

WMAC Meeting Minutes – August 19th, 2021

Attendees: David Crosby – Chair, David Brookfield, Anne Carney, David Hearne, Robert (Rory) McGregor – Secretary, Chris Pimentel – Vice Chair

Guests: Eric Hooper, Superintendent- Sharon DPW, Debbie Tatro – Town resident

1. WMAC minutes for meeting held on July 15th 2021 were reviewed and approved.
2. The temporary ion-exchange resin filter installed at Well #4 removes PFAS6 family chemicals from groundwater. Independent lab tests have confirmed that detected concentrations are well below the MCL (maximum control limit) of 20ng/L. Well #4 production is operating at 50% of max capacity or 500K gpd (gallons/day) due to the insertion of the filter chamber in the pump discharge line. Reduced volume flow rate is due to the 100psi rating for the filter chamber. A booster pump will be added within the next year to increase the well output capacity back to its normal 1 million gpd. Design work for the permanent filter chamber to be installed next year will target 150psi as the rated pressure for the vessel.
3. Eric circulated the June lab test results for all town wells (except #2 which was shut down in April) from Con-test/Pace Analytical in E Longmeadow MA. David Crosby and Eric reviewed one of the reports to explain how the information is organized and where the PFAS family chemicals are listed. All wells except #2 are now in compliance with MA standards.
4. The Water Department continues to work with Environmental Partners Group to identify the optimal long-term solution for treatment/removal of PFAS6 chemicals in the groundwater at Wells #4, #2, and #3. The addition of the latter is based on thinking that it lies in the same geographical region as the first two wells along Beaver Brook and may exhibit higher PFAS levels in future if left untreated. The underlying speculation is that PFAS6 chemicals are coming from the railroad tracks, nearby septic systems, and stormwater from center of town and Upland Road/Norwood Street areas.

David Hearne will investigate findings from other towns like Wayland on PFAS6 sources.

5. IFB (Invitation For Bid) to install new residential water meters has been delayed indefinitely. Badger is unable to deliver product due to electronic computer chip shortages. The Water Department has a limited quantity of new Badger ultrasonic water meters to replace old meters that have failed. Eric anticipates that it may be end of year before the IFB is reissued.
6. Imminent installation of new residential water meters throughout Sharon provides the concurrent opportunity to equip inground irrigation systems with a separate water meter to monitor water usage for lawns. Draft proposal for new bylaw to formalize the

requirement is in development. Rory McGregor and Dave Hearne will circulate for review when ready.

7. Eric Hooper submitted the following report on Water Department activity during July:

Pumping:

38,331,000 gallons – very low for July. However, very rainy so many irrigation systems were shut off and other outdoor use was limited.

1,411,000 gallons peak day – also low for a mid-summer daily peak.

Projected annual pumping is approximately 415,000,000 gallons which would be one of the lowest in the last 25 years.

Groundwater:

Normal/high for mid-summer. Surface water, including the lake, is also normal/high.

Nitrates:

No lab test results returned yet for July. Labs are running way behind however.

Revenue:

\$561,360.81 for July which is first month of the new fiscal year – too early to project annual revenue.

Construction/Projects

MWRA connection – pumps installed and undergoing testing, SCADA connection installed and undergoing testing, Piping complete and disinfected. The connection should be complete, tied into the Norwood water supply system and tested by the end of September.

Massapoag Avenue Tank – concrete pedestal is complete, tank floor poured, waiting for curing followed by steel tank erection.

Heights water main completed

RR neighborhood phase 1 paving complete.

RR neighborhood phase 2 and 3 main replacement will be bid early winter for next spring/summer construction.

New Badger Ultrasonic Water Meter installation on hold – inability to guarantee bulk quantity meter delivery. Approximately 400 new meters have been installed by Water Department as part of in-house meter changes.

PFAS:

Temporary resin-filter treatment at Well #4 in operation reports “non detects” in follow up sampling. Additional sampling at other Town wells has been consistent. Well #2 remains off. Well #5 is our only well that is on a quarterly sample schedule as a result of non detects during initial and confirmatory samples

testing. All others are on a monthly sample schedule as a result of detections between 2 and 20 ng/L. Grant applications are in for a variety of programs for funding the permanent filter installation.

8. Next WMAC meeting is September 16th 2021 at 7:30pm via ZOOM conference call.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor, Secretary