

**NORTHWEST OTTAWA WATER SYSTEM**  
**Administrative Committee Minutes**  
August 21, 2019

A regular administrative committee meeting of the Northwest Ottawa Water System was called to order by Derek Gajdos, at 9:45 a.m., Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at the City Hall Council Chambers. On roll call, the following members were

present: Craig Bessinger (City of Ferrysburg), Bill Cargo (Grand Haven Township), Pat Staskiewicz (Ottawa County), Gordon Gallagher (Spring Lake Township), Christine Burns (Village of Spring Lake) and Derek Gajdos (City of Grand Haven).

absent:

also present: Joe VanderStel (City of Grand Haven) and Eric Law (City of Grand Haven)

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A motion by Staskiewicz, support by Gallagher to accept the minutes for May 15, 2019. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

VanderStel provided the manager's report comparing pumpages from last year, water turbidity, operating expense, disinfection by-products, some preliminary lead levels, PFAS and UCMR4 results, some interesting end of the year graphs and tables and our upcoming projects. VanderStel also discussed summer water demands and the frequency of maintaining pumpage using both intakes. Committee agreed that we all need to continue to monitor those morning usages and our capacity. The 80% capacity value will be scrutinized by the state, especially as we continue to see morning demands around 21 MGD. Comments centered on the preparation for a new intake to maintain redundancy with our source water system. Staskiewicz remarked that from the list of projects, as a spin-off of the intake cleaning observations, maybe get Onyx Special Services or some other marine contractor to provide some lake bottom elevations using side scan sonar. As everyone knows these elevations change with the movement of the sand bars in and around the intakes. VanderStel will check on cost and availability of this service.

**Item 1 2019 Sanitary Survey Summary** – By VanderStel & Law

Since the reliability study was part of the state's response in the Sanitary Survey the committee combined both agenda items. Therefore Item 2, the water plant reliability study is the only deficiency that is currently being dealt with and coordinated by Derek Gajdos and Pat Staskiewicz.

All of the state's recommendations are being addressed. VanderStel and Law made comment on each of five recommendations. Of the five recommendations, the coagulation process and the use of alum has been the main focus of EGLE for several years now. Changing pH values in raw water coming from Lake Michigan has the state uneasy about meeting proper coagulation before filtration. Law pointed out that we have not had any success in providing relevant data beyond what the state wants towards proper coagulation, something measurable. The realistic outcome is the finished water turbidity, which has been excellent. Water plant staff will be looking for other types of water analysis and potential coagulants for EGLE, probably related more or less to source water quality parameters.

Staskiewicz made a quick comment about an agriculture grant funding for SWIPP studies or other best management practices to protect source water. There is 4 billion dollars available nationally for enhancing farming practices for storm water protection. Gallagher wondered if this money would be available for communities to use to implement storm water protection. Staskiewicz would have to look into this, but thought most was related to farming techniques. VanderStel remarked that the SWIPP will be reestablished through MRWA and USDA Farm Service Agency this winter.

Returning to the water plant reliability study, it will consist of two categories, 1) Production - including capacity, demands, intakes and water plant reliability, pumps and raw water mains. 2) Transmission and Distribution Facilities, demand records and projections and the individual community's reliability studies.

**Item 3 Other Business**

Staskiewicz discussed the recent mailings regarding the 2011 bond and possible refinancing. County estimated the present value savings of \$125,896, or approximately 4.25% of the Bonds to be refunded. The callable date is not until March 2021. Market rates could change by then, but the estimate at present value savings would be \$347,784. County recommends waiting and the Administration Committee agrees, as there were other bonds to take into consideration, such as the Sewer Authority.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m. - Submitted by Joe VanderStel