

Board of Municipal Utilities
Work Session Minutes
September 19, 2023
201 Miller Road
Avon Lake, Ohio

Call to Order – Roll Call

The Work Session was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Present: Mr. Dzwonczyk, Mr. Rickey, Mr. Rush, and Mrs. Schnabel.

Also present: CUE Munro, CUO Yuronich, Dr. Chris Miller and Ashley Bair of Fontus Blue and Attorney Coyne of Mansour Gavin.

Decision Blue

Dr. Chris Miller and Ashley Bair presented an overview of Decision Blue. Decision Blue is one of the tools designed by its company, Fontus Blue, to assist operators of water treatment facilities. Its software draws on past treatment results from both the individual utility utilizing the software and information from other utilities with similar source water. By analyzing current information about the raw water coming in to the treatment plant it can recommend chemical dosages that will meet the utilities treatment goals while ensuring that the most economical combination of chemicals is used. It also offers predicted outcomes if dosages are changed so operators can see how effluent quality and cost is affected by different choices. Information about the water can be introduced to the software both by manual entry and by utilizing any online analyzers.

Dr. Miller explained how data can be uploaded into a client's database through a connection with Data Command. Data Command is an interface already in use at Avon Lake Regional Water. Data about the water quality can be safely gathered via this route as it does not introduce a connection to the facility's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. By downloading the data through this method, the SCADA system is protected because no new access is granted and the permission set in Data Command is a read-only connection. Therefore, safety is maintained as that route does not allow Decision Blue to make any changes or connections to the SCADA system.

Also included with the proposed contract with Decision Blue are both formal scheduled meetings with Decision Blue staff to discuss successes and concerns along with real time assistance on an as-needed basis.

Mr. Dzwonczyk stated that ISO certification is something that Avon Lake Regional Water (ALRW) will be seeking as part of the quality initiative currently underway and inquired if Fontus Blue held any ISO certification. Dr. Miller responded that their company does not currently hold any ISO certifications but all of their efforts are based in industry best practices, are chemistry based and follow all of the experiences gained in other utilities that draw from Lake Erie such as those located in Ohio - Toledo, Sandusky, Lorain, Mentor, Ashtabula along with Erie, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Dzwonczyk suggested that ALRW staff reach out to some of those references to get first-hand accounts of those user experiences. Mr. Yuronich stated that staff has had conversations with other users of Decision Blue like Akron, OH but will speak with some of the other plants as well.

Mr. Munro stated that ALRW staff will investigate further and provide a recommendation to the Board at a future meeting.

Adjourn

As there was no further business, Mr. Dzwonczyk moved to adjourn, and Mr. Rush seconded. The work session adjourned at 6:44 PM.

Ayes (per voice vote): Dzwonczyk, Rickey, Rush, and Schnabel

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Approved October 3, 2023.

John Dzwonczyk, Chairman

Robert Munro, Clerk