

# NORTHWEST OTTAWA WATER SYSTEM

## Administrative Committee Minutes

May 18, 2022

A regular administrative committee meeting of the Northwest Ottawa Water System was called to order by Pat McGinnis at 9:38 a.m. Wednesday, May 18, 2022 in the Council Chambers at Grand Haven City Hall.

Present: Craig Bessinger (City of Ferrysburg), Pat Staskiewicz (Ottawa County), Gordon Gallagher (Spring Lake Township), Pat McGinnis (City of Grand Haven), and Bill Cargo (Grand Haven Township)

Also Present: Alando Chappell (Grand Haven Township)

Absent: Christine Burns (Village of Spring Lake),

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A motion by Cargo, supported by Staskiewicz to accept the minutes for the February 16, 2021 NOWS Committee Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

### **Manager's Report, November, December, January '22**– By Law

Law provided the Managers report with the following highlights presented.

The quarterly month to month comp shows this year pumpage underperforming to last year. Law commented on the relative insignificance to YTD revenue gaps and based that on the quarters historically low contribution to pumpage and revenue. YTD pumpage totals tracking comp to LY is 99% and projections look favorable to end the year close to the annual pumpage projection estimate. System pumpage allocation ratios remain consistent between the units. YTD financial with 83% of year completed both revenue and expenditure accounts are tracking at 79%. Law is projecting the end of year revenue is tracking on target. Law defined the encumbrance items. Law discussed inflationary cost and pressures impact while highlighting the how the accounts tracking graph is starting to show how close the expenditures for each accounts is tracking closer to the amended budget lines. The operating headroom "cushion" is being absorb sooner or quicker than in years past but even with that Law projects all accounts will come in on or below budget. Current stability in electrical rates as well as continued best practices around operational efficiency is keeping the electricity cost in check. Bulk chemical cost are still in an upward trajectory because of market forces. Fuel cost and shipping logistics are driving costs up for all chemicals. Chlorine remains impacted by supply demand logistics and continues to be the most volatile of the bulk chemicals used. Higher electrical consumption in February is thought to be related to the activity of the LSP#2 rehabilitation project. Law addressed Gallagher's observation on the electrical consumption trends showing downward trending compared to years past and what was behind this. Law explained that among other operational efficiencies practiced that winter month operations intake backwash cycles were scrutinized and frequencies were reduced. This eliminated the need to start large vertical turbine pumps as frequently throughout the winter months. Chemical usage downward usage trends are the result of better and more consistent source water quality along with prioritizing a more

proactive tighter operational control over feed pumps. Water quality indicators see small incremental spikes in TOC but nothing outside of historical norms. Higher turbidity numbers are the result of a learning curve with the new benchtop unit and not absolutely reflective of the reported numbers. This issue has been rectified and numbers are back in line and are mimicking the on-line units when compared. PFAS monitoring will have 12 consecutive months of reporting after next month's sampling event. McGinnis iterated that the treatment plants ability to remove PFAS does not exist with the current technologies. Law and Staskiewicz described the limitations of the current coagulation and flocculation process and the inability to remove PFAS by these treatment processes. McGinnis pointed out and Law described the high probability of introduced error through sampling techniques and the systems effort to mitigate this error. Staskiewicz pointed out the how consistent low levels of PFAS in the Great Lakes are prevalent. McGinnis applauded the effort the system is taking by sampling three times as often as is required by the state regulation. All systems remain in compliance for Disinfection Byproducts sampling. Bessinger raised concern over the growing differential between Raw meter #1 and Finished meter #2. Law acknowledged this and reminded the committee of the impending capital improvement project for the upcoming fiscal year were the current 30" mag meter will be replaced by a 24" inch mag meter. This change will improve the self-cleaning and lower range accuracy experienced during 9 months of off peak pumping.

**Agenda Item 1: WTP Parking Space Leasing – By McGinnis**

McGinnis discussed the logistics of the current parking configuration and capacity of the WTP. McGinnis described the need to find additional dedicated parking for the new development of the old BLP diesel plant and has requested approval from the committee to have Law work with the developer on the logistics of facilitating the details going forward. Motion to approve giving Law the authority to negotiate terms of this parking arrangement by Cargo, supported by Gallagher was approved unanimously by voice vote.

**Agenda Item 2: NOWS Annual Water Rate Recommendation – By Law**

Law provided the committee justification background details on surging costs within the operations budget and requested the committee approve a wholesale rate increase of \$0.07/1000 gallons raising the wholesale rate from \$1.01/1000 gallons to a \$1.08/1000 gallons starting effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Cargo motioned to approve, supported by Bessinger and was approved unanimously by voice vote.

**Adjournment:** 11:19 a.m. – Submitted by Eric Law