The following summarizes our recent activities performed on behalf of the Pottstown Borough Authority (Authority) from March 13, 2021 through April 15, 2021:

**Capital Projects**

**Water Treatment Plant Improvements – Air Scour System (R007010.0433)**

A meeting regarding the overall air scour controls and programming occurred on March 4, 2021 with Pottstown, Keystone Engineering Group, and HRG to coordinate all remaining program details. Later in March, HRG’s electrical lead met with Pottstown at the WTP to discuss the electrical design in further detail. HRG is providing an updated set of electrical drawings for the Borough’s use. We expect that the blower assemblies will be constructed and shipped soon allowing the Borough Staff to continue work on the Project.

**LT2 Enhanced Surface Water Rule: UV Installation Project**

On March 14, 2021, HRG received an email notification from PADEP requesting the Authority investigate the need to install a screen (strainer assembly) in front of the proposed UV units (due to a recent issue at the Norristown WTP where a piece of material dislodged and broke a UV bulb, releasing glass fragments and trace amounts of mercury). PADEP stated that the use of a screen prior to UV treatment would likely be required in order for the issuance of any permit. HRG has expressed concerns to PADEP related to the need for the screen as well as how this new requirement would delay the project and effect the CO&A Compliance schedule. PADEP stated that the Authority could move forward with requesting approval using the LT2 turbidity toolbox option as another way of meeting the LT2 compliance deadline. HRG is working with the WTP Staff to continue to move both the UV project and the Turbidity option forward as a means to achieve compliance with the LT2 requirements to meet both the short-term compliance goals and long-term sustained goals.

HRG is continuing to work on the UV project and has submitted a copy of the Draft Final Design drawing set to the Borough Water Treatment Plant Staff for review and discussion.

**2021 Water and Sewer Main Replacement Project**

HRG has submitted the Cost sharing Resolution and Request letter that has been executed by the Authority on March 23, 2021 and they have been accepted by PennDOT, however a signed Agreement has not been received from PennDOT to-date.

Through communication with the Engineer for the PennDOT bridge relocation project (Tom Cornell, PE – Jacobs), we have been informed that the relocation of the sanitary sewer on Sanatoga Road is now scheduled for the Spring of 2022. Given this updated schedule, we will keep the work as an alternate bid item as part of the 2021 Water and Sewer Main Replacement Project and release the work once the sanitary sewer relocation is completed or remove it from the project, if the sanitary sewer work is pushed to 2022, through a Change Order. HRG will confirm any changes to the Cost sharing agreement with PennDOT as a result of removing or changing this portion of work from the Contract. If the Authority is accepting of this change, we will update and finalize the Documents and Drawings for the 2021 Water and Sewer Main Replacement Project accordingly. We also respectfully request the Authority’s consideration to advertise the 2021 Water and Sewer Main Replacement Project for public bidding in April 2021.
Miscellaneous Projects

Spring Valley Farms Development – Phase 3
Allan Myers cancelled the January 15, 2021 walkthrough because they did not complete the work was not completed by that time. Allan Myers contacted HRG on March 9, 2021 and indicated that one punch list item will need to be addressed prior to scheduling another walkthrough. Allan Myers informed HRG that this would occur by March 26, 2021.

HRG conducted a final walkthrough with Allan Myers on April 6, 2021. We confirmed that the outstanding punch list items were addressed. At this time we have no objection to Allan Myers’ request for the release of Escrow funds and establishment of a 15% maintenance bond for Phase 3.

2020 Chapter 94 Report

The Chapter 94 report was completed and submitted to PADEP by the March 31st deadline. A copy has been provided to the WWTP Staff.

NPDES Permit Renewal Application

HRG continues to work on the Authority’s NPDES Permit Renewal Application ( Permit No. PA0026786). HRG continues to coordinate with WWTP Staff to obtain the required information for the Application. We are in the process reviewing the latest Priority Pollutant Group data provided for conformance with DEP/EPA requirements. We are still on track to complete and submit the permit application prior to the June 3, 2021 deadline.

Funding Opportunities

American Rescue Plan Funding

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan into legislation which includes allocating $7.3 Billion in financing to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, $162 Million to Montgomery County and approximately $2.2 Million to Pottstown Borough. Eligible uses of the funding include COVID relief as well as necessary improvements to water, wastewater and broadband infrastructure. The funds must be spent by December 2024. The Commonwealth intends to allocate the infrastructure funds to various state financing programs listed below, therefore a number of the “closed” programs in the below listing may open over the upcoming year.

Montgomery County is awaiting further guidelines from the federal government as to specific eligible uses of the funds, however the legislation clearly outlines the County’s ability to channel funding to municipal authorities. We recommend for the Authority to consider approaching the Montgomery County Commissioners in May/June of 2021 to request a portion of the funds for necessary water improvements.

Federal Infrastructure Plan

It is anticipated that a Federal Infrastructure Plan may be signed into legislation as early as September 2021. Initial information released by the Biden Administration, suggests the Plan may include as much as $45 Billion in funding for lead waterline replacement and $56 Billion in funding for water, wastewater and stormwater systems. If a Plan of this magnitude is passed, Pennsylvania will likely receive $1.8 Billion and $2.24 Billion, respectively which would be distributed through the programs listed below.

PENNVEST

The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) provides funding for various types of drinking water projects. The program typically offers low interest loans with flexible terms, however, principal forgiveness loans are awarded when available and applicable. Applications are
accepted quarterly in early February, May, August, and November, and are reviewed by the PENNVEST Board before a Funding Offer is received.

Lead Line Replacement Initiative

Under this program, PENNVEST and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) offer principal forgiveness loans, when available and applicable, and low interest loans to public and private entities undertaking lead line replacement projects within their drinking water systems. Funding consideration for the Lead Line Replacement Initiative is based on only the customers impacted by the proposed project. Applications are accepted electronically and are reviewed by PENNVEST Board members. Applications are not being accepted at this time, but may reopen to distribute American Rescue Plan or Federal Infrastructure Plan funding.

PA Small Water and Sewer Program

This program is administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA). Under the PA Small Water and Sewer Program, grants are awarded (when available and applicable) for projects having a total cost of between $30,000 and $500,000. A match component of 15% is required under this program. The grant funds may be used for the construction, improvement, expansion, repair or rehabilitation of a water supply system. Applications are submitted electronically, along with a $100 application fee, and are reviewed by the CFA Board. Applications are not being accepted at this time, but may reopen to distribute American Rescue Plan or Federal Infrastructure Plan funding.

H2O PA Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Water Projects Program

This program is administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA). Under the H2O PA Water Supply, Sanitary Sewer and Storm Water Projects program, grants are awarded (when available and applicable) for projects having a total cost of at least $500,000. A match component of 50% is required under this program. The grant funds may be used for the acquisition, construction, improvement, expansion or rehabilitation of all or part of a water supply system. Applications are submitted electronically, along with a $100 application fee, and are reviewed by the CFA Board. Applications are not being accepted at this time, but may reopen to distribute American Rescue Plan or Federal Infrastructure Plan funding.

Water Supply and Wastewater Infrastructure Program (PennWorks)

The PennWorks Program is administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA). This program offers grant, when available and applicable, as well as low interest loans. A grant award may not exceed $5,000,000 per project or 75% of the total eligible project cost, whichever is less. The loans offered are low interest loans and may not exceed $5,000,000 per project. Eligible projects under the PennWorks Program include the construction, improvement, expansion, extension, repair, or rehabilitation of a system for the supply, storage, treatment, or distribution of drinking water. Applications are submitted electronically, along with a $350 application fee, and are reviewed by the CFA Board. Applications are not being accepted at this time, but may reopen to distribute American Rescue Plan or Federal Infrastructure Plan funding.
Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this report or any other items.

Respectfully Submitted,

HERBERT, ROWLAND & GRUBIC, INC.

Joshua T. Fox, P.E.

Practice Area Leader | Water & Wastewater

c: Justin Keller, Authority Manager
   Douglass Yerger, Public Works Director
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