

**JOINT STUDY SESSION OF THE  
CANTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
AND THE WESTERN TOWNSHIPS UTILITIES AUTHORITY  
FEBRUARY 18, 2003**

A joint study meeting of the Board of Trustees from Canton Township, Northville Township, Plymouth Township and the Western Townships Utilities Authority was held on Tuesday, February 18, 2003 at 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton, Michigan. Canton Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Roll Call**

Canton Township:	Members Present:	Shefferly, Burdziak, McLaughlin, Bennett, Yack, Zarbo, Kirchgatter
	Members Absent:	None.
	Also Present:	Aaron Machnik, Director of Municipal Services
Northville Township:	Members Present:	Abbo, Banner, Gans, Klokkenga, Werner, Hillebrand
	Members Absent:	Henningsen
	Also Present:	Don Weaver, Director of Public Services
Plymouth Township:	Members Present:	Griffith, Edwards, Curmi, Mann, Massengill
	Members Absent:	Arnold, Munfakh
	Also Present:	James D. Anulewicz, Director of Public Services
WTUA:	Present:	Tim Faas, Director of Operations Chuck Barbieri, Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.
YCUA:	Present:	Perry M. Thomas, Superintendent of Wastewater Larry Thomas, Director

Also Present: John Graber from the Community Crier.  
Joel Thurl from the Detroit News  
3 members of the public

**Adoption of Agenda**

Motion by Bennett, supported by Kirchgatter to approve the agenda as submitted.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Citizen's Non-Agenda Comments:** None

**Board Member Reports:** None

## **PRESENTATION ON THE WTUA BUSINESS PLAN**

Supervisor Yack gave a brief history of the evolution of WTUA. He stated the YCUA expansion project being discussed this evening will almost double the capacity of highly treated water coming back to the Lower Rouge River noting the benefit to the environment. Mr. Yack emphasized that there has been outstanding cooperation from YCUA to date. This project represents the largest capital project in the Western Wayne County area and the Authorities received a great number of bids from major companies.

Tim Faas, WTUA Director of Operations, presented the fourth update in the WTUA Business Plan. Mr. Faas introduced Chuck Barbieri, WTUA's Attorney from Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith; and Larry Thomas and Perry Thomas from YCUA (Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority) who were present this evening to address any questions.

Mr. Faas' presentation included the following:

### **Business Plan History –**

There have been 3 updates since the plan was adopted in February of 1997. Negotiations that started in 1997 between YCUA and WTUA were concluded in the fall of 2000. A lot has happened over the past eighteen months that is detailed below.

### **Seven Prime Objectives –**

1. *Flow metering system.* WTUA has flow meters inside the sewer pipes that measure the flow of wastewater. Data from these flow meters are used in part for determining how much money each town pays on a monthly basis for service and it is also used for flow projections. The data from the flow metering system is reviewed by WTUA's technical committee on a monthly basis to see if there are changes to the patterns. By monitoring the wastewater flow monthly, assessments can be made to determine future flow projections. The meter results are also used for certification. When new facilities are approved by the MDEQ, a plan needs to be submitted at the end of the project and the wastewater flow monitoring results are a fundamental part of this certification.

WTUA has been working on certification of its wastewater transportation and collection system for about five years and are one of the few communities in the Metro Detroit area that actually has a certified sewage system that meets the 25 year (4% chance) design standard.

2. Redirection Project/Construction Projects: The Redirection Project took flows in Plymouth Township and Canton Township and redirected them away from the County interceptors back towards WTUA. This needed to be done for certification purposes and also helped WTUA better analyze the flows. Over the long term the WTUA communities will move towards separation from Wayne County and the Detroit system following completion of the YCUA expansion.

The \$4.5 million construction project had four main segments. These included interceptors, force mains and small pumping stations. The four segments were built along Michigan Avenue, Joy Road, Hines Drive and Plymouth Road. All segments were completed in 2001. This redirection will assist the member communities to send all of the wastewater to YCUA.

3. Additional Temporary Capacity: WTUA has worked out an agreement with YCUA to gain some additional temporary capacity, pending the completion of the plant expansion in 2006. Another 1 mgd of interim capacity was acquired at YCUA.

4. Capital Alternatives Evaluation: WTUA reviewed the various alternatives to meet its capacity needs and determined that the most effective options was to expand YCUA consistent with the original plan from the late 1980's.

5. Negotiate an expansion with YCUA: Once the agreement was reached with YCUA in October 2000, new Finance & Service agreements with WTUA member townships were adopted in the first quarter of 2001. Bonds were recently sold in November of 2002 at a net interest rate of 4.54%. The Christman Company submitted the low bid of \$92,278,000. The cost of the YCUA Plant Expansion will be split WTUA share = \$72,792,987; and the YCUA share = \$28,919,013 for a total = \$101,712,000. Value Engineering was conducted during the design phase that saved about \$4 million dollars on the construction. A total of \$51,325,000 in bonds was sold since Canton Township contributed cash towards the project.

6. Sale of RVIS Capacity: The communities possess capacity in the Rouge Valley Interceptor Capacity (RVIS) that is split between the Middle Rouge and the Lower Rouge Interceptors of the County. The Middle Rouge system is generally along Hines Park and Lower Rouge is Michigan Avenue. Other communities in the North Huron Valley/Rouge Valley System are in need of more capacity. The State MDEQ has recently adopted new policy guidelines on sanitary sewer overflows. The State has chosen a new design standard that all wastewater facilities will adhere to. The County will have to build, on behalf of all these communities, significant additional facilities to avoid overflows in order meet the new standard in the future. When the sale of capacity does occur, approval from the Wayne County Board will be required. It is proposed that there will be as much as 14.1 mgd of capacity to sell to communities remaining in the RVIS system. Communities to the east have a demonstrated need for the capacity. Any sale of the extra capacity would require approval of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners. This extra capacity will be desirable since Wayne County, at some point, will need to build additional facilities. Design standards from the Federal EPA for design storms have not yet been established and may impact this need.

