

Grand Isle Consolidated Water District

Minutes of Regular Meeting June 9, 2021, 6:30pm

Board Members Present: Janine Banks, Michael Inners, Court Perry, Ken Mirvis, Lynda Morgan-Gardiner

Board Members Not Present: Tim Olver (excused) and Judi Reposa (excused)

SOS Members Present: Warren Steadman (Joe Danis is on paternity leave)

Members present: Laura Heaberlin

Janine Banks Called the meeting to order at 6:28 with all members present or excused

Additions to the Agenda:

- Michael added “Past Due Accounts” to the Treasurer’s Report

Review of Meeting Minutes

- May 2021 Meeting Minutes
 - Court moved to approve. Ken seconded. Motion approved.

Questions from Members

- Ken noted that he received a call during the month from a woman by the name of Beverly Coutuer-Billing who is becoming a new member. She asked about the billing structure and was satisfied with the explanation and the amounts.

Operator’s Report

- Warren presented the Operator’s Report:
 - Joe will be out for two to three weeks with his new baby boy (even though he has already been out to help out with some paperwork). SOS has sent a replacement to help Warren read meters over the next few weeks. His name is Cody and he is tasked to do PFAS testing.
 - Warren and Joe propose developing a policy addressing long service lines (>500 feet) and recommending the installation of meter pits. Meter pits can be relatively expensive, but long service lines increase the challenge of finding leaks. The policy would grandfather existing long service lines but require them in the future. Warren and Joe will circulate a draft policy for the board to review and address at the July meeting. Warren further noted that he and Joe could prefabricate the piping for the meter pits and provide them to customers at a reasonable rate. Michael asked about detecting leaks, and Warren explained that leaks are detectable if they exceed 4 or 5 gallons per minute. Below that rate, they are very hard to find.

- Warren noted that we have been averaging 177,000 gallons per day for the past few days. We are permitted by the state for an average of 360,000 gallons per day, but at 200,000 gallons per day, the plant has to run about 18 hours. At about 250,000 gallons per day on an ongoing basis, the operators would need to make flow adjustments to the plant's operation, and the board would need to start considering adding another filter train.

Engineer's Report:

- The new engineering agreement with Green Mountain Engineering has been reviewed, but the final version has not yet arrived. Michael moved that as long as the agreement is what we have discussed, Janine should sign it when it arrives and return it. Court seconded. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

- Supplies are slightly over budget because of the purchase of filter media. Board had approved this expense. Michael detailed some particular line-items from the report. Once we receive our expected insurance payment, our expenses will be on track for the year.
- Our receivables are below \$30,000. We have about 10 members with large arrearages. Assistance for them is limited to residents who pay their water bill themselves. Two members might qualify for that assistance.
- The state moratorium on shutoffs will end 30 days after the governor lifts the emergency order. Michael suggested that we develop a formal payment plan for members who have not been paying during the State of Emergency and approve it at the July meeting. In addition to keeping their regular quarterly bills up to date, monthly payments will need to be made at an amount to cover the amount in arrears within 30 months. As long as people arrange a payment plan and keep it current, no interest will be charged on these past due monies. People who do not set up this payment plan may make their case to the Board. The July bill will include a notice that when the moratorium ends, we will resume normal collection operations including disconnections for those who have not set up a payment plan. Michael will prepare the payment plan policy before the July meeting.

Old Business

- Lake Champlain Transportation Building Project Update
 - Court and Janine attended the Development Review Board (DRB). Janine noted that Laura Haerberlin gave a powerful presentation that had an impact on the DRB. They now want to review the presentation more carefully, compile questions, and submit them to the engineering firm. They set a firm deadline for submitting question and receiving responses, and that information will be presented at the July 7 DRB meeting. Janine plans to listen to Laura's presentation again and develop questions.
 - Janine noted that we have made it clear that we are an "interested party" by virtue of being a municipality. Michael is finalizing a letter to the DRB which he will circulate to the Board and then formally present to the DRB at the July 7 meeting.

It is imperative that this information be “on the record” so that if we are not listed as a party, we still have standing to appeal. If any decisions are made that are adverse to us, and we are not recognized as an interested party, we are locked out of the appeals process.

- Janine stated that “Laura brought up a ton of issues that need to be addressed,” and the DRB will want their questions answered as well. The biggest issue is that the land is not zoned for the building’s purpose and use. That issue alone could stop the project.
- It is imperative that we be listed as an “interested party” in our source protection plan, which requires us to monitor anything going on in our source water withdrawal area. Otherwise, we would be neglecting our duty.
- Laura Haerberlin added that the LCT’s Title 5 Operating Permit notes sand for sand blasting at an outdoor sandblasting facility. LCT has noted that any sandblasting or painting that takes place in Grand Isle would be indoors, but that assurance must be explicitly stated in the permit; otherwise, it has no legal merit. Laura noted that LCT was using “loose” language related to sandblasting and painting, and Warren and the Board agreed that is a real concern. No painting or sandblasting should be able to take place outside or near the water. Michael noted the importance of ensuring that the DRB is fully informed and educated about these sorts of permits and conditions. Janine agreed that the permit language needs to be clear and explicit about no exterior work, but she suggests waiting to see what actual language the DRB drafts for the permit, noting that the language they draft might be just what we need. Everyone agreed that any oral agreements are not acceptable; we must pay careful attention to the actual wording of the permit language. Michael further noted that our concern is water quality. Other concerns, such as traffic or noise, are not essential to us.
- Warren inquired about the role of the fish hatchery. Michael thinks they have been “keeping their head down” through this process since they have not been attending any of the meetings.
- The Board expressed gratitude to Laura for the hard work she is doing to keep the concerns of this project on everyone’s radar.
- Vermont Alert: Janine noted that she still needs to follow through on the testing. Court commented that he has discontinued his land line. The board agreed that would represent a good test for the system, seeing if he is contacted on his cell phone and if the system notes that his land line is no longer in service.
- Piping replacement project: Janine has emailed Alan and not seen the PER for it.
- Raewyn Lane: As far as anyone knows, it is all proceeding. The homeowner who was going to need a meter pit appears to be installing new piping instead. Warren noted that the project will probably not move forward until fall, but they are paying their debt service. Janine noted that this project is a good example of why we have connection fees: there has been a lot of back-and-forth with Green Mountain Engineering, which we pay for. Complicated connections can entail engineering fees.

