

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION

MINUTES

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

7:00 PM

REMOTE PARTICIPATION

Topic

Call to order

Attendees:

Kevin Finney

Shirley Young

Bruce Arbonies

Becky Malamut

Jacqueline Bohn

Samantha Woods, NSRWA

Water system updates

Becky read email from Sean Anderson:

- Reservoir level: -63.5" down or 35.4%
- Avg usage over the last week and last month (or raw data) Average from TP = .683 MGD Wells = .778 (slowing down as water table drops) Total Average per day = 1.461 MG Total Average for Aug = 1.676 MGD
- Status of wells and WTP: Water table is dropping and wells are slowing down (except for wells 10&11 – they are doing OK)
- Impact of manganese removal treatment at the reservoir OOB: WTP Manganese removal is ongoing. Hard to target a moving object (Mn levels change sometimes even hourly)
- Brown water complaints: Down a little but still getting some – we haven't been getting the same yellow water complaints since we started treating for Mn at OOB.
- Any feedback from residents or Town re: THM public notice: Lots of calls and emails from residents with questions, mostly about home filtration. We have been recommending that residents do some homework on this topic. A quality filter with carbon (particularly granular) will do a good job of removing TTHM's. We also recommend that they find one that is NSF approved (means it has been rigorously tested and can do what it claims).

Reservoir Update – we did not get the MVP grant so next step is to move forward with Town Meeting request

- Sam – NSRWA hosted a letter writing campaign when the EIR was submitted to show DEP support from the region
- Becky to f/u with Andrew Goodrich to see if this is still on the docket
- Town Mtg is Nov 16

MODERATED Q&A – None

Water conservation outreach strategy updates

- Becky announced SWMI grant application for educational videos and campaign around lawn watering for next spring
- Sam mentioned the need to develop a plan to reimplement streamflow releases, likely it will be when the reservoir starts gaining again

MODERATED Q&A - None

Private well presentation for BOH

Becky reviewed talking points for policy proposal

Kevin – need to anticipate pushback, strengthen argument for equity issue. Becky to ask Kevin Cafferty what kind of pushback he anticipates

Shirley – people who drilled private irrigation wells may be upset that we wouldn't let them hookup to the system and now we're restricting their use

- Need to educate mgmt companies

Sam – well drillers and irrigation system installers may fear loss of business from people who wanted a well to get around the outdoor water bans

- We're all in this together proposal

Kevin asked about the number of wells that have been drilled – compare years post-connection policy to the years before. Becky to look into this

Becky to draft language based on model bylaw and other town's regs, reach out to BOH staff to gauge their openness, and to get on BOS agenda to get their support, they are the Water Commissioners

Goal is to present to BOH at their Oct 14 meeting

Sam offered to help get people to BOS and BOH meetings

MODERATED Q&A – None

Water offset policy proposal

Becky reviewed shared her draft proposal – 1:1 offset, \$10 per gpd, all customers pay an additional \$1 per billing cycle

Sam – Why set a threshold for this policy? Why not just say any increase in water demand or any increase any increase in bedrooms?

Kevin likes tying it to use – he likes gpd the best

Shirley – what about people who have a baby and need a new bedroom

Bruce – What about people who add a bedroom because his kids were sharing a room and wanted their own rooms

Sam – Even if they don't use it for new demand now, when the house sells, it will sell as a x-bedroom house that will allow for more demand on the system

If this policy lives in Water Rules & Regs, renovations don't go back to the Water Dept, so we'd need to tie it to the permit

Sam - Can renovations offset their use with water conservation measures throughout the house?

- Sewer dept uses 110 gpd to size septic systems so we could use that to be consistent across departments

Shirley – makes more sense to manage new builds and not existing buildings

Next steps? Bruce volunteered to dig into mitigations / offsets for new builds and renovations. Becky will get timeline on Water Master Plan, which could provide some basis for a 2:1 offset.

MODERATED Q&A - None

Approve July and August minutes

Shirley July, Kevin seconded, all in favor

Becky August, Jackie seconded, all in favor

Recent correspondence

None

Open discussion

Monday, Sept 28 at 7pm to Review Private Irrigation Bylaw and ID next meeting

MODERATED Q&A - None

Adjourn