



Chelmsford Water District

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CHELMSFORD WATER DISTRICT REGULAR COMMISSIONERS' MEETING July 20, 2022

PRESENT:

Commissioners

John G. Harrington

Bill Martin

Ron Wetmore

Superintendent

Andy Reid

Business Director/Treasurer

Lisa Quatralo

Environmental Compliance Manager

Todd Melanson

Recording Secretary

Michaela Thompson

AECOM

Stephen DeFrancesco

Kauppi Communications

Jason Kauppi

Commissioner Martin called the Regular Meeting of the Commissioners to order at 1:03PM with all reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Open Session:

Jason Kauppi from Kauppi Communications, Inc. was present to discuss a proposed Customer Communications Program that would be designed to educate, as well as build trust and relationships with the CWD customer base. As one of his accomplishments, Mr. Kauppi discussed the PFAS Tool Kit his company has designed for the Massachusetts Water Works Association. He proposed to the Commissioners a similar program and a public educational campaign that would include not only project specific social media posts, but also press releases urging conservation. Mr. Kauppi stated he would send a written proposal, detailing program pricing and options, to Superintendent Reid by 7/22/2022.

Environmental Compliance Report – Todd Melanson

Mr. Melanson distributed a document titled "Environmental Compliance Manager's Report Summary", dated July 20, 2022.

PFAS – Compliance readings for 2nd quarter 2022 continued to average below 20 and is in compliance with the MCL.

- 1) Short Term Required PFAS Actions: MassDEP status is same as last update: that the bottled water rebate plan would be the chosen option if the District violates the MCL again.
- 2) Long Term: Mass DEP approved, with conditions, the plans for remediation at the CS WTP.
- 3) Class Action Suit – new draft was received this week. Bell Weather case due to start trial January 2023. Initial settlement talks have gained momentum per recent discussion with District's litigation firm

Commissioners

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Ronald W. Wetmore
John G. Harrington

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Summer Restrictions – Given the water indices (wells, tanks, stream gage and GW monitoring wells) CWD has moved to Restriction Level 2. If our stream gage triggers a 7-day low flow trigger we may be mandated to go to Level 3. State's Drought Task Force emergency 2nd meeting set for 7/21/2022.

TAG Grant – Mr. Melanson is inquiring, to see if it is viable, into the MassDEP's Bureau Waste Site Cleanup grant program for use in helping with the public relations portions on the outreach for PFAS.

Energy Program – **Solar REC Credit Sales**: Received new contract with Sol Systems, LLC; compliance reports have been delivered to all state entities. **Solar Array**: NEXAMP performed a drone IR inspection of the array. Awaiting report. **National Grid Billing**: No overlapping in billing has continued. **Program Result Summary**: Solar Savings Total (since 2014) Total \$2.8 Million, Annual Average Savings: \$353k; 1st year of Natural Gas contract \$5,305 to date. Mr. Melanson notes that all estimates are based off of 2019 pricing with Clean Harbors so actual savings may be higher.

Residual Program Savings Report: (since July 2019) Total SS WTP Savings \$582k; Total CS WTP Savings \$420k; Total Program savings \$1 Million.

DBR2 Concerns – The August sampling are still majorly important due to the fact that the compliance calculations will hopefully clear the last of the high numbers. With the potential increase in watering restriction, Mr. Melanson has concerns about the possibility of higher numbers from this sampling.

Lamplighter Green – Mr. Melanson is waiting on a wet weather event to perform more investigation on concerns about the complex's stormwater outfall location. Originally, it was set up to flow in one direction, towards Stony Brook. It is now going in two directions (Stony Brook and toward our Meadowbrook Wellfield). This is occurring due to the growth of vegetation.

State Drought Status – The State Drought Task Force met July 11th but EEA has yet to verify the following decisions: **a)** The Southeast Region, Conn River Valley, Central Region extended to a Level 2. **b)** The Northeast Region maintains in a Level 2 Drought. **c)** The Islands and the Western Region raised to a Level 1. **d)** The Cape remains with no drought declared. Mr. Melanson has streamflow concerns, as he is convinced we are in an overly dry summer pattern.

Town Issues:

Town Center Improvements: Continuing to monitor situation and progress of what is proposed as this section of town has roughly 7 separate RTN's spread out within the area.

Sewer Moratorium End: Mr. Melanson expressed serious concerns about the Town's possible solution to the end of the moratorium on sewer connections, since there has already been identified incidents of septic systems or small package plants injecting PFAS into the aquifer. Recommends discussion and coordination with the Town, if allowed, on where these systems are, in relation to being upstream of the Zone 1 & 2 of our supplies.

Apollo Drive Development - Maintaining communication with the Town on this site about our concerns.

Outreach – **Schools**: Organizing for next year. **Water Restriction Signs**: Possible change of restriction levels. **Mass Water Works Association Young Professional Tour**: the District was asked to host MWWA Young Professional Committee tour of a facility; coordinated with Superintendent Reid and the staff to okay an event on 7/21/2022 at the Crooked Spring Water Treatment Plant, along with a get together after the tour at Max and Leo's.

Superintendent's Report – Andy Reid

A document titled "Superintendent's Report" dated July 20, 2022 was distributed to the Board.

Woodbine, Juniper, Fern Water main replacement – Commissioners signed Notice to Proceed (NTP) and Agreement. Mr. Reid noted that the NTP allows a start on or before May 1, 2023 to account for material delays and agreement has escalation clause with cap.

