

NORTHWEST OTTAWA WATER SYSTEM

Administrative Committee Minutes

May 17th, 2023

A regular administrative committee meeting of the Northwest Ottawa Water System was called to order by Derek Gajdos at 9:13 a.m. Wednesday, May 17th, 2023, in the Council Chambers at Grand Haven City Hall.

Present: Craig Bessinger (City of Ferrysburg), Pat Staskiewicz (Ottawa County), Bill Cargo (Grand Haven Township), Gordon Gallagher (Spring Lake Township), Derek Gajdos (City of Grand Haven)
Also Present: Alando Chappell (Grand Haven Township)
Absent: Christine Burns (Village of Spring Lake)

A motion by Cargo, supported by Staskiewicz, to accept the minutes for the February 15th, 2023, NOWS Committee Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Manager's Report, February, March, April '23– By Law

Law provided the Managers report with the following highlights presented.

System pumpage has been trending 10% higher than last year for the quarter. System allocation is on par with historical trends, with the Northside YTD pumpage the outlier at 97% comp. Law reminded the committee that raw water meter #1 was now the primary system billing meter until the new meter project was completed. The bases for this selection was the recent meter verification process, which added flow standardization, which resulted in the discovery of significant inaccuracy within finished meter #1 and superior accuracy with raw meter #1. The project completion date is estimated to be in October 2023.

With 83% of the year completed, revenue sits at 71.8%, and total expenditures with encumbrance factored in is at 75.5%. Law reminded the committee that with May and June yet to report, these two months should factor heavily in successfully coming to our outpacing revenue projections, with the weather the ultimate deciding factor. As of this reporting date, cash on hand is \$241,344, and the replacement fund account sits at \$730,052.00 with \$250K encumbered by the delayed High Service Pump Room VFD project. The projected date of completion is June 2023. Gajdos and Law explained the VFD lead time delays. Delays are the result of vendor operations moving to Mexico. Law went on to explain how in light of the delay, the system is at low risk of losing more pumping capacity as a result of proactively replacing one down unit with a soft start unit and that 3 of the HSPs during the 2018 project have new VFD's and motors and pumps refreshed. Staskiewicz discussed an initiative to revisit exercising the emergency interconnection network and how that will provide additional security. Cargo discussed the coming additional emergency interconnection with Grand Rapids. Gajdos discussed the uncertainty of how EGLE views interconnections. Staskiewicz confirmed that he hasn't seen any indications there would be EGLE resistance unless there were a different source water used. Law has

a scheduled distribution manager meeting in the morning he will bring the discussion about coordinating an interconnection exercise to that group. Production costs indicate a modest inflationary increase. Bulk chemicals cost has remains the most significant category of concern. However, the cost increases are slowing and the magnitude lessening, indicating stability in this important expense category.

Seasonal effects of springtime runoff are normal, and the typical increases in turbidity and TOC during this cycle are back however, currently, the parameters have returned to outstanding results. DBP results returned with all systems reported well under the regulated limits. The next round of sampling will be in June. PFAS laboratory sampling methods are being updated and will now include 25 PFAS analytes in total. There is no change in the regulated amount, 7, or the MCLs on the 7. Law indicated that PFOA has been more frequently showing up. Law believes the new method is more accurate and expects more frequent markers. Law explained new calculating of non-detections within the self-reporting document shared in used in our communities. Gallagher is concerned about businesses falsely portraying our water quality in an attempt to sell products. Law suggested he will work on standardized language, unifying the message for each community to fall back on.

Law discussed the rate structure and the supporting documentation. Law recommended that the wholesale rate stay at the current \$1.08/1K. Motion by Bessinger supported by Gallagher and unanimously approved by voice vote.

Gallagher discussed the recent water main disruption and the ensuing water cloudy issues. He is using this as a learning experience with the field operations and refining how communications go to the community. Law and Staskiewicz also weighed in on their observations.

Adjournment – 9:59 a.m. - Submitted by Eric Law