

NORTHWEST OTTAWA WATER SYSTEM

Administrative Committee Minutes

August 16th, 2023

A regular administrative committee meeting of the Northwest Ottawa Water System was called to order by Derek Gajdos at 9:03 a.m. Wednesday, August 16th, 2023, in the Council Chambers at Grand Haven City Hall.

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

Also Present: N/A

Absent: N/A

A motion by Gallagher, supported by Burns, to accept the minutes for the May 17th, 2023, NOWS Committee Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Manager's Report, August, September, October '23– By Law

Law provided the Managers report with the following highlights presented.

A robust pumpage volume for May and June kicked off the summer pumping season and helped end the fiscal year just over the 2022/23 pumpage projection. For historical reference, the June pumpage of 410.716 MG represented the fourth-highest monthly total of any month on record and ended the year 5% higher than the previous year. *Unit Growth* during the quarter remained consistent, seeing Grand Haven Charter Township grow the most, with an 8% increase over last year. *Unit Allocation* remains consistent with historical averages. The Northside is again the most prominent consumer, with over 40% of the system total.

The fiscal year ended with *Revenue* at 115.5% of projection and *Expenditures* at 94%. *Cash* on hand at the time of reporting was \$158,243, and the *Replacement Fund* account was \$745,189. Just completed, the new VFD project will expense \$250,000 from the *Replacement Fund*. It was noted that this project was partially funded by insurance. The claim totaled ~\$133,000. Inflationary pressures persist, and both chemical and power costs. Fluoride has increased 64% since September 2022, and a new West Michigan Cooperative contract for Aluminum Sulfate was just awarded and will raise shipment costs by 4% each of the next three years. YTY comp shows a 35% increase in chemical cost, all while actual consumption has decreased. The BLP Continues upward adjustments to the PCA factor, and the new addition of the environmental surcharge are contributing factors for the increase in baseline power costs. Law discussed an evolving summer pumping trend and the implications on power usage costs. Law described two distinct daily peak demand curves, with a new evening peak demand curve emerging as more established and significant than in years past. Law drew

a correlation between the BLP peak billing hours and the Nows system peak hour demands and how there is a growing overlap. Gajdos commented that the evening peak demand should be attributed to the “even/odd” water restriction messaging. Gallagher highlighted the counter-trend on power consumption when looking at the power consumption graphs and complimented operations on peak season power efficiency. Burns asked about the status of the water efficiency messaging and had concerns about timing the messaging. Burns highlighted the typical homeowner's involvement in opening sprinkler systems and contracting with irrigation companies and suggested a February messaging would be best, and Law agreed to explore those avenues. Law acknowledged Burns' concern about the status and timing of messaging and explained delays in time capacity limits and the slow evolution of the city's new web page. Law explained a key objective is having all messaging, regardless of where it comes from, able to be centered around a fresh new web page that anchors the messaging. Content and design have been developed and are currently ready for the new website to be revamped. Law added that another critical objective that should be considered is a permanent annual preseason campaign with consistent messaging. Gajdos pointed back to the data showing the summer evening peak hourly event and its growing prominence that the current messaging would seem to be penetrating the community.

Law described water quality as remaining consistent and excellent. Raw water quality continues to be outstanding. All communities remain well within compliance with DBP results. The PFAS running annual average results remain well within compliance and well under the detection limits of 2 mg/L when averaged.

Adjournment – 9:44 a.m. - Submitted by Eric Law