7. Communicate the Plan: This evening's meeting is one forum to do so. Communication will occur through updates to WTUA committees, the WTUA Board, Township Boards, Media and on the YCUA web site at [www.ycua.org](http://www.ycua.org).

#### **Four Additional Secondary Goals-**

City of Plymouth / Plymouth Township Flow Separation - There are two connections off Sheldon Road that deliver flows into the City from the Township. These two pipe connections ultimately to flow into one common pipe that crosses Ann Arbor Road southerly to Joy Road and then to WTUA. The big question to resolve is, can part of the City's flows fit into the ultimate Plymouth Township capacity allocation. WTUA and the Township have its engineers working hard on this issue. Separation of flow is important as about 50% of the City of Plymouth flows pass through the Plymouth Township pipes upstream of the WTUA facilities. The Question to be Answered is, can part of the City fit into the Plymouth Township YCUA capacity allocation over the long term?

Non-point Source Pollution - This is not a major issue for WTUA. An arms-length approach is being taken to monitor what is going on in the Federal Court System regarding any tie to sanitary sewer overflows. All three WTUA member communities have secured Phase II - General Stormwater Permits with the State MDEQ.

DWSD CSO Control Plan Costs - The current phase of CSO improvements was estimated at \$1.4 billion. The latest estimates put that figure closer to \$1.7 billion. The issue to be resolved was the cost to the suburbs. A settlement agreement was negotiated that will assess 17% of the cost to the suburbs. The concern is what will be the total cost. The sooner WTUA can be out of the DWSD system, the less its member communities will pay for Detroit's improvements. Double digit rate hikes from DWSD for water and sewer rate continue to be the norm. DWSD has been under pressure through the media over the past year regarding its double-digit rate increase plan. Only a month ago DWSD announced they will pass on a 9 percent increase.

Institutional Capacity in the RVIS - In 1961, the County paid for wastewater capacity to service various State and County Institutions in Northville Township. All of these facilities were in Northville. WTUA is looking into whether there could be any entitlement to that capacity in the future. Part of that capacity was acquired by Northville Township when it negotiated a PUD agreement with Wayne County and acquired 2.23 cfs of the capacity.

#### **What's Next?**

- \* Continue to meter and monitor wastewater capacity needs.
- \* Actively participate in the construction phase at YCUA per the agreement. One of the provisions in the contract allows WTUA to have an onsite construction observer who will basically protect both YCUA and WTUA's interest. The individual selected to fill this role was the original design engineer for YCUA and

has participated during the design phase on our behalf and added considerable value to the project.

- \* Continue to pursue the sale of RVIS capacity.
- \* Continue to work with Plymouth Township on the matter of separation of City and Township flows should that eventually be needed.
- \* Work on acquiring any additional institutional capacity that we may have rights to.
- \* Continue ongoing communication.

Canton Trustee Burdziak asked how the contingency was determined. Mr. Faas indicated the contingency on this project is 3 to 4 percent (i.e. \$3 - 4 million).

Mr. John Graber from the Plymouth Community Crier asked for the location of the plant site. Mr. Faas stated the plant site is just west of the Willow Run Airport in Ypsilanti Township.

Plymouth Trustee Ron Griffith, gave his congratulations on the fine job WTUA has done so far and further asked about new technology that might be available in flow monitors and for clarification on the price difference between the first and second low bidders on the YCUA project. Mr. Faas explained new flow monitors were available, but were more costly to install because of additional infrastructure. Regarding the bidders, there were seven bidders for the project and there was a 1% difference between the two low bidders, being The Christman Company and Barton Malow Inc..

Canton Trustee McLaughlin indicated there seemed to be a cross purpose in the plan to sell the capacity in the RVIS system and then acquire rights over the institutional capacity existing in Northville and asked it be clarified. Mr. Faas explained the capacity acquired cannot be sold until 2006 or 2007, until more capacity is built at YCUA. As such, Northville Township should pursue as much capacity as possible before any capacity is sold by WTUA.

Canton Trustee McLaughlin inquired about the steps being taken to reduce the infiltration of storm water from footing drains into the system? There are currently quite a few houses that are not on a sump pump. Mr. Faas stated the footing drain issue is at the forefront on the sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) policy that the State MDEQ is developing and WTUA is awaiting receipt of more detailed guidelines from the State. Mr. Faas stated that WTUA would work together with the three member communities on initiatives to reduce infiltration and inflow entering the sanitary sewer system. Mr. Faas felt that the communities should choose the solutions rather than WTUA imposing something on the member communities.

Plymouth Trustee Chuck Curmi asked if the flow metering by WTUA has yielded any change to the formula used by Wayne County to compute payment of the excess flow?

Mr. Faas explained that WTUA attempted to convince the County to change the methodology; however, was unsuccessful in doing so and further that the County will not change the formula at this time.

In closing Canton Supervisor Yack expressed his support for the issues presented this evening and thanked all in attendance.

**ADJOURN:**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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Terry G. Bennett, Canton Township Clerk