

Date:	August 31, 2026	Subject:	Engineering Committee Meeting Minutes Thursday August 27, 2026
To:	Board of Directors	From:	Engineering Committee and Arthur G. Simonian, Executive Director

ALS

**Engineering Committee
Thursday, August 27, 2026
Meeting Minutes**

The Engineering Committee met Thursday, August 27, 2026, at the District Offices, 245 Main Street, Cromwell, Connecticut and remotely.

Chairman, Mr. John Dunham called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. Present were, Committee Members –Phil Pessina, Bonnie Anderson, Don Naples and Liam Mitchell. There was a quorum. Also, present from the Matabassett District were Executive Director – Arthur Simonian, District Engineer – Michelle Ryan, Joe Laliberte (remote) and Jose Alvarez (remote) from CDM Smith, Nora Sinno (remote), Dan Kramer (remote) and Ben Levin from Hazen and Sawyer, Board Members – Dan Salerno, Joe Corlis and District Council Ed Lynch (remote). Committee Member Nick Stevens was absent.

The August 27, 2026 Engineering Committee Meeting was held to discuss:

1) Odor Control Assessment Update:

a. Middletown Pump Station Forced Main Chemical Dosing Evaluation

Art is coordinating Bioxide dosing with Middletown's new acting director. A meeting has been scheduled for September 9 to review Bioxide dosing. There will be more updates in October.

b. H₂S Monitoring and Peroxide Pilot Test at Headworks and Detritors

A 3–4 week pilot trial using hydrogen peroxide showed **strong reductions** in hydrogen sulfide (H₂S): ~67% average reduction; ~71% peak reduction. No negative impacts were found in nitrogen removal or biological processes. The next phase may involve a 90-day proof-of-concept using a 6,500-gallon bulk storage tank. Estimated annual operating cost could exceed \$120,000, depending on dosage levels and seasonal variations. The Committee agreed to await additional data from the detritor area before deciding on expansion.

c. Cromwell meeting and monthly report request

The Committee reaffirmed that the website remains the primary information source for residents. The District will provide odor/sludge summaries only upon request and will not generate new monthly reports or respond directly

to public social-media posts. The District did make the operational change that sludge deliveries are now restricted after noon on Fridays during the summer Farmers Market to reduce potential odors.

2) Trunk Sewer Final Design Update

Hazen & Sawyer presented near-final design for cured-in-place lining of approximately 1,200 feet of 60-inch trunk sewer in Berlin. The selected segment offers good access and avoids road crossings; bypass pumping is the largest cost driver. Estimated bypass pumping needs: 10 MGD average / 20 MGD peak. Construction anticipated to take three months, including setup and cleanup. Winter or dry seasons are preferred due to high groundwater and soft soil conditions. Additional manhole investigation by the District will be performed before issuing bid-ready documents. Tentative schedule is to advertise the work in late fall with construction by summer 2027.

3) Odor Control and 2026 Projects List & Website Update

Proposal reviewed to pre-purchase a Xylem three-stage scrubber due to long lead times and failing existing equipment. The Committee expressed concerns regarding: warranty start timing, storage requirements, sole-source procurement risks, contractor disputes over furnished equipment. The decision was tabled pending a detailed pros-and-cons analysis and input from operations management.

4) NPDES Permit Renewal Status

DEEP insists current regulations require full secondary treatment of all wastewater, including during wet weather. The District maintains DEEP previously approved the 55 MGD plant design and wet-weather bypass plan. CDM proposed a feasibility study to evaluate: Plant expansion options, community I&I reduction scenarios, off-site or vertical storage alternatives, hybrid solutions with conceptual cost ranges. Study results will help negotiate permit language and demonstrate feasibility constraints. The District is pursuing DEEP reimbursement (up to 55%) for eligible study costs. Action is delayed pending DEEP's review of the proposed study scope and funding approval.

5) Scentroid Odor Monitoring System

MOTION: Mr. Dunham moved to table the study for now due to ongoing odor-related priorities. Mr. Mitchell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

6) Other related business and staff-updates

The next Board meeting with Officer Elections is scheduled for Monday September 21st at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

Mr. Pessina moved, no second necessary; approved unanimously to adjourn at 6:55 pm.