

Stanton, Terry A. (Treasury)

From: Stanton, Terry A. (Treasury)
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 10:50 AM
To: Lindsey Smith
Subject: RE: Former Flint EMs
Attachments: GenCo DrComm release.pdf; Kurtz KWA.pdf; DWSD Termination Ltr.pdf

Hey Lindsey...

I can provide you with a list of the managers who worked in Flint, though I cannot promise I will be able to put you in contact with anyone directly.

I do think it is important for you to have the following background...and to reiterate that **the decision to move to KWA**, and thus the decision to use the Flint River as a temporary source (until KWA came on line) **was a decision made collectively by local officials...they mayor, city council, and others**

Please see the information below and attached for additional background on timing, decision-making, etc.

Discussions about the possible development of a Flint-area/Genesee County water system had been on-going since the early 2000's and the City of Flint had been in discussions about the possibility of joining KWA for much of that time, certainly prior to the appointment of an emergency manager (Mike Brown) in December 2011. The following M-Live articles show the city was looking at a possible move to KWA, which Genesee County strongly supported, well before a manager was appointed.

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2010/02/detroit_tells_genesee_county_w.html
http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2011/01/water_pipeline_vs_flint_river.html
http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2011/04/city_of_flint_still_mulling_wa.html
http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2011/09/flint_officials_to_be_presente.html
http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2011/12/so_far_so_good_genesee_county_1.html

Additionally, The Flint Journal supported the move to KWA in an editorial in Sept. 2011, again, prior to the appointment of a manager.

http://www.mlive.com/opinion/flint/index.ssf/2011/09/our_voice_its_decision_time_fo.html

Prior to the decision to move to KWA, which the Mayor and City Council fully supported (March 2013 Flint Journal story cites 7-1 City Council vote to join KWA); http://blog.mlive.com/newsnow_impact/print.html?entry=/2013/03/flint_city_council_approves_re.html the city's emergency manager (Mike Brown in June 2012; Ed Kurtz in Sept. 2012) twice requested permission from DWSD to blend river water with DWSD water to ensure high quality, safe drinking water for residents, while saving the city an estimated \$2-3 million annually (DWSD was proposing a 5x rate increase for the City of Flint).

*It is also important to note that the Genesee County Drain Commissioner, who had been heading up the KWA project, **required** that Flint's elected leaders approve of and sign-off on the transition to KWA as he believed it was important to have the city's elected officials make the decision and not an emergency manager (see attached).*

Under PA 436, an emergency manager's approval is required for transactions of \$50,000 or more, and thus Ed Kurtz did approve the eventual move to KWA, again with full support and urging from the Mayor and City Council. Kurtz's letter, detailing that decision after consideration of DWSD's "last, best offer" is attached.

This is not a situation where the Mayor and Council wanted to utilize one system with the EM reversing course. All involved in the decision-making process agreed KWA was the best long-term option for the City of Flint. With Flint's decision to go with KWA, DWSD terminated Flint's contract, effective April 17, 2014 (letter attached). Given that termination, Flint had two "options:"

-sign a long-term (30 year) agreement with DWSD, which was not economically feasible given the city's decision to go with KWA

-Use Flint River as an interim source (it had long been the city's backup) until KWA was on-line

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2014/03/flint_drinking_water_to_come_f.html

It is also important to note that the current situation in Flint has been exacerbated by years of neglect and a lack of maintenance to the decades-old system. All this said, the most important issue now is moving things forward, through the collaborative State, City, and Foundation effort to ensure safe drinking water for the residents of Flint.

From: Lindsey Smith [mailto:lsmsmi@umich.edu]

Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 9:43 AM

To: Stanton, Terry A. (Treasury) <StantonT@michigan.gov>

Subject: Former Flint EMs

Hi Terry, Hope you're well.

We're producing a one hour documentary/podcast on Flint's water issues. Would really love to hear from the former EMs on this. Correct me if I'm wrong, but it seems there wasn't just one guy who decided to switch water sources, but maybe a few different people. Is there any way you can help me get interviews with the former EMs of Flint to talk about the decision and the issues that lead to it? Big ask, I know. But I need help if I'm going to do this right. I'm traveling now, so if you want to chat a bit, call my cell 810.923.5839.

All the best,

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