AECOM design contract – Coordination on scope and signatures. **A motion to approve the Agreement for Professional Engineering Services between Chelmsford Water District and AECOM Technical Services, Inc. for Engineering Services related to the Removal of Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, as presented by Mr. Reid, was made by Commissioner Wetmore and seconded by Commissioner Harrington. Commissioner Wetmore voted Aye, Commissioner Harrington voted Aye and Commissioner Martin voted Aye. Motion passed unanimously.**

Eagle Nest Private Way – Discussion ensued regarding replacing the 1.5 inch failed service line per Rules and Regulations for private ways.

SCADA Radio interference at Summit Hill update – New frequency has been approved by the FCC. TCS making the change at the end of July.

Emergency Truck – the truck currently used for emergency calls is slated to be replaced next year. It was decided the best approach at this time is do nothing, address any body work as needed, if needed and wait for the transition to the new truck.

Crandall Property/233 Riverneck Rd. – Initiated property evaluation with Minuteman Appraisals and working to obtain another vendor, as well.

Canal Generator evaporator failure – Kraft Power came to perform repairs but the two propane tank isolation valves failed to close, not allowing work to proceed. Mr. Reid is working on obtaining quotes to replace the 500 gal propane tank and supply line which will then allow generator to be replaced.

Emergency Planning – **a)** Draft Emergency Response Plan update. Mr. Melanson is working on review comments. **b)** Draft Business Continuity Plan (BCP) developed. Next step – committee review of action steps and develop training plan, as well as site modifications for trailer.

MassDEP – Submitted permit to MassDEP for conversion from caustic potash to caustic soda.

Miscellaneous – **a)** Sanitary Survey report came in. District now working on deficiency report. **b)** MB No. 1 access road has been paved. **c)** Slowly working on pest elimination at remote facilities.

Update on bid results – **a)** Patching asphalt material solicitation awarded to Newport Materials. Recent summer unit tonnage pricing has gone from \$85/ton to \$103/ton and climbing. Selected bid was \$80/ton and tied to MassDOT Index for any monthly increases for FY23. District typically spends \$15k-\$30k/year on misc. patching materials. This should aid in controlling some of these costs but notes that in the winter only Brox Industries is open so there will be no savings during that period. **b)** Three Locations for large patch paving solicited. Awarded as follows: 14 Dawn Drive – Allied Paving, 105 Parker Rd – Newport Construction and 118 Main St - Newport Construction. **c)** Currently working on misc. appurtenances and pipe equipment solicitation as part of the \$100k warrant article. Many are long lead times.

Focus of Operations for the Month/Summer: **a)** Treatment: SSWTP running, mowing and continuing painting MB No. 1. **b)** Target replacement of oldest Ludlow style hydrants, valve exercising, meter replacement, mowing and GIS (geolocating assets as well as populating pipe characteristics geodatabase). Small number of backflows also occurring as we are rounding out the first round of testing. Empire Painting working on painting hydrants.

Grant Updates – Asset Management Grant: Grant contract request to be filed with the State.

Break Report – No major breaks. Only minor work such as service lines and focusing on addressing other assets.

Business Director/Treasurer's Report – Lisa Quatrale

Ms. Quatrale's report for June 2022 activity was presented, with backup documentation on FY2022 Expenses vs Revenue, FY22 Article Balances and Enterprise Investment and OPEB accounts.

Fiscal Years – Focus has been on closing out Fiscal Year 2022 and Opening FY 2023 Activities.

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Audit Activity – Working with Powers and Sullivan to complete their lists of requests and run year-end reports. Audit expected to be rescheduled for August since previous date conflicted with fiscal year end activities.

Insurance – Submitted claim to Allied Insurance in regards to Power Loss at Treatment Plant in the amount of \$4,329.95 for gas bill increase and \$885.40 OT for a total loss of \$5,215.35. Still working this claim. Ms. Quatrale states this is a good test of our insurance policy and what is believed to be protection against power outages and/or solar panel deficiency.

Real Estate Activity – 42 finals were processed for closings.

HR- Personnel guide has been distributed to the employees and answers provided to any questions asked. Ms. Quatrale suggested to the Commissions that a work session be scheduled in the near future to review financial goals. The Commissioners agreed that 9/21/2022 at 10am would work best for a work session.

New Business – Stephen DeFrancesco from AECOM Technical Services, Inc. was present to give an overview of the design services, in relation to addressing the District's PFAS issue, that his company will be providing in accordance with the criteria set out in the RFQ. AECOM recommended to double check some of the pilot test results to confirm that the District is going in the right direction and confirm the right treatment process is selected going forward. Commissioner Wetmore stated he liked what he was hearing from Mr. DeFrancesco and that the District is trying to do the best thing possible for the water takers, but that it takes time.

Previous Minutes

A motion to approve the Minutes of the June 15, 2022 Regular Commissioner's Meeting was made by Commissioner Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Wetmore. Commissioner Harrington voted Aye, Commissioner Wetmore voted Aye, and Commissioner Martin voted Aye. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion to approve the Minutes of the March 16, 2022 Regular Commissioner's Meeting was made by Commissioner Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Wetmore. Commissioner Harrington voted Aye, Commissioner Wetmore voted Aye, and Commissioner Martin voted Aye. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

Commissioner's regular meeting: August 17, 2022 at 1:00pm

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Harrington, seconded by Commissioner Bill Martin. Commissioner Harrington voted Aye, Commissioner Martin voted Aye and Commissioner Wetmore voted Aye. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:01PM.

Michaela Thompson
Recording Secretary

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