

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, September 27th, 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 Michael Ohl from CEI.

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm. He stated that we are being recorded and everyone introduced themselves.

Manganese Treatment Plant – progress update, schedule

Ms. Longo said R.H. White has sent 180 submittals and they have returned 166. The big ones are for the metal building to be delivered at the end of the year and long lead items. She said that 21 RFI's have been addressed but there have been no changes to the work or cost. Mr. McCaffrey asked what percent of submittals are we through, and Ms. Longo would hope 50%-75%. The August requisition was approved and paid. They have not seen September yet but expect it this week. They meet with R.H. White every week to keep them on schedule. They have an onsite meeting tomorrow.

Mr. McCaffrey asked about any other supply chain issues and Ms. Longo said there are some delayed electrical items that have been accounted for in their schedule.

Whitney Pond Well #3

Mr. Ohl said the next steps for the chemical feed and controls will be to get the contractors out there and they are on track for the electrical work in October. The VFD has a long lead time. The motor starter was submitted and released and they are still on track for a revised completion in November. The biggest focus is getting them onsite for chlorination and testing for the water main. Mr. Orcutt asked if the SCADA drawings from ITS have been approved and Mr. Ohl will double check because he sent them two months ago and then was told to hold off for revised plans.

Mr. Ohl spoke about the permitting and said the biggest issue is the Water Management Act permit. He did receive an order to complete from MA DEP and drafted a response last week. He said we wanted to prompt a meeting with them to keep it moving and another letter is drafted with talking points for that meeting. Mr. Orcutt will get ahold of DEP to set up a meeting next week. Mr. Ohl said that nothing in the Order to Complete was a surprise. Mr. Orcutt asked if Mr. Roman is working on the forms and Mr. Ohl said he is. Mr. Fishbone asked what triggers the clock and Mr. Ohl said it is all in DEP's court but could be up to 7 months total (222 days). Mr. Orcutt said the meeting they are trying to have next week is regarding this schedule. Mr. Fishbone asked if there is no requirement for them to shorten the time frame for approval and

Mr. Ohl said there is not. Mr. McCaffrey asked if their 90-day clock has started and Mr. Ohl said it has.

ARPA Funds – Taylor and Main Street Replacement Project

Mr. Rafferty got a wetlands report and hopes to be done with design in three weeks and get it to conservation commission for the November 8th meeting. Submit to Mass DOT at the same time. Mr. McCaffrey asked if the funding is lined up and Mr. Orcutt said it is all set and will be fully funded by ARPA funds. Mr. Gmeiner asked if we are all set with wetlands or the brook, and Mr. Rafferty said the brook and the pocket wetland.

Water Conservation Program

Mr. Orcutt said the mandatory water ban has not been lifted but is not being policed. The well is running between 12-13 hours a day. The water levels have not rebounded but we are not enforcing the water ban. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we should drop the water ban at the next meeting and Mr. Orcutt thinks we should keep it on through the end of the season but will discuss with customers that may need to irrigate.

Other Business

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve Mr. Orcutt to sign invoices, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion followed unanimously. The commissioners would like to see copies of the expense warrant coversheets and will review and ask any questions as needed.

Mr. Orcutt said that there is a MetroWest study committee under MWRA who is looking at bringing the Quabbin Reservoir water to MetroWest communities. Mr. Orcutt is filling out paperwork about our system to submit. Mr. Gmeiner asked how far it goes out and if it does go to all the way to Bedford. Mr. Orcutt said it does. He said they are looking at waiving the connection fee to the system so it may just be construction costs. Mr. Fishbone asked if this is an interbasin transfer issue and Mr. Orcutt said it should stay within the Nashua basin. Mr. McCaffrey asked about elevation and Mr. Orcutt said that will be an issue.

Next week Mr. Orcutt is meeting with the GDRHS, Town Manager, and Pepperell and Dunstable regarding PFAS. Mr. McCaffrey asked if a this will get a firm to study it and Mr. Orcutt said the school has a firm and we have Environmental Partners. Mr. McCaffrey thinks some people have been low balling this and wants to make sure the right thing is done. Mr. Orcutt said Dunstable does have some skin in the game but not much. Mr. Orcutt does not want someone else to run this and then give us the bill and thinks we need to be involved.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 8:26pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory