

WMAC Meeting Minutes for September 19th 2019

Attendees: Chris Pimental – Vice Chair, David Hearne, Lealdon Langley, Robert McGregor - Secretary

Guests: Eric Hooper, Superintendent- Sharon DPW; Margaret McCarthy – Weston & Sampson

Chris Pimental called the meeting to order at 7:40pm.

Minutes from the July 2nd 2019 meeting were approved as presented.

1. Discussion on replacement of residential water meters was led by Eric and Margaret. New meter technology includes choice of either ultrasonic or magnetic signal measurement, as possible alternatives to the positive displacement and nutating disc designs (Sharon has nutating disc). Benefits include no moving parts in the meter and higher accuracy, especially at low water volume flow rates.
2. Our current water meter supplier Badger offers choice of cellular network or fixed Radio Frequency (RF) network to gather data. We can consider having Badger meet with WMAC to review our current residential water meter system and discuss paths for upgrading. This does not obligate Sharon to use Badger as the automatic supplier for replacement system. Recommendation of communications network for data gathering will be an important decision by WMAC.
3. Margaret identified other potential water meter manufacturers who could be interested in replying to future Sharon RFP for water meter replacement and communications system for data gathering/management.
4. Data management system for billing residential customers may need to work with our current MUNIS billing system software; WMAC may want to consider use of WATER SMART as an alternative since we are currently using WATER SMART for our residential customer interface. Eric will review this issue with Sharon's IT and Treasury Departments and report back to WMAC.
5. Eric's report for month of August follows
Pumping:
YTD: 278,382,000 gallons – 2nd lowest in 25 year history, on target for roughly 400 million gallons for year.
Max day: 1.778 million gallons – well under 2 million gallons typically seen in August in past.
UAW%: 8.8%, well under permit limit of 10%
UAW: roughly 24 million gallons – 2nd lowest in past 5 years

Nitrate: up at both Well #2 and Well #4 currently monitoring as approaching 5 mg/l study trigger.
#2: 4.99 mg/l up over past 4 months but consistent with past years summer months
#4: 4.34 mg/l up over past 4 months but consistent with past years summer months

Groundwater:

Groundwater is generally down, not approaching drought consistent with late summer elevations. Statewide most indicators are in normal range.

Construction:

Beach Street starting this week.

Heights to start approximately October 1.

Tank neighborhood meeting scheduled for Wednesday. Public hearings scheduled for late September.

Intermunicipal agreement with Norwood proceeding.

6. Issues on water meter replacement to discuss at next meeting: separate meters for in-ground irrigation systems, billing system choices, water meter technology choices, communications systems choices, possible use of turnkey vendor to manage procurement and installation.
7. Stormwater drain cleaning utilizing citizen monitoring network is another possible subject for next meeting.
8. Next meeting is Thursday October 17th at 7:30pm at the Community Center.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor

WMAC Secretary