



Onondaga County Legislature

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 JULIE ABBOTT, CHAIR

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Cody, Ms. Kuhn, Mr. McCarron, Mr. Garland

ALSO PRESENT: see attached list

Chair Abbott called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. *The minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed, and there were no objections to waiving the reading. There were no corrections to the minutes, and the minutes were approved.*

1. WATER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION: Shannon Harty, Commissioner **a. 2023 Transfer Resolution**

- Requesting amendment for unbudgeted expenditures in two accounts
- Have surplus to cover with no net change to overall budget
- Majority of operating budget is driven by Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant (MWWTP)

Supplies and Materials-300 (chemicals, labor, electricity)

- Chemicals
 - 25-30% increase in chemical supply chain costs started early 2022
 - Beginning to see costs coming down but will continue to see 10-15% increase
 - New contracts are seeing a shortfall of \$1.6M to fund chemicals
 - Proposing to move \$1M from 101 (Salaries) and a surplus 413 (Maintenance, Utilities, Rent)
- Sludge disposal (biosolids) – comes from 413 account
 - Had 5 year, fixed price contract with vendor going to Ontario County
 - 2019-2022 spent over \$3M
 - Shut down by Ontario County in July due to regulatory constraints
 - Went to alternate locations resulting in increased costs
 - From \$85 per ton to \$165 per ton for the remainder of 2023 into 2024
 - Landfills are trying to force biosolids out of landfills
 - Budget shortfall for remainder of 2023 is \$670k
 - Sludge dryer coming online; construction is finished
 - Will go from 30% Class A biosolids to 85-90%; tonnage will go down in 2024
 - When 85% is reached; will be able to hold at \$4.5M
 - Still an increase from \$3M but better than \$7M without the online dryer
 - Working with DEC to get a Part 361 permit on biosolids
 - Once dryer is online, it can be classified as renewable resource
 - Looking at different vendors to do land application to treat as a fertilizer
 - Hoping to have more disposal options by the end of 2024 to control operating expense

Questions/Comments from committee:

- The county is not in the business of making and selling fertilizer
- Is there someone that will buy it?
 - That is what WEP is considering
 - The first step is to get the dryer online to prove it is creating a beneficial product
 - Working with purchasing to issue an RFP to see what disposal options are available

- Have surplus with options to mitigate impacts of negative financial impact
- Is the request to move funds from funded vacant positions under salaries account?
- Would WEP eliminate positions or take the dollars?
 - There has been a lot of movement in 2023; many retirements
 - Hired 80 people within the last year and a half
 - Have 15% vacancy on payroll; do not want to give that up permanently
 - Will have a 2023 surplus, but not a surplus to carry into 2024
 - Surplus on 413 (Electric) is due to 2022 amendment for \$2.5M of unbudgeted electrical expenses
 - Current rate is 1/3 of what it was previously
 - Paying \$0.11 per kilowatt hour in summer of 2022; now paying \$0.04 per kilowatt hour
 - Saving \$200k per month on Metro's electric bill
- Is that where the surplus is coming from?
 - Yes, from the 413 account

A motion was made by Mr. McCarron seconded by Ms. Kuhn, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

b. Authorizing County Executive to enter into Utility Work Agreement with New York State Department of Transportation via 81 Viaduct, Contract 1 Improvement.

- HC140 Utility Work Agreement is needed anytime the state does work on county infrastructure
- State does work at no cost to county
- Contract 1 happening in the northern interchange
- There is a sewer being relocated for transition from 481 to 81

Questions/comments from committee:

- Is this for the northern part of the work?
 - Yes, this is Contract 1
 - Will be back for each subsequent contract
 - The State wants individual agreements, not one blanket agreement
- Does Contract 1 also cover southern end?
 - It did, but there is no county infrastructure in that area

A motion was made by Ms. Cody, seconded by Ms. Kuhn, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

2. ONONDAGA COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY: Jeffrey D. Brown, Esq., Executive Director
a. INFORMATIONAL: 2023 Update



MISSION AND VISION

MISSION

- To provide safe, reliable and affordable water to residents, businesses and industries in Central New York in a manner protective of water resources and the environment.

Vision

- Be the safest water utility in the United States.
- Be the 1st choice of employment for Central New York utility workers.
- 95% + positive engagement with customers and other stakeholders.



