

NORTHWEST OTTAWA WATER SYSTEM

Administrative Committee Minutes

August 21, 2024

A regular administrative committee meeting of the Northwest Ottawa Water System was called to order by Derek Gajdos at 8:46 a.m. Wednesday, May 21, 2024, 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); Derek Gajdos (City of Grand Haven); Brady Selner (Village of Spring Lake); Pat Staskiewicz (Ottawa County); Matt Wade (Grand Haven Charter Township)

Absent:

Also present: Joe Walsh (Ottawa County)

A motion by Gallagher, supported by Staskiewicz to accept the minutes for the August 15th, 2024 NOWS Committee Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

Manager's Report, May, June, July '24– By Law

Comparable pumpage to LY for May, June and July. May started the summer pumping season by showing a 1% gain over last year followed by a significant dip in June. June's weather was in stark contrast to the previous year's drought like June, coming in and staying wet and cool, posting a -13% comp. Precipitation remained consistent through July which finished just off pace from the previous year at -2%. June 30th marked the end of the 23/24 FY and even with the slowing of pumpage to start the summer season NOWS total pumpage increased 2.5% year of year and coming just shy of the 2.615 billion gallon projections with just over 2.549 billion gallons pumped. The Unit breakout to finish the year sees the Northside with 38% of the allocation at a -4.57% comp, GHCT with 32% of allocation and a 1.74% increase, and the COGH with 30% of allocation and a 6% increase in demand. Law provided a historical distribution allocation chart that showed a notable inverse correlation for usage between the Northside and the COGH communities. GHCT had no correlation to either community. Gallagher asked how the magnitude of summer demand was impacting operations. Law explained, the summer has been consistently wet and cool and that has helped temper demand. Law recognizes the past two summer seasons have been moderate with consistent precipitation and cautions that the next drought cycle could provide significant challenges to supply. He anticipates the annual challenge to meet the GHCT demand should be made much easier with the new third transition main and meter station into the GHCT system and is looking forward to operating this new line next summer.

After audit has been completed, the EOY financial audit will be finalized within the next couple of months. The final report will be available for the November NOWS meeting. Law provided the following as approximations.

Expenditures are reporting at 87.9% with revenue at 102% to projection. Cash at the time of reporting was \$113,195 and the replacement / money market fund is at \$548,817. Law provided a FY capital improvement projects tracking chart and will be including this in the quarterly reporting going forward. Production cost ended the year with bulk chemical expenses flat to LY. This was in large part because of the drop in chlorine costs. Chemical cost per lb of chemical comped to LY with chlorine costs down 43%, fluoride up 43% and alum up 32%. Chlorine by volume is the highest consumed of the three. Power cost increases over last year are primarily driven by the continuous flex in the PSCA. All other units for power costs remained the same. Law provided a chart showing consumer price index to the combined chemical and power costs for the Nows plant over a ten-year period. Since 2014 chemical /power costs per million gallons have decreased 1.5% while the consumer price index during that same period has increased by 34.2%.

Source water quality in the summer is always outstanding. The trend continues to provide stable if not receding TOC results. Turbidity results for each month remain consistently low and removal efficiencies for turbidity remain good with May at 63.7%, June at 69.5%, and July at 67.1%. All very good numbers for direct filtration. Disinfection byproduct quarterly testing results show all communities remaining well below the regulatory limits and in compliance. Monthly PFAS sampling is more of the same with mostly no-detections and few low level detections. The PFAS results are consistent and nothing unusual. Regulatory annual averaging shows constituents either non-detect or well below regulatory limit. Law mentioned increased public concern with algae and that those have been the only calls of concern he has received recently. Law explained the calls are due to the intensely green organic mat washing ashore. He explained that this was a form of algae called Cladophora, a form of green algae that is not toxic like the blue green variant the produces cyanotoxin. Law pointed out the ongoing Nows participation with the state run cyanobacteria sampling program. This is the third summer in a row Nows has been an active participant in the study and highlighted that there have been no detections ever for Nows.

Agenda Item 1: *Water Rate Discussion Delayed until November – By Law*

Personnel changes at Baker Tilly had the principal working on the project leave the organization. We have been assured that the project will be completed in time for the November meeting.

Agenda Item 2: *Sanitary Survey – By Law*

A sanitary survey was completed by EGLE district engineers in June. Law provided the survey letter from the State with his responses to each of the items brought forward in the letter. Board members found the letter and Law's responses appropriate. When asked about the state's concern with capacity, Law explained the state is looking at both the max day and the peak hourly as a barometer and sees 2030 as a significant year for projecting potential capacity issues. Law explained how appreciative the state is that Nows is taking a proactive approach by conducting feasibility study's now and is asking for those studies to be included in the response to the sanitary survey letter when they are completed.

Agenda Item 3: *Prein & Newhof Raw Water Intake No.3 Feasibility Final Review – By Law*

A motion by Cargo and supported by Gajdos to accept the Prein & Newhof Water Intake No.3 Feasibility Final Review with an amendment of not approving the optional wave study passed with a unanimous vote.

It was requested by the board that after both feasibility studies have been completed, that an attempt to summarize with an emphasis placed on a simplified chronological order.

Other:

Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) Products Liability Litigation: *By Gajdos*

Gajdos discussed the Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) Products Liability Litigation filing was completed for the entirety of the NOWS system by the NOWS filtration plant. Gajdos explained the complexity of how division with the filing units would have caused unnecessary complexity. Cargo agreed that the source is the filtration plant and supported the approach. Award amounts are undetermined and difficult to project.

New Grand Rapids Supplemental Water Agreement: *By Joe Walsh*

Negotiations are in progress and slow moving. The current contract doesn't expire for a couple of years.

Adjournment: 09:36 a.m. – Submitted by Eric Law