

Groton Water Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Of the  
Board of Water Commissioners  
Tuesday, March 10th, 2020  
First Floor Meeting Room

**Minutes**

Present are Chairman Jack McCaffrey, Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Thomas Orcutt, and Business Manager Lauren Crory.

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Manganese – Open Public Forum

Mr. Orcutt said Mr. Weaver of Data Tech Water Systems is taking samples of backwash water to begin looking at how his process could help our system. The manganese sample sheet is updated and will be posted with samples up to 3/5/20. Mr. McCaffrey said the highest result was at Cravens Package Store which was .32 ppm in October and has since dropped.

Manganese – Consent Order Update

Mr. Orcutt said that the consent order was signed by the state. Mr. Gmeiner said we can now vote to release the Executive Session minutes. Mr. Orcutt wants to put the consent order on the website this week. Mr. Fishbone said the completed consent order is a milestone so we should inform the public. Mr. Gmeiner said that the Groton Herald could give an update.

Mr. Ohl said the piloting application was at MA DEP and he saw draft comments which were very straightforward. He expects the signed document by the end of the week and still wants the pilot testing to begin in April with the conceptual design completed in June. Mr. McCaffrey asked if the piloting start date could be moved up and Mr. Ohl said possibly, depending on MA DEP approval. Mr. McCaffrey asked if MA DEP will be waiting for our conceptual plan and Mr. Ohl said no. The next milestone on the consent order is early next year for the actual plan. MA DEP will get a copy of the conceptual plan and pilot testing results. Mr. Fishbone added that they will want to make sure the pilot testing results justify the conceptual plan. Mr. Ohl planned to include both options in the conceptual plan, but Mr. McCaffrey thinks we should only send MA DEP the final chosen plan. Mr. McCaffrey asked if the draft conceptual plan will be to GWD by May 28<sup>th</sup> per the schedule and Mr. Ohl said yes. Mr. Orcutt said there will be a few days that Whitney Well cannot be used and he will get that information to Mr. Ohl.

Financials – Business Manager

Mrs. Crory reviewed the current versus budgeted financials along with forecasted figures throughout the end of the fiscal year. The income looks good and should exceed budget and the expenses are on track to stay within budget. The board would like all manganese related income and expenses to be kept separately which Mrs. Crory will update.

#### Superintendent Report: Well Cleaning, Easement Mowing

Mr. Orcutt said that he is concerned about the lack of snow, but for now the annual pumping chart looks consistent and well levels are good. The Historical Commission and the Historical District Commission was ok with our plans for our work at Whitney Well.

Mr. Orcutt said that he and the two water technicians are being very health conscious as it would be problematic if they all got sick. Mr. Fishbone asked what would happen and Mr. Orcutt said there is an agreement within MWWA and they have George Brackett as back up.

Mr. Orcutt said that well cleaning will happen in May. They will pull the pump and clean it. Baddacook will be offline for one week.

Mr. Orcutt spoke with Mr. Delaney about having someone from the Highway Department take care of our mowing and he said he could get someone to do it for under \$1000 (annually). Mr. Gmeiner and Mr. Fishbone think this is a good idea.

#### Other Business: Bills, Minutes, etc

Mr. Orcutt asked if we are interested in applying for SRF funding at this point and Mr. McCaffrey said he only hears bad things. Mr. Orcutt added that the piping to Baddacook option includes 30-year financing for the pipe which can't be done with SRF. Mr. McCaffrey said that we wouldn't need it for this fall then. Mr. Ohl said we may still need to apply in case we needed to get it later on, but prior to the next application period.

Mr. McCaffrey approved the minutes of 2/11/20 as amended, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve all Executive Session minutes thus far, Mr. McCaffrey seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Invoices for EW21 were signed.

Next Meeting: March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 8:36pm, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

March 10th, 2020

Lauren Crory