

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, May 10th, 2022
Virtual Meeting using Zoom

Minutes

Present are Chairman Jack McCaffrey, Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Tom Orcutt, Business Manager Lauren Crory, Dave Patangia, Bob Rafferty, and Alysa Longo from Environmental Partners and David Roman from CEI.

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 7:32pm. He stated that we are being recorded and everyone introduced themselves.

Manganese Treatment Plant – progress update, schedule

Ms. Longo said there have been a lot of submittals from R.H. White and two RFIs have been submitted and one has been responded to. Mr. Orcutt is concerned with piping that may be altered inside the plant and Ms. Longo said there are long lead times for ductile pipe and an updated schedule has been sent to Mr. Orcutt and Mr. Ohl. They are still on track to complete the project by December 11th, 2023. She said the storage containers were delivered last week. Mr. Orcutt said we can't have any mud tracking out to Route 40. Ms. Longo sent over the cash flow for April, May and June. She said that the concrete inspector should be hired under the Town's discretion and the concrete work is to start at the end of August. Mr. Orcutt said he will take a few recommendations from EP. Mr. McCaffrey would like to see some milestones after receiving the schedule.

Whitney Pond Well #3

Mr. Roman gave a construction update and said that the temporary casing is installed and the well screen has been submitted, approved, and ordered, so the installation should happen in the second half of June. The shop drawings have also been reviewed. The water main should be installed at the end of May and everything else is on schedule. Mr. McCaffrey asked if that's when we need to tap in and Mr. Orcutt said it is. Mr. Orcutt had a site meeting with Dankris last week and things appear to be in good shape.

Mr. Roman gave a permitting update and said that comments were made on the WS20 submittal and CEI has responded but there were no major issues and things should go smoothly. The Interbasin Transfer Act is still outstanding due to the draft application for insignificance. He said based on initial calculation from 2016 data, we are close to

meeting the streamflow for insignificance. Ms. Crory is working on updated usage numbers from the past few years and hopefully we remain under the streamflow number.

Mr. Orcutt asked if the streamflow is to recharge to the basins and Mr. Roman said they will want to see how much of the transfer is through wastewater and streamflow at Cow Pond Brook (possibly Hoyts Wharf or Massapoag Pond). Mr. Orcutt asked if we get credit for recharge of septic systems and Mr. Roman said yes it will come into effect later on but that is not part of the ITA. On the ITA, they regulate maximum daily use and average day use, so the analysis is being done on maximum use so that when we ask to bump up the average it won't be an issue. Mr. Orcutt said our ask is for a greater one-day pumping rate rather than an average over 365 days. Mr. Fishbone asked if that will give us what we need down the road and Mr. Orcutt said it should. Mr. McCaffrey asked when Whitney III will pump and Mr. Roman said the ITA is the biggest hurdle and they have 90 days to review and vote on it once submitted. Mr. Roman said that July 14th will hopefully be the meeting to approve it. He also said the Water Management Act hinges on getting ITA approval. Mr. Roman said the closest date is probably September to have full approval.

Mr. Gmeiner asked about the updated water/sewer numbers for the ITA. Mr. Roman said we are looking at the water use and then looking at which accounts have sewer.

Mr. Fishbone confirmed that the best-case scenario is pumping in September and Mr. Roman agreed.

Fiscal Year 2022 & 2023

Mrs. Crory said the budget is looking good and we will do an in-depth forecast in the upcoming meetings.

Other Business

Mr. Orcutt said they are wrapping up the flushing and it was not super dirty probably due to running Baddacook so much over the winter. The divers will be cleaning Baddacook next week and the technicians are running it as much as possible. Mr. Orcutt will send the aquifer graphics and precipitation graphs. The drought management task force said there is a level 1 drought on the islands and they are holding off a month to determine anything else.

Mr. Orcutt said we need to do lead and copper sampling in the distribution system because we are making a change. Typically, we are required to do two rounds of 40 samples for the well and 2 rounds for the treatment plant, but we have Whitney 1 & 2 as one change and then Whitney 1 & 2 & 3 going through the treatment plant which may trigger a third round of testing. Mr. Orcutt said if we have to do 6 rounds of sampling it will be too much and water quality monitoring may be an option. Environmental Partners

may be able to help. They will help decide on the best option with DEP. Mr. Orcutt is ready to do the sampling in-house but it could be favorable to outsource the water quality monitoring. Mr. McCaffrey asked when the monitoring would start and Mr. Orcutt said DEP will want to see a list of the sample sites now and he has a zoom meeting with EP tomorrow to decide how to proceed. Mr. McCaffrey asked how that would be funded and Mr. Orcutt said it would be out of our regular budget. Mr. Fishbone asked if the pH level varies in the system and Mr. Orcutt said no, but if it dips when we add the new system, they won't like it, so we need to monitor. Mr. Fishbone asked if the SCADA system monitors this and Mr. Orcutt said it does and they do monitor it every day and also check it. Mr. McCaffrey asked if flushing will be much easier and Mr. Orcutt does think it will be different in the future and it will be more to change over water not flush out minerals. Mr. McCaffrey asked if you can clean the buildup on the pipes and Mr. Orcutt said anytime they tap into a pipe they don't see any scaling and it typically is light and fluffy substances that are easily flushed.

Mr. McCaffrey asked if the lead and copper is a big deal in the scheme of our projects and Mr. Orcutt said it is not.

Mr. McCaffrey said we have momentum for Whitney Well III now and Mr. Orcutt agreed and thinks the ITA will be more of an issue for sewer down the road. Mr. McCaffrey understands we are on the edge of significance and Mr. Orcutt agreed and if we need an environmental impact report it could be very costly. Mr. Orcutt said that Shattuck Well is fully permitted with built in capacity (to be developed in 5-10 years) where we could get more water but it would be costly to do now. Unkety Brook is in the Nashua Basin but we could utilize that down the road also.

Mr. Orcutt said Whitney and Baddacook are still non-detect for PFAS.

Mr. Orcutt said the school has hired an engineer to work on PFAS and they have been required to submit a short-term plan to MA DEP.

Next Meeting May 24th.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 8:16pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory