
From: Kaffer, Nancy <nkaffer@freepress.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 5:12 PM
To: Wurfel, Sara (GOV)
Subject: RE: Flint water

Please note this Flint Journal story, at which time a decision about where the city would get its water during the Karegnondi construction had not yet been made. Darnell was EM. Do you need me to send more? There is no shortage of documentation.

Flint Journal (Michigan)

January 5, 2014 Sunday
1 EDITION

City shells out \$4 million on plant since Detroit ended water pact

LENGTH: 482 words

URL: http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2014/01/flint_spends_4_million_on_wate.html

By Dominic Adams
dadams5@mlive.com

The city of Flint has spent \$4 million on its water plant in the eight months since Detroit ended its almost 50-year-old contract for selling water to the city.

An analysis by The Flint Journal/MLive.com found the city has spent more than \$3.8 million on improvements and other work at the water plant since April, according to figures listed in resolutions posted on the city's website.

Efforts have included paying consultants for studies, paying a public water fee to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and spending more than \$1.5 million to upgrade the switchgear for the power distribution to the facility's motor control center.

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department director said it will stop selling water to Flint and Genesee County on April 17.

The move came after Flint agreed to purchase raw water from Lake Huron as a member of the Karegnondi Water Authority. The water will be pumped to Flint and treated at its plant.

"Some of the money that we're spending are on upgrades that are necessary for when we start getting our water from the KWA," City Council President Scott Kincaid said. "There are guidelines as far as the quality of our water."

In July, city officials said they still were trying to figure out whether they would renegotiate a temporary deal with Detroit while the KWA pipeline was built.

Kincaid said a decision about where the city will get its water during the KWA construction hasn't been finalized.

"I'm not concerned that Detroit is going to cut our water off," he said. "We're preparing our water treatment facility for the KWA, and when we do that, of course, that will give us the capability to take water from the Flint River."

Here's a look at five expenditures associated with upgrades at the water plant:

Electrical Distribution Upgrades: Emergency Manager Darnell Earley approved paying McNaughton-McKay Electric \$1.51 million to upgrade electrical switchgear at the water plant Nov. 18. On the same day, Earley signed off on paying McNaughton-McKay \$505,000 to replace switchgear at the city's Cedar Street pumping station.

New pump: McNaughton-McKay also received \$349,710 from the city to replace an obsolete pump at pump station No. 4, according to the resolution.

Design work and construction engineering to use the Flint River: The city spent \$1.13 million with Flint-based Lockwood,

Andrews & Newnam Inc. on design work, construction engineering and regulatory submissions that will allow the plant to be used to convert raw water from Lake Huron delivered via the KWA pipeline into drinkable water in Flint.
Cleaning up lime: The city paid Young's Environmental Cleanup \$6,154.61 to remove inactive lime at the water plant, according to a resolution from Aug. 13.
@fl-river flint city hall flint news is-featured

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-----Original Message-----

From: Wurfel, Sara (GOV) [mailto:Wurfels@michigan.gov]
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 5:09 PM
To: Kaffer, Nancy <nkaffer@freepress.com>
Subject: Re: Flint water

Ed Kurtz was the EM at the time. Important to remember that the emergency manager had the final say - with ultimate sign off by Treasury-on making the change, but also did so at the strong urging of Flint city leaders. This was not a decision that was forced upon the city. Exact opposite actually.

Emergency managers often try to work closely with mayors and city councils, getting recommendations from the local communities they are serving. The decision to make the switch during the construction of the Karegnondi pipeline came after an 8-1 vote by the City Council and strong endorsement by the mayor and Genesee County leaders. The move also came after a series of upgrades to Flint's water treatment plant, testing and an independent analysis of water rates and quality.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 25, 2015, at 4:14 PM, Kaffer, Nancy <nkaffer@freepress.com> wrote:

>

> Deadline question for a column due today. :)

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> _____

> Nancy Kaffer

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>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Kaffer, Nancy

> Sent: Friday, September 25, 2015 2:54 PM

> To: 'Wurfel, Sara (GOV)' <Wurfels@michigan.gov>

> Subject: RE: Flint water

>

> Hi Sara - A little confused by your response. Not sure if Darnell Earley was EM when the decision was made to use Flint

River -- It may have been Michael Brown? He was EM when the decision was made to join the KAreignondi Water Authority but I'm not sure about the decision to switch to Flint River water and stop using DWSD, but regardless, he's an EM appointed by the governor -- but I'm unclear why you guys would sign off on something as important about the integrity of an entire city's water supply if you had "severe reservations"? Any light you could shed on that would be much appreciated.

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> Also, not clear what the Genesee Board of Commissioners has to do with it? They're a separate water customer and have continued to use DWSD while Karegnondi is under construction.

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> Our data analyst has been in contact with HHS. Story on that is forthcoming.

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> -----Original Message-----

> From: Wurfel, Sara (GOV) [mailto:Wurfels@michigan.gov]

> Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 4:26 PM

> To: Kaffer, Nancy <nkaffer@freepress.com>

> Subject: Re: Flint water

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> Just so you know ... that's not accurate history, Nancy. This change was pushed and direct request of Genesee Co Board of Commissioners AND city council (7-1) and mayor at the time. We had severe reservations about switch but ultimately was nearly unanimous request from local local level that Treasury signed off on. (And FYI double checking, but nearly certain EM at time was not Darnell E.)

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> Not that any of that matters, Nancy.

> The bottom line is that we have been working hard to do everything possible to play a supportive role and work in collaborative fashion across all levels of government with community, faith & business leaders, residents, etc.

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> Protecting public health is paramount and safe, clean, accessible drinking water is essential. That's what we solely focused on helping ensure.

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> Highly recommend you reach out to state Health & Human Services team for how this data set was spliced and diced. That's key to understanding. They can walk through for you and Freep team.

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> Thanks much,

> SW

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> Sent from my iPhone

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> On Sep 24, 2015, at 3:37 PM, Kaffer, Nancy <nkaffer@freepress.com<mailto:nkaffer@freepress.com>> wrote:

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> Hey Sara - comment on this elevated lead in the Flint water system? Specifically because the Flint EM is the one who made the decision to hook up to the Flint ... the same Flint EM who is now DPS EM, correct?

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> _____

> Nancy Kaffer

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