East Haddam Water Pollution Control Authority
Municipal Office Complex

Special Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2022

1. Call to Order

   Chairman Lord called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Attendance

   Members Present: Chairman Andrew Lord, Edward Blaschik, Richard Fiala, Richard Pettinelli
   Members Absent: Bob Casner, John Russell
   Other Present: Jim Ventres, Will Abramczyk, Kellie Russell

3. Minutes
   a. Minutes review – no minutes to review

4. Discussion
   a. Clean Water Ops Report and Bills –

      Mr. Abramczyk provided the updated list for the CleanWaterOps contacts.

      Mr. Abramczyk provided an update on the SBR changeover. There have been 2 failed attempts to do this changeover. There was a transducer failure, due to an old transducer for the first attempt. Mr. Abramczyk noted that he ordered the exact same transducer, replaced that and discovered upon subsequent testing that there was still an issue. He worked with the manufacturer to determine what transducer should be ordered and has now ordered the 3rd transducer which the manufacturer recommended for wastewater measurement purposes. There is no charge to East Haddam. He is feeling more confident that this new transducer will work, and has scheduled another test the week of November 21. The transducer's purpose is to measure the depth of liquid within a tank.
      Once the switch over works, a regular test will be conducted every 6 months to ensure things are working properly.

      Permit compliance – As Zach Dutton has left the organization, Mr. Abramczyk has been working to get Ms. Russell to have the same access to the State system for Net DMR. He has run into issues related to being able to provide the Net DMR to CT DEEP via e-filing. Mr. Ventres has gotten involved and is working to resolve the issue to allow the operator (Ms. Russell) to submit the monthly DMR submissions electronically. Mr. Ventres will call the State on Monday to work through how to provide CleanWaterOps the ability to send in the monthly submissions. In the meantime, Mr. Abramczyk is submitting the Net DMR submissions via hard copy and certified mail.

      Grinder pumps – Since the last meeting, there has been only a few grinder pump issues. None of the ones outlined in the meeting materials required replacement. As discussed at the last

meeting, the existing rebuilt grinder pumps owned by CleanWaterOps were tested by FR Mahoney and only 1 of the 3 is usable. The other 2 require rebuilds, but the age of them precludes them from being rebuilt. The warranty period begins when they leave FR Mahoney's inventory. The next grinder pumps that break will be replaced with the 1 rebuild and the other grinder pumps that are in CleanWaterOps possession. The grinder pump price has come down and going forward Mr. Abramczyk noted CleanWaterOps will not keep any grinder pumps within their inventory but will purchase as needed from FR Mahoney. This also means the warranty will begin upon the grinder pump being installed instead of running out while it sits on a shelf. Mr. Abramczyk has scheduled grinder pump training with FR Mahoney for CleanWaterOps employees to ensure they are well-trained to support grinder pump issues.
Mr. Ventres noted that the grinder pumps are failing due to equipment failure and not due to a foreign object in the water. Some of the units are getting close to 25 years old. Mr. Weaver has the running account of the date and serial numbers of grinder pumps for each property. Mr. Abramczyk will provide Mr. Ventres with details related to any abuse or restricted material that damage the pumps as the property owner will be charged for the repair.

Bills – Mr. Pettinelli asked for a written accounting of the finances. Mr. Ventres walked through the fiscal year-to-date financial picture in the materials presented. Mr. Lord will try to set up a spreadsheet outlining the financial inputs and bills. Mr. Ventres noted that WPCA is on the fiscal year of the Town, which starts July 1st.

b. Request to replace alarm system software

Mr. Abramczyk provided an overview of why a new alarm system is needed. Recently there was a failure of one of the 4 channels, of which there are 3 available for alarms right now at the treatment plant. There is an existing system in place that has its limitations; it must be physically attached to floats and when there is a high tank alarm, it does not provide any details as to why it was triggered. There was one channel that had to be disabled as it was triggering incorrectly consistently. The existing system could be replaced, but there is no documentation related to which component is attached to which channel. To replace the existing system with the same system, it would take quite a bit of expense to physically reroute the wiring.
There is another system that is a superior technology which would offer more data related to any alarm that is triggered. In addition, the new system also has the ability to be upgraded in the future, which the current system does not have. There is also the ability to call 911 or provide information related to the level of alarm concern. The existing infrastructure that is in place will work with this new system.
Mr. Abramczyk has requested a quote for the new system. The cost of the upgraded system would be about $11,000, while replacing the existing one with the same model would be about $6,500.
Mr. Blaschik noted there is a bid process that is used by the Town of East Haddam, given the $11,000 potential expenditure. Mr. Lord noted that the WPCA is not required to follow the Town's bid process given past experience. In addition, the current bid amount required to follow the bid process is $15,000. Mr. Lord asked Mr. Abramczyk to solicit 2 other bids so that the WPCA has on record other options.

Mr. Lord noted that this topic will be tabled until the next meeting to allow Mr. Abramczyk to gather other bids for consideration.

5. New Appointment – Kevin Moreau

Mr. Lord noted that he has been part of the WPCA for 30 years and would like to think about succession planning for the WPCA. He has approached a friend of his, Mr. Kevin Moreau, to join the WPCA as a new member.

Motion by Mr. Blaschik to recommend to the Board of Selectmen to appoint Mr. Moreau to the WPCA. Seconded by Mr. Pettinelli and unanimously approved.

Mr. Pettinelli and Mr. Lord are both up for reappointment and both would like to stay on the WPCA.

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Pettinelli at 7:54. Second by Mr. Blaschik and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary