

NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER AND GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Minutes of November 5, 2018 Meeting

The meeting was convened at 10:01am.

Members present included: Sen. President Chuck Morse, Chair; Paul Sanderson; Lisa Morris; Rep. Chris Christensen; Rep. Suzanne Smith; Andrea Kenter; Bernard Rousseau; Former Senator Richard Russman; David Paris; Clark Freise; William Boyd, III; Commissioner Robert Scott; Christopher Way; Rodney Bartlett; Rachel Miller; Tim Vadney

Senator Morse took up the minutes of the August 30th meeting and the October 1st meeting separately. Former Senator Russman moved the August 30th minutes, seconded by Bernie Rousseau, and adopted unanimously. Former Senator Russman moved the October 1st minutes, seconded by Bernie Rousseau, and adopted unanimously. Both sets of minutes were corrected to include Rep. Suzanne Smith as being in attendance at both meetings.

Erin Holmes introduced Jarred Swiontek and Paige Relf who are the latest two to be hired to administer the Trust Fund. With these two hires, the Trust Fund is now fully staffed.

Ms. Holmes provided an administrative update, detailing the outreach she has been doing to different groups around the state. There will be a ribbon cutting for the Pennichuck East Utilities in Litchfield project, which received funding in the 2017 round, with a date and time to be announced in the coming days.

Ms. Holmes brought up Paul Susca from the Department of Environmental Services to discuss the five Exemption Requests that came from awardees of the water supply land grants.

Paul Susca discussed the requests and answered questions from Commission members. Several Commission Members raised concerns with the exemption requests because they would prohibit any use of the properties as future water sources and that would run counter to the purpose of the Trust Fund.

Rodney Bartlett asked if DES could provide a report on each Exemption Request to get a better understanding on what is being asked for by the awardees.

Sen. Morse asked if delaying the vote on these exemptions would stop these projects from going forward, Mr. Susca answered that it probably delay them, but putting it off for a month would not kill any of the five.

Rep. Chris Christensen moved to table the item, seconded by William Boyd, and it was adopted unanimously.

Erin Holmes provided an update on the Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Project. The Intermunicipal Agreement has been rebranded the Joint Public Works Agreement and progress is being made to finish that within the timetable.

Derry has entered the 30% design phase, while Salem and Windham are well on their way through that step of the process.

Erin Holmes presented the Hampstead Area Water Company water tank project for consideration by the Commission. Since the last presentation on the project, the numbers have increased slightly due to the federal tax reform. As part of those reforms, utilities like HAWC will now have to pay a federal tax on the grant portion, increasing the loan request by roughly \$300,000.

Commissioner Scott told the Commission his office has been working with Senator Shaheen's office in Washington on this issue.

William Boyd moved to approve the \$2.15 million for the HAWC water tank, seconded by Former Senator Russman. The motion passed unanimously, with Senate President Chuck Morse abstaining.

Rodney Bartlett presented on the Cold Stone Springs project for Peterborough and Jaffrey. There is a superfund site in Jaffrey caused by NH Ball Bearing that impacted the town's South Well, forcing the town to take it offline for the past 36 years. Millipore, a company in Jaffrey, is looking to add roughly 300 jobs and needs more water to facilitate that expansion. The overall project would develop a new well on the Cold Stone Springs site, and use that as a source to replace the contaminated South Well. The Cold Stone Springs site is not perfect water quality, but tests have shown that filtration would be able to remove impurities down to non-detect levels. The project would include an interconnection between the Jaffrey and Peterborough municipal systems.

The towns are working with the EPA, DES, NH Ball Bearing, and Millipore to finalize all of the details of the project, but the project is expected to cost in excess of \$10 million.

Barbara Miller, Chair of the Select Board in Peterborough, Rep. Franklin Sterling (also chairman of the Board of Selectman in Jaffrey), Jon Frederick, Town Manager of the Town of Jaffrey, David Poggi, Site Head of Operations for Millipore Sigma in Jaffrey, Christopher Rawnsley, Director of Safety, Environment, and Sustainability, all testified in favor of the project.

Bernie Rousseau asked how much the town would be asking the Trust Fund to Fund. Rodney Bartlett replied that the initial ask was \$2.5 million for the cost of acquiring the Cold Stone Springs site. David Paris asked if Millipore and NH Ball Bearing had offered any commitments for contributions for the project. Mr. Bartlett answered that NH Ball Bearing is still in negotiations with DES and EPA over the superfund site and what funds could be made available up from that to be used on this project. Millipore is committed to the project and once the numbers get more firm, they would consider a contribution. Chris Way asked about workforce housing and pressures that this project

will place on housing in the area. Mr. Bartlett answered that the town recently hired a development director and they are working to address the problem.

Erin Holmes discussed that the Rulemaking group will need to reconvene to address issues that arose during the first round of applications. Regular Rulemaking process done by the department is under way and will be finished in June 2019.

Assistant Commissioner Clark Freise from DES discussed the letter from Pennichuck requesting consideration of their Merrimack Intake Project. He went on to detail the nature of the ask as well as the reasons for the project necessary. Rep. Christensen raised concerns about the potential for PFAS contamination in the river from the St. Gobain site upstream. Assistant Commissioner Clark Freise replied that the volume of the river is great enough that while small brooks may show high readings, the river itself only registers in the low single digits.

The next two meetings dates were announced as December 3rd and January 7th, 2019

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

JWE