East Haddam Water Pollution Control Authority
Municipal Office Complex

Regular Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2023

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: John Russell, Bob Casner
Other Present: Jim Ventres, Will Abramczyk

3. Minutes

a. Minutes review

Motion by Mr. Blaschik to accept the September 18, 2023, minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Fiala and unanimously approved. Mr. Blaschik abstained.

4. Discussion

a. Clean Water Ops Report –

Mr. Abramczyk provided an update on several items. He engaged with CLA Engineering, and they are expected to begin the permit renewal process between Thanksgiving and the Christmas holiday. The renewal requires notification. He is receiving a quote on the permit renewal engineering fee, which he will send to Mr. Ventres.

The UV operation uncovered an issue related to the ballast that needed to be replaced; there was socket work that also needed to be addressed. The system will be ready for use in 2024 when needed. There were some lighting repairs that needed to be addressed. The good news is that it was repaired and now is in good working order. The control building still has daily maintenance being done on it. Permit compliance has been maintained. The report has been submitted and all the numbers have been met.

The grinder pump spreadsheet has been updated with a few additional pump repairs. The charges for the pump replacements have not been included yet as the bill has not been received.

There is a significant event happening at the plant, which started about a week before Oct. 24, and it was a catastrophic event for biology. It was a huge chemical influx and they immediately started to pump from SBR1 to SBR2 to address the issue. The hope is the influence is not contaminated anymore, and testing is happening to determine that. The plant must rebuild the biology but must stop receiving contaminated influent first. Mr. Abramczyk

provided quite a bit of information and explanation on the work that is happening to address the biology kill. What the operators feel has happened is that someone either dumped their grease tank or someone had a significant clog and used a commercial grade clog buster to address a clog. Discussion ensued and the group discussed testing some of the influence at the Dock Street station to see if there is any grease residue. He is prepared to bring in healthy new biome, but he does not want to do that until he knows that the influence is fine. During this time, he is having effluent hauled away. It is going to be a long process to restore the plant back to full operation. For October, the plant met the permit requirements. The problem is that samples take 2 weeks to get results back. Mr. Abramczyk is going to ask if there is a test to find out what the chemical is that caused such a catastrophic issue. Mr. Lord noted that if the new testing does not come back with better results, there may be a need for a special meeting to discuss next steps. October and November invoices have been provided. December may be higher due to the hauling fees, or they may hit in the January timeframe.

b. Discuss Pump Replacement

There is an effluent EQ tank pump that needs to be replaced, as they are operating on one tank right now. The plan is to replace the pump and have one in reserve. The system is not near peak flow, but a backup pump must be in place as per the regulations. There is only one functioning pump currently. It is better to replace the non-functioning one with a new one and repair the old one to remain on the shelf to be used if either of the two pumps fail. Currently if one working pump failed, there would be no way to pump effluent out of the plant. While we are not at peak flow and it would take days to reach the capacity to need the 2nd pump, it is still a concern. The goal is to have a failsafe pump in place and working. By permit, we are supposed to have 2 pumps in place. The money is in the budget to cover this expense.

Motion by Mr. Lord to approve the acquisition of the pump from A+ pump company for the Sep 19, 2023, quote. Seconded by Mr. Blaschik and unanimously approved.

c. 2024 Annual Calendar Schedule Meetings

Motion by Mr. Pettinelli to approve the 2024 annual calendar of scheduled meetings. Seconded by Mr. Fiala and unanimously approved.

Mr. Lord used the time to remind the board members that they need to start to think about succession planning, and bringing in new members to get them involved in gaining education before current members retire.

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Blaschik at 7:50 p.m., second by Mr. Pettinelli and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary