

NORTHWEST OTTAWA WATER SYSTEM

Administrative Committee Minutes

August 20, 2025

A regular administrative committee meeting of the Northwest Ottawa Water System was called to order by Pat Staskiewicz at 9:29 a.m. Wednesday, August 20, 2025, in the Council Chambers at Grand Haven City Hall.

Present: Craig Bessinger (City of Ferrysburg); Bill Cargo (Grand Haven Charter Township); Gordon Gallagher (Spring Lake Township); Brady Selner (Village of Spring Lake); Pat Staskiewicz (Ottawa County); Matt Wade (Grand Haven Charter Township); Mike England (City of Grand Haven)

Absent: Karen Underwood (Grand Haven Charter Township)

Also present: Logan Cuddington (City of Grand Haven)

A motion by Gallagher supported by Cargo to approve the minutes for the May 21, 2025, NOWS Committee Meeting passed unanimously.

Manager's Report, Fiscal Year End 2024- 2025— By Law

Law presented the FY 24/25 year-end review, reporting total pumpage at 2.6 billion gallons—2% below the 2.63 billion projection. By unit, Northside demand rose 2% (1.03B gallons), Grand Haven Township fell 1% (803M), and the City rose 2% (775M), with allocations of 38%, 32%, and 30%, respectively. Preliminary financials showed expenditures at 82.2% and revenues at 123.7%. Operating cash stood at \$147,885, with \$1.3 million in replacement funds. Law noted that future replacement funds will include proceeds from the AFF class action settlement, held in a separate account, and confirmed notice of a second installment deposit. He reviewed year-end capital projects, noting that the SCADA project was moved to FY 25/26 to allow more thorough planning. Historical power and chemical cost data (since 1987) were shared, showing FY 24/25 costs at 97.9% of last year's—chemicals at 90% and power at 100.4%. Combined cost per million gallons was 95.9% of last year's. Law attributed lower chemical costs to cleaner source water and reduced power costs to improved pump optimization by new operators.

Manager's Report, MAY, JUNE, JULY 2025

Law reported that July's 442 MG set a new monthly record, surpassing July 2012, with daily use never exceeding 16 MG (69% capacity). With only July data available, financial and capital tracking updates were provided but not analyzed. Water quality remains excellent, with Lake Michigan source water showing strong indicators. Disinfection Byproduct levels across all communities remain well below regulatory limits, despite a

slight upward five-year TOC trend that has recently begun declining. PFAS sampling results continue to show mostly non-detections, all well below regulatory thresholds.

Agenda Item 1: Fishbeck Feasibility Study – Storage / Emergency Generation Expansion

Committee Comments Requested – By Eric Law

Continuing the May meeting discussion, members reviewed the feasibility study, which concluded that expanding clearwell storage by 2 MG would allow flow equalization and reduce summer peak demand at the NOWS WTP. Members raised concerns about costs and sought more economical alternatives. Law and Staskiewicz emphasized a stepwise approach to addressing capacity by evaluating both production expansion and alternative water sources. Staskiewicz reported ongoing discussions with Grand Rapids (GR) on renewing the supplemental water contract and exploring a larger GR Water role to meet Grand Haven Charter Township's growing demand. Cargo and Gallagher supported pursuing this option. All members agreed to explore all feasible solutions to future capacity needs and requested further analysis of each option's economic and funding impacts on NOWS units. Law recommended a cost analysis once all feasibility studies are complete. Law transitioned into the necessity to have a well-developed demand management program regardless of what solution option is chosen and discussed his conversations with the Holland Superintendent about their program which just launched this year, tiered rate billing. The feedback received was to consider tiered rate a more effective equity tool than a deterrent. Equity gains from excess users than then be put to work in funding a well-run multi-faceted demand management program. Staskiewicz added that an opportunity that can make an immediate impact is addressing the potential lack of irrigation constraints from municipal code to developers. Law believed this could be a meaningful easy get towards a fledgling program. Law proposed that the NOWS committee start carving out dedicated planning time within the current quarterly meeting structure which was supported by committee. Staskiewicz discussed tiered rate done by using a Base-Extra Capacity Method that is being explored by the Wyoming Water Plant and emphasized that we are not alone in pursuit of demand management and that it isn't a one size fits all and can be very complicated.

Adjournment: 10:32 a.m. – Submitted by Eric Law