

# NORTHWEST OTTAWA WATER SYSTEM

## Administrative Committee Minutes

May 19, 2021

A regular administrative committee meeting of the Northwest Ottawa Water System was called to order by Derek Gajdos at 10:27 a.m. Wednesday, May 19, 2021 Via Zoom Meeting Format in observance of Covid 19 mitigation practices and in accordance with Public Act 254. On rollcall, the following members were:

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

Absent:

Also present: Eric Law (City of Grand Haven), Amy Bessinger (City of Grand Haven)

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A motion by Burns, supported by Gallagher to accept the minutes for the February 17, 2021. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

### **Manager's Report, November December, January '21** – By Law

Law provided the Managers Report with the following highlights presented.

Pumpage for the quarter was higher than historical averages due to exceptionally high demand in April. It was noted that April was drier and warmer than average and customers started irrigation earlier and more often than the usual for this time of the year. Law shared that the region has been classified in a mild draught and that current May daily pumpage is up and on pace to set May single day and May monthly pumpage records. YTD pumpage remains well above the previous year pumpage by 169 million gallons, at a 110% comp to LY. Production cost for chemical and power are running proportional to production numbers and considered in line with expectations. YTD accounts balance report ending April 30<sup>th</sup> brings the year to 83% completed. Revenue driven by higher than projected pumpage is at 93% and expenditures are at 68%. Water quality was described as being excellent with results for Turbidity, TOC and DBP's being at historically low levels. Law attributed these results to a better than average source water throughout the winter months. System wide disinfection byproduct (DBP) sampling was completed and all communities remain in compliance.

### **Projects:**

#### **Reliability Study** – By Law

On schedule with draft copy due June 20<sup>th</sup> and the final copy delivered to EGLE July 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Process Pipe Painting at Low Service** – By Law

98% completed, with the remaining work to be completed when the piping is not damp. Piping is damp due to warming ambient air temperature and rising humidity levels. Projected completion date move to September 2021.

#### Intake Maintenance – By Law

Contract has been awarded to Equity Marine at a rate of \$3,250 per dragging event. Ten drags are scheduled for the season with the first having been completed the week of May 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### Filter Evaluations – By Law

Filter evaluations had been recently completed, media loss is at or below the projected level of 1" per year. Materials testing will be completed on the oldest of the filters, #6 and the spoils from the backwash process.

#### Chlorine Bulk Tank Repairs - By Law

Discovered during inspection, the resin surface of the two 6323-gallon capacity fiberglass bulk tanks manway flanges and saddles were found to be compromised. Glass fibers had been exposed causing a failure in the seal and promoting chemical to leaking past the flange bolts onto the floor. Chlorine aggressively attacks these surfaces and over time this will happen. The bulk tanks were installed in 2010 and have a useful life of 20 years. Law celebrated the maintenance team's effort to address the repair in house after receiving a \$16K quote for the tank manufacture. The team rectified the situation by resurfacing the damaged area, reapplying multiple layers of the NSF resin and fitting new gaskets for under \$300. This fix should help extend useful life to or close to the prescribed 20 years.

#### Low Service Backup Generator – By Law

During inspection, the 600kW lake station backup generator failed a coolant lab analysis. The seal between the radiator filler neck and cap assembly was corroded and promoted air entrainment within the system causing the coolant to slightly acidify, thus promoting corrosion. To rectify this issue, the 35year-old unit required a replacement tank at a price of \$10K quoted from the manufacturer. Management contracted a local fabricator that was able to cut the failed filler neck assembly off the unit and replace with new neck and cap. The entire unit is currently undergoing an extensive extended service. Coolant flushing will be a large part of this service along with all original belts and hoses getting replaced.

#### **Agenda Item 1: Annual Water Rate Review** – By Law

Law presented the NOWS Annual Water Rate Recommendation memorandum and recommended no change to the current rate structure. Noted was the projected adequate funding levels for operating, debt and replacement. Staskiewicz suggested revisiting rates in August after bond re-funding efforts are awarded. Staskiewicz announced the current re-bonding efforts and projected an annual savings up to \$40K. Still out for bid and having to go through final approval process, the final schedule should be available by early June and available for next meeting rates discussion. Gajdos reminded the committee of the mechanisms in place to return funds in times of surplus and suggested and could be revisited when final audit numbers come in. Hinga highlighted the payments in past years are typically made in November. A motion by Gallagher supported by Staskiewicz to revisit how debt re-funding will impact the rate structure during the next Committee meeting passed unanimously on roll call vote.

#### **Agenda Item 2: Finished Meter 1** – By Law

Technicians from SW Controls at the request of Oudbier Instrumentation and plant management on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 deployed and ultrasonic metering device from Flexim Industries for a 5-day period. The purpose was to standardizing the flow of finished meter #1 via raw meter #1. Finished meter #1 accuracy has been found to be deviating far outside of tolerance. Causes of this deviation are theoretical were either coating issue inside the bore or problems with the liner are causing a drift in meter results. Law highlighted the historical issues with this metering location and tied this latest meter and its problems to a few variables for

the committee's consideration. The meter itself is relatively new, replaced in 2016, however it has been realized afterwards that the design and the power of this latest iteration of ABB Water Master has been found to be questionable in performance industry wide. Law explained the differences between these meters and how the coagulant's used can coat the inside bore and lead to performance problems with this meter that is designed with minimum power amplitude. The other theory is a possible defect in the liner of the bore. Both of these issues will need inspection which is being planned as there currently is no easy way to either maintain or inspect this area where the meter is located. With raw meter #1 being confirmed as within a tolerable standard, it can be used to compare the daily flows of finished meter #1 and allow for plant personnel to more confidently monitor the deviation percentage of daily flows between the two meters and make adjustments should they be required. Span factors have been established and set to the new standard. Planning for an access spool on finished line #1 and new 30" butterfly valve replacing the damaged valve will be taking place with a construction timeline goal set for late Fall, 2021.

**Other:**

No other items.

**Adjournment:** 11:24 a.m. – Submitted by Eric Law