

NORTHWEST OTTAWA WATER SYSTEM

Administrative Committee Minutes

May 21, 2025

A regular administrative committee meeting of the Northwest Ottawa Water System was called to order by Pat Staskiewicz at 9:11 a.m. Wednesday, May 21, 2025, in the Council Chambers at Grand Haven City Hall.

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

Absent: Bill Cargo (Grand haven Charter Township)

Also present: Ashley Latsch (City of Grand Haven)

A motion by Bessinger supported by Selner to approve the minutes for the February 19, 2025 NOWS Committee Meeting passed unanimously.

Introductions:

Pat Staskiewicz – Interim Chair

Mike England – City of Grand Haven Department of Public Works Director

Manager's Report, FEB, MAR, APR 2025– By Law

Pumpage for the Quarter is off pace from last year (LY). Heavy snow in February is thought to have slowed snow-making at the Ski Bowl. In addition, the Spring season has started cold and wet. Combined these factors are contributing to a slower demand than LY. Year to date (YTD) pumpage is up 76 million gallons (MG) over this time the previous year, with the City of Grand Haven leading the group at a +6.4% comp, followed closely by the Northside at +5.9% and Grand Haven Township at a -0.76%. Allocation percentages remain the same as the previous quarter with the Northside at 39%, Grand Haven Township at 31% and the City of Grand Haven at 30%. NOWS financial report has 83% of the year completed. As of April 30th, revenue sits at 73% to projection with expenditures, including encumbrance sitting at 76%. Law commented that it's not uncommon to see revenue off pace this time of year because of the slower demand winter months and he expects a rebound as peak pumpage season starts in May. Cash currently at \$295,379 and Replacement Fund/money market account sits at \$1,327,368 of which \$655,361.34 is the award money from the AFF 3m/Dupont class action lawsuit settlement. Law segued into an explanation of Item 3. Continuing with the Manager's Report, Law pointed to the capital projects tracking graph and indicated there was no significant changes to highlight. Production cost tracking shows efficiencies of process optimization with pumpage up 3.9% while power cost are flat and chemicals trend downward. Law noted that the BLP Price Cost Adjustment (PCA) numbers

continue to increase and this will be highlighted in red letter on the report when an increase over the last reporting period is made. Historical power and chemical usage graphs were provided. Water Quality was not impacted by Spring runoff events. Law is watching the Total Organic Carbon (TOC) trending closely as it has been trending up recently. Quarterly Disinfection Byproduct (DBP) sample results show all communities remain well within regulatory compliance levels. The next DBP sampling period starts in June. Monthly PFAS sampling remains compliant and is historically consistent with little to no detections. The running annual average (RAA) for analytes did not change from the previous quarter.

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

Committee Comments Requested – By Eric Law

Law summarized key components of the study:

The addition of clearwell storage is a component of expansion that this study aims to understand how, if increased, could alleviate treatment constraints that along with demand management may delay the need for full scale plant and intake expansion. **Flow Equalization:** With an adequate amount of finished water storage, levels in an expanded clearwell can be allowed to rise and fall daily with even the most extreme periods of demand during peak hourly managed successfully all while maintaining a lower level of operational intensity. Under flow equalization, pumpage rates from the Lake Michigan Pump Station would be reduced with little to no need to make pump speed changes. This new equalized treatment rate gives added operational flexibility by reducing flow intensity through the intakes and filters. **Existing Filters (8):** Under near-term future demand (within 5 years), filters are projected to operate over 90% of capacity for about 9 hours daily. At this rate existing clearwell levels drop close to the minimum safe level for disinfection. Even with added clearwell storage, adjusting WTP and pumping rates to follow daily demand surges offers limited benefits. The key benefit of added storage is enabling consistent (equalized) treatment rates throughout the day, using the added capacity to lower treatment rates by reducing peak and increasing off peak production. The Committee requested an extension to review the draft copy and provide comment at the upcoming August meeting.

Agenda Item 2: *NOWSWTP Final Budget – By Eric Law*

Law provided final copy of the upcoming FY 2025-26 with highlighted amendments. Law noted that all changes resulted in a downward adjustment. No comments from the Committee.

Agenda Item 3: *PWS Settlement Award – By Eric Law*

Law registered NOWS for the AFFF PFAS class action lawsuit in May of last year. The class action was separated into two groups. The first for the 3M and Dupont and the other coming six months later for Tyco and BASF. Law informed the committee that NOWS was awarded \$655,361.34 from the 3M/Dupont group. Law, with the Finance Director approval requested a separate holding account be created under the replacement fund umbrella keeping award money segregated from the annual recurring funded general replacement fund. We are still waiting on results from the Tyco/BASF group.

Adjournment: 10:20 a.m. – Submitted by Eric Law