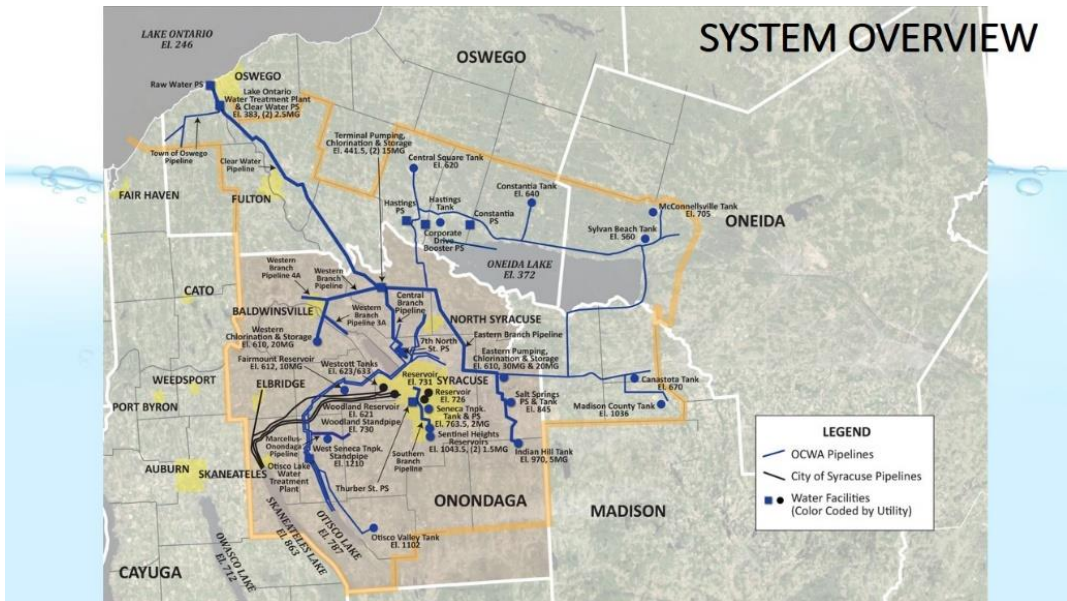
OCWA AT THE BEGINNING



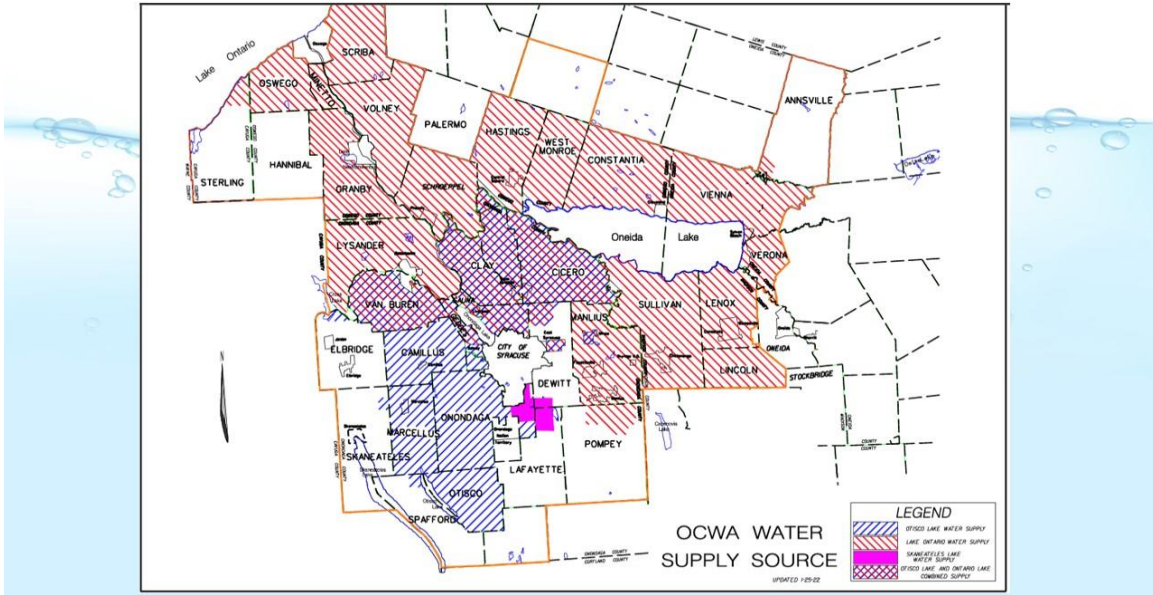
- Syracuse Suburban Water Company formed and financed by American Pipe Mfg. Company. Included new dam (1907) and transmission mains.
- 1950 OCWA Authorized by NYS Legislature (Authority formed).
- OCWA Acquired the Water Company assets and began operating in December 1955.
- Started with 9,119 customers served by 134 miles of main, now 106k accounts and 2,213 miles of main.
- In the 1960s Onondaga County Board of Supervisors created the Onondaga County Water District (Metropolitan Water Board) with access to up to 90+ MGD from Lake Ontario. In 2017, OCWA and MWB consolidated operations into a single water system.



