstrate through test data that our increased limit won't have an adverse effect, we can submit a petition. Part of the petition includes streamflow data, pollution ratios, whole body contact, etc. That was the essential argument that Dawson had. They petitioned and were successful about raising the discharge level. That allowed them to increase the concentration of their brine discharge and allowed them to blend it in.

**Public Comments:**

None.

**Approval of Minutes:**

MOTION by Morris, second by Roth to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2025 regular meeting as presented.

Voice vote: Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Autumn Tibbs reported that June's financial report printouts were provided for review. There is nothing out of the ordinary to report. We are in the positive with our revenue being more than expenses thus far this fiscal year.

- Autumn reported that she met with Watts Copy Systems in regards to the lease on our Business Office copier expiring next month and the need to renew our contract. Our current lease is a 60 month lease at \$57/month for 12,000 black/white copies per year. Their proposal is for a 60 month lease at \$55/month for 12,000 black/white copies per year but we would receive a new copier with the same functionality as our current copier.

- Commissioners discussed and decided to accept Watts' new proposal at \$55/month for 60 months and receive a new copier.

MOTION by Morris, second by Roth to approve and accept Watts' new proposal at \$55/month.

Roll call vote: Morris – yes    Johnson – yes    Roth - yes            Motion carried.

- Autumn reported that we have filed a claim with our insurance carrier in regards to the 7/8/25 lightning strike at the plant.

**Approval for Payment of Invoices:**

- Autumn Tibbs reported that the vendor payable's printout was provided for review.
- Commissioners reviewed a list of payable items totaling \$91,056.42.

MOTION by Johnson, second by Roth to approve payment of all invoices as listed.

Roll call vote: Morris – yes Johnson – yes Roth - yes Motion carried.

**Approval for Prepayments:**

- Autumn Tibbs reported that a list of prepayments made was provided for review. These are vendors that are not on the vendor payable's printout. They are not on the vendor payable's printout because (1) it is automatically deducted from our checking account every month and therefore no check is necessary or (2) it is a timing issue where the actual bill is not available until after our board meeting but it is due before our next board meeting.
- Commissioners reviewed a list of prepayments made 6/11/25 – 7/16/25 totaling \$204.85.

MOTION by Roth, second by Johnson to approve payment of all prepayments listed.

Roll call vote: Morris – yes Johnson – yes Roth - yes Motion carried.

- Commissioner Morris suggested Autumn contact Cleeton Trash Service in Tovey, IL at 217-237-2112 to get a comparison quote for trash service for the plant and see if it's any cheaper than Republic. Autumn will look into this and report back at the next meeting.

**Old Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

None.

**Executive Session:**

None.

**Adjournment:**

- The next regular meeting of the South Sangamon Water Commission would be held Monday, August 18, 2025, at the water plant, 9199 Buckhart Road, Rochester, Illinois at 5:30 p.m.

MOTION by Morris, second by Johnson to adjourn.

Voice vote: Motion carried.

- The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Autumn Tibbs, Clerk/Treasurer