

SOUTH TEXAS WATER AUTHORITY
Special Board of Directors Meeting
January 5, 2017
Minutes

Board Members Present:

Kathleen Lowman
Rudy Galvan
Filiberto Treviño
Patsy Rodgers
Dr. Albert Ruiz
Charles Schultz
Steven Vaughn

Board Members Absent:

Lupita Perez

Staff Present:

Carola G. Serrato
Frances De Leon
Jo Ella Wagner
Jacob Hinojosa
Dony Cantu

Guests Present:

Shay Roalson, HDR Engineering
Richard Pousard, HDR Engineering
Bethany McDonald, HDR
Engineering
Mayor Joe Morales, City of Bishop
Cynthia Contreras, City of Bishop

1. Call to Order.

Ms. Kathleen Lowman, Board President, called the Special Meeting of the STWA Board of Directors to order at 5:38 p.m. A quorum was present.

2. Citizen Comments.

Ms. Lowman opened the floor to citizen's comments. No comments were made.

3. HDR Engineering Presentation on 42-Inch Pipeline Condition Assessment Report.

HDR Engineering representatives Shay Roalson, Richard Pousard and Bethany McDonald introduced themselves and presented the findings of the 42-Inch Pipeline Condition Assessment Report prepared by HDR. Mr. Pousard explained how corrosion occurs and how cathodic protection works to protect pipelines. He also reviewed the process of conducting the assessment, as well as the findings and recommendations for providing adequate protection for STWA's waterline.

The assessment was performed in two phases – a desktop study and an indirect evaluation and technology assessment. The study found that in Contract 1, 27 of 39 corrosion test stations (CTS) were tested and 96% indicated adequate protection of the pipeline. Twelve test stations were either broken, inaccessible or missing. The rectifiers are working but need to be replaced, and discontinuities (the physical connection from one joint of pipe to another by means of

welded or clip metal devices) were found in sections that were previously continuous. In addition, the first 5,000 feet of pipeline has never achieved adequate cathodic protection. Anodes were added in 2008 but did not improve protection.

In Contract 2 the majority of the pipeline is not achieving adequate protection and the pipeline is susceptible to stray current corrosion at foreign crossings. The anodes installed in 2009 only minimally improved protection. In this section, 37 of 44 CTS were tested and 41% of those indicated adequate protection of the pipeline. The other seven were either damaged, inaccessible or missing. Previously excavated sites revealed severe degradation of the concrete coating and exposed/corroding structural steel. (There were no excavations performed for this study.)

The study showed that Contract 3 is achieving adequate cathodic protection overall, but a 4,600 foot section from the ON Stevens Water Treatment Plant to the intersection of Hwy 77 and Hummingbird has no data, no test stations and no known cathodic protection as a result of being inaccessible. All 29 CTS in Contract 3 were located and tested revealing that 88% indicated adequate protection of the pipeline and four were determined to be damaged and need replacement. The study also noted that the "significant consequence of a failure warrants its classification as critical" in this section which is a heavily improved area and therefore warrants additional study.

HDR Engineering recommends directly assessing the line using the PICA RFT tool for Contracts 2 and 3 – Stations 981+05 to 1052+00 (1.4 miles) which will involve dewatering the pipe at an estimated cost of \$330,000.

For Contract 3 from Stations 1369+07 to 1496+10 (7,300 LF), leak detection by means of PICA Nautilus or Pure SmartBall is recommended. If scheduled to coincide with the Contract 2 assessment, the PICA Nautilus inspection cost is estimated at \$65,000 and the Pure SmartBall is estimated at \$109,000. Excavation, evaluation and installation of anodes and test stations is estimated at approximately \$10,000 - \$14,000 per site.

External Direct Assessment is recommended for Contract 1, Stations 0+00 to 50+00 (5,000 lf) with an estimate of \$10,000 - \$14,000 per site for excavation, evaluation and installation of anodes and test stations.


HDR further recommends investigating the impact of pipeline crossings within Contract 2 and 3 at a cost of \$20,000, not including construction of recommended improvements; repair/replacement of damaged and destroyed test stations within the entire length of the pipeline at an estimated cost of \$8,000 per station; repair/replacement of rectifiers within Contracts 1 and 2 at an estimated cost of \$3,500 per unit plus \$1,500 each for installation; retesting all pipeline spans for electrical continuity at a cost that would depend on the extent of the testing; and establishing a leak documentation protocol.

Ms. Serrato informed the Board that STWA has a fund balance of \$3,136,390 not including any amount recouped for liquidated damages from the Kingsville storage tank project. She said she was providing this information to give the Board an idea of STWA's financial position for future discussions on addressing issues with the condition of the 42-inch waterline.

4. Adjournment.

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Lowman adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Frances De Leon
Assistant Secretary