SYSTEM OVERVIEW



WATER SUPPLY SOURCES



ESSENTIAL REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY

- Portions of (5) counties:
 - Onondaga
 - Oneida
 - Oswego
 - Madison
 - Cayuga
- City of Syracuse – Back-up and supplemental water supply in support of filtration avoidance permit



ADJOINING WATER PROVIDERS

Adjoining or neighboring water systems:

- Portion of Town of DeWitt (wholesale customer)
- Portion of Town of Clay (wholesale customer)
- City of Fulton (emergency connection)
- Village of Baldwinsville (emergency connection)
- City of Oneida (emergency connection)
- Town of Phoenix (emergency connection)
- Town/Village of Hannibal (wholesale customer)
- City of Oswego (emergency connection)
- Town/Village of Skaneateles
- Jordan-Elbridge



SYSTEM STATS

- Population served:
 +/- 350,000 OCWA
+/- 150,000 Syracuse (backup)
 +/- 500,000
- 2,213 miles of watermain
- 14,000+ fire hydrants
- 63 tanks and 48 pump stations
- Typical Average Daily Water Production:
 - Otisco WTP (Otisco Lake)
 +/-18 MGD
 - Ontario WTP (Lake Ontario):
 +/- 18 MGD
 Average Day 36 MGD, Maximum Day 52+MGD
 160+MG of water in storage
 Combined source capacity of 83+ MGD for the region (Ontario + Otisco)
- Annual Revenue: \$58 million



FINANCES

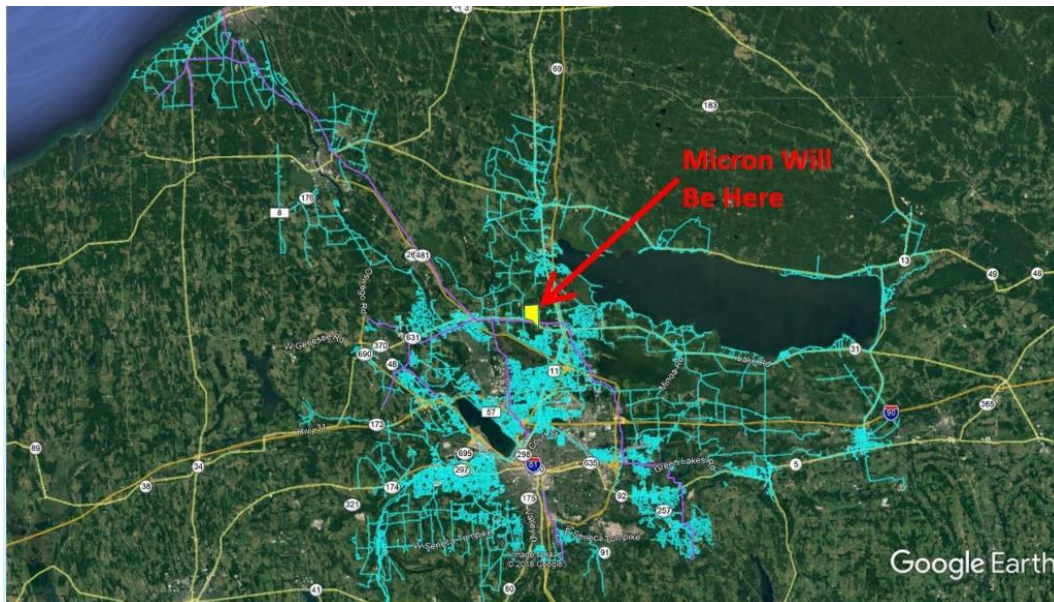
- 2023 O & M Budget - \$59,000,000
- 2023 Capital Budget - \$40,700,000 (includes \$14,200,000 from annual funds and \$26,500,000 of bond funded work)
- Number of employees – 184 budgeted full-time positions
- 2023 Payroll - \$15,000,000
- Total Bonds Payable - \$122,080,000
- Moody's Bond Rating – Aa2



MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

Project	Year	Estimated Project Cost
Lake Ontario Water Treatment Campus improvements	2021-2028	\$ 90,400,000
Farrell Pump Station	2022-2025	\$ 8,000,000
Annual watermain replacement and relining (over 10 years)	2023-2032	\$ 75,000,000
Transmission main work new/repairs (over 10 years)	2023-2032	\$ 30,000,000
Solvay Pump Station	2024	\$ 2,150,000
Tug Hill Pump Station	2024	\$ 2,000,000
Warners tank replacement	2024	\$ 1,250,000
Park Street pump station	2025	\$ 1,100,000
Howlett Hill pump station	2025	\$ 1,100,000
Wolf Street Pump Station	2026	\$ 1,100,000
North Syracuse tank painting	2027	\$ 2,530,000
Otisco Lake dam/intake work	2027-2028	\$ 10,250,000
Brewerton tank painting	2028	\$ 2,530,000
Abbey Road tank painting	2028	\$ 1,000,000
Liverpool tank painting	2029	\$ 2,530,000
Chittenango underground reservoir rehab/roof	2029-2030	\$ 1,500,000
Thompson Road tank painting	2030	\$ 1,000,000
Jacks Reef new tank/concept	2030	\$ 1,500,000





- 25 miles from Lake Ontario to Micron site; will need more infrastructure
- Need work at Lake Ontario treatment plant
- Need to build a parallel line coming down from Ontario to:
 - Clay site across from Great Northern
 - Micron site
- Several hundred million dollars will be needed for improvements

Questions/Comments from the committee:

- What constitutes an emergency connection?
 - If water system goes down, there is a physical connection where a valve can be opened to supply water
- In the case it dries up, or something is wrong with it, correct?
 - Yes
- Can OCWA supply the entire city of Syracuse, Skaneateles and parts of Camillus as a backup for Skaneateles Lake?
 - No, not that simple, do not have the volume
 - The piping in city is not robust enough to handle large volumes
- Would this be used in a catastrophic system failure?
 - No, the city does do work on their system and OCWA needs to provide water
 - Can provide on the central branch (7th North St.) and southern branch (Nedrow)
- Is it for a boil water advisory?
 - Typically OCWA would not get involved in water advisory
- When will improvements start for Micron?
 - Still have some time
 - Have plenty of water to get through the first fab
 - Have 12 million gallons available immediately
 - Will need more to get through fab 2
 - Fab 2 expected to be completed in 2035
- Is the several hundred million dollars all on the county, or has there been a conversation with Micron?
 - OCWA is currently in conversations with Micron
- Does Onondaga County have the personnel, or will OCWA need to hire/outsome some of the project?
 - There will be some hiring, but have employees in place to operate a large chunk of project

- Will need to add a handful of employees
- If something came up, while working on it, the members would not want employees to suffer
 - Correct
- Will both pipes be working, or will one go offline?
 - Both will be working, but can go to single line if needed
- Is water still tested for lead?
 - Working towards getting lead out of system
 - If someone believes they have lead, OCWA will confirm and will test water
 - www.ocwa.org/lead will show lead areas
- Will there be an increase in water rates due to Micron coming in?
 - Talking with Micron currently; it is too early to tell at this point

A motion was made by Ms. Kuhn seconded by Mr. Garland, to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



DEBBIE KAMINSKI, Assistant Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE

DATE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
JEFF BROWN	OCWA
Tiffany Latino	OCWA
SHARON HARTY	OCWA
John DeSantis	Leg
Darcie Lesniak	leg
Jim Beebe	Leg.
Ben Yaus	Law