

# NORTHWEST OTTAWA WATER SYSTEM

## Administrative Committee Minutes

August 17, 2022

A regular administrative committee meeting of the Northwest Ottawa Water System was called to order by Christine Burns at 9:34 a.m. Wednesday, August 17, 2022 in the Council Chambers at Grand Haven City Hall.

Present: Christine Burns (Village of Spring Lake), Craig Bessinger (City of Ferrysburg), Pat Staskiewicz (Ottawa County), Ashley Latch (City of Grand Haven), Bill Cargo (Grand Haven Township), John Nash (Spring Lake Township)

Also Present: Alando Chappell (Grand Haven Township)

Absent: Gordon Gallagher (Spring Lake Township), Derek Gajdos (City of Grand Haven)

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A motion by Cargo, supported by Staskiewicz to accept the minutes for the May 18, 2022 NOWS Committee Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

### **Manager's Report, September, October, November '22**– By Law

Law provided the Managers report with the following highlights presented.

Pumpage was highlighted by a strong June and July where both months exceeded LY numbers. A strong June helped deliver EOY pumpage to projection numbers which closed the year exceeding projection by 149MG. EOY pumpage comp was 55MG shy of last years. Unit allocation resembles much the same as previous quarters with North Ottawa drawing 40%, Grand haven township 30% and the City of Grand Haven 28%.

EOY accounts balance numbers are preliminary and expected to be finalized in November before the next scheduled meeting. Revenue outpaced expenditures when removing depreciation and it is expected EOY adjustment on working capital will result in unit refunds. Cash was reported at \$569,214.00 to end the year. Bulk chemical cost continue increase as a result of market pressures with Chlorine now over three times higher currently than the contracted price. A single chlorine truck load delivery now exceeds \$12K when contract price was established to be \$3,500 pre-pandemic and pre-supply chain issues. Supply chain issues are the result of closures of Chlor-Alkali plants in NY, LA and TX. Chemical cost per/MG EYO resulted in 161% comp to LY. In contrast power cost per/MG was 96%. Law attributed the power management to staff operations turnover and new operation staff accepting and practicing new power management principles. The finished with pumpage comp at 97% and the combined power/chemical cost at a 105% comp. Law discussed the need to start preliminary talks with engineer about on site generation with support from Staskiewicz. Cargo cautioned about the investment balance and highlighted the cost of chlorine is still a small percentage of the operational budget.

Water Quality remains outstanding. Law is pleased with the new Hach bench turbidity analysis equipment. This new equipment compliments the newer and similar technology of the SWAN in-line units with results that are now similar. In essence, validating each of the systems. TOC's have been consistent and in-line with historical summer operations

PFAS monthly samples continue and are consistent with none detections or very low detections. Law discussed the recent EPA changes to PFOS, PFOA and PFBS Lifetime Health Advisory Levels (HAL's). The EPA has lowered these HAL's. (PFOS-0.02ppt); (PFOA-0.004ppt); (GenX-10ppt) and (PFDS-2000ppt). Law emphasized the changes are not regulatory yet but regulations are anticipated a should new regulation come under NOWS historical data, it may result in the need to change treatment technologies. Law also discussed the absence of technology that can measure to these new lower limits which may make it difficult to put these low limits into law.

The WTP plant High Service Pump #3 experienced a VFD failure resulting in a fire and complete destruction of the VFD at approximately 6:50am on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Law described efforts to regain lost capacity from the inoperable 450HP pump by contracting with Parkway Electric to establish temporary controls via a soft starter unit that was purchased for \$16,825.00. The cabinet housing the VFD should not be reused during replacement and a whole Schneider VFD enclosure was ordered for both the failed unit and the sister unit (HSP#2) of similar vintage, make and model as a preventative measure. Total cost with labor to install both units \$250,000.00 and the lead time is 70 days putting install date into January 23'. Failure of the unit is not fully understood. Fishbeck and parkway diagnostics could not identify root cause but both confirmed that the capacitor in the unit was the likely failure point. Described by the Fishbeck engineer—capacitors can hold a flammable gel and when the hard shell expands under load this can crack, leading to the gel coming in contact with hot electrical components and igniting. Fishbeck is currently phase monitoring to identify source of dirty power.

Manpower was covered by Law and he explained the how the make-up of the NOWS roster has changed and will be changing. For the first time in NOWS history the Roster of seven FTE's and one PTE has four F-2 or higher licenses with the addition of the newly hired F-2 transfer from the Holland WTP. Law outlined the next rounds of retirees of which there are two and both with projected dates within 4 years. Law indicated the need to prepare for this and hinted to future discussion's about how to best approach this by increasing roster size from seven FTE's to eight; this allowing for proper training in the much needed maintenance department as well as allowing for in-house backfill should NOWS un-expectantly loose another operator.

Bi-annual meter verification was discussed and Law expressed interest in outsourcing this to UIS as they have the equipment to do a full verification of flow and electrical signal.

Adjournment – 10:29 a.m. - Submitted by Eric Law