

Ashburnham & Winchendon Joint Water Authority

Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2020

Attendees: Brian Dohony – Ashburnham, Steve Nims – Ashburnham, Julie Dean – Ashburnham, Leo Collette – AWJWA, Keith Hickey – Winchendon, Al Gallant - Winchendon, Darlene Domingos – Veolia, Adam Testagrossa – Veolia

Call to Order: 12:00 p.m.

Motion made by Leo Collette to approved October 21, 2020 agenda, 2nd by Keith Hickey, agenda approved.

Adam reviewed the Operations and Maintenance report, noting certifications, safety and training/education. The staff completed 18 years and 2 months without an accident as of October 1, 2020. No regulatory parameters exceeded and DEP, DPH & EPA reporting has been completed on time. Monthly safety meetings covered Heat Stress, Ladder Safety, Electrical Safety (on-line classes) and also participated in International Health and Safety Week. Adam is currently enrolled in a grade 4 license preparation class. DEP required sampling and analysis of total organic carbon on the raw and finished water, perchlorate on the finished water, fluoride and aluminum system grab samples were also taken monthly. Treatment Plant performance is relatively unchanged, slightly higher from previous year (some people may have been home more due to Covid). He noted Upper Naukeag Lake level is down 20.9 inches as of today, but he compared it to October 2016 when it was down 31.3 inches. Adam noted that the contract will expire next year. He said that replacement of the Trident Filters which is part of the capital plan is long overdue and he is working with WesTech Engineering to get a price/proposal which will be discussed at the next meeting.

The contract which expires on 10/31/2021 was discussed. Darlene Domingos stated the contract was extended twice and an RFP will need to be done. Veolia will have RFP examples forwarded to Keith Hickey and he will work on it to have a draft to review at the next meeting.

Motion made by Leo Collette to approve minutes from January 8, 2020, 2nd by Keith Hickey, minutes approved.

Steve Nims said that Ashburnham extended the water conservation per DEP requirements from September 30th to November 1st due to drought conditions. It was noted that the lake level gained almost 3” with the recent rain. Veolia is comfortable with the lake level.

Keith Hickey asked if Ashburnham planned on fall hydrant flushing. Steve Nims said that Ashburnham is not doing this fall due to drought but if there is a critical need, we could address. Al Gallant has a 6" line (50,000 gallons) which should take 20 minutes to flush due to complaints of dirty water. Steve agreed it should be flushed and they plan to do this the 2nd week of November. Winchendon will let the treatment plant know when they flush the line.

Winchendon's allowable withdrawal limit is 660,000 (safe yield limit that DEP allows) and Keith Hickey asked if the max limit could be amended. 1.1 million is the limit per day combined for both Ashburnham and Winchendon. Al Gallant said that DEP wants Winchendon to look for an alternate water source.

Adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by **Julie Dean**