- Redraft of the Excess Usage Policy: The policy was approved at the May meeting. We agreed that we will not change the ordinance, only the policy. The ordinance is clear that people are responsible for their water usage.
- Rescue Plan Outreach to the town: Janine drafted a letter to the town with the help of Court and Warren outlining GICWD needs for which we hope to receive funding assistance. Subsequently, she checked the website of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns and learned that Grand Isle will apparently receive \$210,000 to \$260,000, well below what we had initially been told to expect. That number remains uncertain, and it might rise. She will revamp the letter, removing the meter replacement funding from the letter, leaving requests for help with a new generator and heaters/circulators for the tanks, both of which help provide long-term reliability.
 - Warren noted that there is some urgency to installing the heaters and circulators to the tank at a cost of about \$30,000 per tank, noting that work will protect from rust and ice damage. He asked if we are moving forward with the project regardless. Court suggested putting the topic on the agenda for the July meeting. If the Board agrees that the project is important, we need to get it scheduled as soon as possible so we can get the work done before winter. Warren will check with the contractors to learn what the time window actually is for completing the work. We will review that information at the July meeting.
 - Janine asked that we make a list of getting an estimate of energy costs to run the heaters. Court noted that Alan has good knowledge of the experience of other utilities, and he suggested that we invite him to join us for the discussion of engineering and costs. Michael agreed that we should invite Alan to join us.
- Grand Isle State Park MOU: It has been signed and sent and is in the hands of the State Park. Janine has not yet received the final signed copy from the State Parks.

New Business:

Court asked Warren an update on the cost of the system-wide meter replacement project. He is awaiting one more quote. The quote from Webb is in the ballpark of \$132,000, but that did not include labor, which needs to be added on. Warren will also be tallying the locations of meters and noting which meters will require special installation methods when reading meters next week. Warren will be receiving names of installers. He is awaiting quotes from Prescott and Neptune, and those quotes will also be for hardware only.

Meeting Adjourned 7:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Kenneth Mirvis, standing in for Tim Olver, GICWD Clerk

Date: _____

DRAFT



SIMON OPERATION SERVICES, INC.

June 9, 2021

Ms Janine Banks
Grand Isle Consolidated Water District
Grand Isle, Vermont 05458

Dear Janine,

Enclosed please find the following reports and activities for the water treatment facility for the month of May 2021.

1. Monthly Activities Report
2. Vermont Water System Operations Report

If you have any questions regarding this information, please feel free to call us at 1-802-244-7420.

Sincerely,

Joe Dan
Warren Sandman

Cc: Facility copy

**GRAND ISLE CONSOLIDATED WATER DISTRICT
MONTHLY REPORT
MAY 2021**

A: ACTIVITIES COMPLETED

1. Two samples were taken for coliform testing. Both samples were absent. Monthly backwash data was taken and the monthly report was sent to the Watershed Management Division. The monthly Water Operations report was sent to the Drinking Water and Ground Water Protection Division.
2. Media levels in the Kinetico filters were checked and media was added where necessary.
3. The curb stop at 37 Donaldson Road was dug and a new curb box installed. The valve was not able to be operated to shut the water off.
4. DC Energy installed the two new turbidimeter controllers. Copies of all the invoices related to the insurance claims have been sent to the Insurance company.

B: ACTIVITIES IN PROGRESS

1. We are waiting for an estimate for installing power to the top of the two storage tanks. The power would be for the tank circulators and heaters to prevent freeze damage to the tank. DC Energy has climbed Bell Hill Tank to determine what is needed for electrical service on the tanks. We are contacting Aquastore to consult with them about the location of the power.
2. A check valve has been ordered to replace an in-line check valve in the piping coming from VFD Pmp #3 in the GAC room. The current check valve leaks back after the pump runs allowing air to enter the GAC filter.
3. Brookfield Services have visited the facility and will provide us with a replacement estimate for the Generator. We have not heard from Milton Cat for an estimate.
4. DC Energy has ordered a replacement light to replace one of the lights in the Kinetico filter room. The current light which is also an emergency light has failed and can not be replaced.

5. One of the emergency exit lights has failed and can't be repaired. DC Energy has ordered a new exit light.

C: ACTIVITIES PLANNED OR NEEDED

1. The West Shore master meter replacement is planned for this year. The master meter has been purchased but the installation will not be done until fall as the water will go off to the West Shore during the installation.
2. The bolts on the valves on the blowoff on East Shore North will be replaced when conditions permit. One of the valves may have to be replaced.
3. Annual valve cycling will begin as time permits.

D: BILLINGS AND COLLECTIONS

1. Accounts receivable as of June 1, 2021 was \$31,978.94
2. No new liens were initiated in May.
3. The balance of the outstanding liens is \$9,773.74
4. Three accounts used the ACH draft as a means of paying their water bills.