

NORTHWEST OTTAWA WATER SYSTEM

Administrative Committee Minutes

May 15, 2024

A regular administrative committee meeting of the Northwest Ottawa Water System was called to order by Derek Gajdos at 9:15 a.m. Wednesday, May 15, 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:

A motion by Staskiewicz, supported by Bessinger to accept the minutes for the February 21st, 2024 NOWS Committee Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

Manager's Report, August, September, October '21 – By Law

Law provided the Managers report with the following highlights presented. The previous quarterly pumpage for February, March, and April continued to grow compared to last year. Total system pumpage exceeded 372MG, and each of the three months posted a positive comp, with February and April seeing 6 and 7 percent increases over last year. The year-to-date total for the system is up 3.1% at a plus 58 million gallons for a total of 1.929 billion gallons on the year. Trending on allocation shows a dip in demand over last year of -2% from the Northside, while Grand Haven City and Grand Haven Charter Township are seeing increases of 5% and 8%, respectively.

Law reported that 83% of the fiscal year is complete with Revenue at 77% to projection and expenditure with encumbrance at 81.7%. Cash and cash equivalents sit at just over \$284K, and the replacement fund sits at just over \$511K. Law provided a Capital Improvements Tracking Report. Between planned and unplanned projects, a total of 15 projects have been completed, at just over \$479K.

Chemical costs are up 9% over last year, with the primary reason a 3% increase in pumpage. Also contributing, is a "mixed bag" when it comes to new bulk chemical contracts. Some bulk chemical contracts have increased - Alum by 7.5% and Fluoride by 10%. However, that is offset by the new Chlorine contract has seen a 58% decrease. Also noted, the fluoride feed was taken offline last year for roughly a month for repairs. Power consumption is up 6%. Again, a 3% increase in production along with inflationary increases in per/KWH are contributing to the increase. In addition, the new environmental remediation charge is also contributing to higher power consumption costs. Operator efficiency has been an emphasis and it may be likely the best

practice efficiency adjustments have realized their max potential. No comments on the power and chemical graphs provided.

Source water quality remains outstanding and the plant is running excellent with operations remaining within or exceed all state and federal regulatory compliance levels. TOC results are considered to be stable with the Raw TOC showing a downward trend and the CFE staying relatively flat over the 5-year trend. Discussion ensued about the causes of TOC. Grand River Basin runoff was explained as being the most impactful. Environmental conditions that can contribute to elevated Raw TOC are heavy Grand River Basin flows, Lake Michigan wind and current conditions, and winter ice cover. Turbidity removal was discussed and results remain very consistently low. All communities DBP results remain well within compliance levels, and next DBP cycle dates were announced. Law did highlight a seasonal effect to chlorine residual control. During the spring there is susceptibility to losing residuals in storage tanks due to unusually warm days and very little turn over because irrigation has yet to come online. It's at this time all parties must remain vigilant. The WTP in anticipating warming trends must work to slowly bring chlorine levels up and distribution teams need to monitor levels and flush when low. PFAS sampling detections remain far and few and all within the regulatory guidelines.

Agenda Item 1: *Water Rate Discussion Delayed until August* – By Eric Law
Baker Tilly has asked for an extension.

Agenda Item 2: *Grand Rapids Water Contract Negotiation* – By Pat Staskiewicz
Pat had been approached by Grand rapids officials about getting a head start on renewal of the County's current water contract with GR that expires in 2029. GR has expressed interest in updating the contract to support increases in supplemental water needs from GHCT. Staskiewicz and Cargo had dialog about the benefits of having access to supplemental water as the Nows filtration plant continues to plan for expansion. There was a shared concern around the co-mingling of water supplies between GR and the Nows system and Staskiewicz was encouraged to pursue the continued discussions with GR and the State of Michigan on next steps.

Agenda Item 3: *Prein & Newhof Raw Water Intake No.3 Feasibility Draft Review* – By Law
There was unanimous support for the content within the draft study and specific to the 1st option for intake expansion. Concern was raised about the timelines for construction and that providing specific dates can be misleading. It was unanimously agreed that removing the dates was necessary for final approval. In addition to the intake expansion feasibility report, Law introduced discussion about the incoming feasibility study on plant expansion to take place in FY24/25 to refocus more on the feasibility of adding storage capacity to the WTP. The shift in focus, Law believes will provide a look into whether increased storage capacity can alleviate the peak hourly flow. This concept was supported by the Board with a request to provide in the future a chronological list of events document that combines the two feasibility studies.

Adjournment: 10:04 a.m. – Submitted by Eric Law