

MINUTES OF THE AUBURN MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2014  
AT 4:00 PM

Members Present: Denny Zach, Chairperson, John Montone, Mike Luksa, Mike Daley, Nancy Hussey, Michael Quill and Peter Ruzicka

Members Absent: Krste Biljanoski and Jim Wride

Staff Present: Anthony DeCaro

Staff Absent: Doug Selby and Bill Lupien

Chairperson Denny Zach called the meeting to order on Wednesday, October 15, 2014 at 4:00 pm.

Approval of meeting minutes. Motion by Mike Quill, seconded by Mike Daley.

**Public to be heard:**

None

**Hydroelectric Facilities:**

Anthony DeCaro updated the status and advised that we're running (until today). It has been shut down because we haven't had a lot of rain. We're in the draw-down period; we're half-a-foot lower than where we should be on the curve. The project was started up and training commenced the week of the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September. We started really running it in earnest the week of the 29<sup>th</sup>. We have been running it at a lower rate because we were using it at minimum flow. North Division is also in an operable condition at this point. We have decided that at this point we would rather pull the plug and let the Lake catch it to the curve at minimum flow rather than to continue to run it down at a minimum flow and make a minimum amount of money with a new project. We'd rather try to get to a point where we can at least have a limited period of time where we can run it at a higher rate and also run North Division at the same time. So, that's what we're looking to do.

Anthony further reported that that there are a couple of different ways to run this device and one of the ways at automatic is to run it...there's level sensors in the pond and downstream from the device on the tailrace. With the level sensors, we can run it and it will regulate the pond level but we discovered that while level we can run it at half and in a stable way to have a fairly stable level of the pond. That is a third of the minimum flow that we needed before with the Francis Turbine that was there. That's going to double or triple the season that we could have to generate power at the site. We'll be able to generate power much longer at reduced rates but nonetheless make money with it for a much longer time during the year because of this reduced flow.

One of the things which we have seen, however, that while Siemens was optimistic in stating that possibly as low as 90 cubic feet per second; we've haven't seen flows that low yet. That may come as we become more familiar with the equipment and as the equipment gets seasoned but it may not come. Anthony went on to explain what happens when it's run at 90 cubic feet per second. He reported that so far at around 120 to 130 cubic feet per second, this is where we get a stable run. While not as generous as what we had hoped for, it still gives us the ability to generate power much longer at a third of the rate of water that we saw in the past. We have ceased operation temporarily to let the Lake catch up. We haven't had a lot of precipitation so the Lake is well ahead of the drawdown curve and we want to let the Lake recover so that we can run the new project at a higher rate and run it in conjunction with North Division for a period of time. There was discussion on the Lake levels, how that affected flow and the risk of staging the pond and the danger to the Lake by doing this.

John Montone inquired if we went to net metering, how many accounts would it involve and what accounts are they. Anthony advised that the inquiry should be made to Vicky Murphy or the Finance Office. We will be operating it but will not be managing the finances. John advised that the readings should be carefully monitored. Denny advised that there is a list available of the accounts related to remote net metering and he will distribute it.

Anthony reported on North Division Street. The repair has been completed, testing has been done and it is running, all we need is the water to run it. Because it is a variable output, it requires a lot more water to start because it's not a true variable speed in the same sense that the Kaplan is at Mill Street. It is variable only in the sense that it was designed to be reversible to work as a pump and as a generator. So we really need more than 150 to 200 cubic feet per second to run it and we've had greater success running it at rate and then running it higher from that. We haven't had a sufficient amount of water so it would run at a stable basis. So, we haven't tried to run it. Anthony went on to report that there were several things that were wrong underneath the unit, in the tail of the unit. He went on to report on the repairs and future concerns regarding the equipment.

The ribbon cutting ceremony for Mill Street was discussed.

Denny inquired as to whether the remote monitoring had been completed. Anthony advised that that still has to be done. He went on to discuss the reasons why it has not been completed.

## **LFGTE Facility**

Denny spoke regarding negotiating a meeting with NYSEG about the avoided cost and an upgrade. Anthony advised that one of the benchmarks of a grant we applied for was simply that we scored very well in the grant. That simply means that we're in the right line, the paperwork is in the right line and it scored very well. That doesn't indicate whether or not it will be accepted or granted but it does mean that we're on the right track and everything was submitted properly. John questioned the provision that through this grant, it's going to increase production 95%. He wondered what that meant. Anthony advised that what they were talking about and one of the things we applied for was not to enhance the equipment that's there. He thought they were talking about doing a different development at the site to take more advantage of the site

itself. His understanding is that not using the equipment that is there but fully optimizing a potential. He explained this further.

Denny provided a handout on the usage at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and this was discussed. There was more discussion regarding the NYSEG agreement and the general consensus was that we should be getting 100% instead of 80% because we now own the plant. There was more discussion on this. The figures were discussed and hashed out.

### **New Business**

John Montone reported on the solar summit hosted by the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Initiative. John is on the committee for the energy portion. He presented all the options discussed at the summit and they were discussed.

Motion to adjourn made by John Montone, seconded by Mike Daley. Adjourned.