

DRAFT MINUTES

NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER AND GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Application Review Subcommittee A

Minutes of October 22, 2019 Meeting

In attendance: Sen. Chuck Morse, Jason Gagnon, Clark Freise, Rachel Miller, Paul Sanderson, DES and Senate Staff

The meeting was convened at 1:00pm.

Jason Gagnon was elected chair by the subcommittee.

Lee Oak and Evergreen Terrance projects were declined funding. Lee Oak project had not applied to either CDGB or the USDA Rural Development program. Evergreen Terrace project was not ready for funding based on their application.

Eidelweiss - DES provided an overview of the project. Subcommittee had concerns over the incomplete information provided in the application. Consensus that the project was minimally qualified and recommend a ranking of "maybe" to the project.

Farmington - No contamination being addressed by the project and it was geared more towards maintaining fire flows. Jason Gagnon was familiar with the project and told the subcommittee that this project was the first in a series designed to support economic development. Concerns were raised about the lack of letters of support. There is the potential for a great project, but it needs work. Subcommittee voted to not recommend the project for funding.

Goffstown- Cost overruns from previously funding Trust Fund project. Subcommittee voted to not recommend the project for funding.

Hooksett- No contamination issues, low affordability index, high median income. No use of USDA or CDBG for funding sources. Large amount of economic development potential with the TIF district near Exit 11 of I-93 that this project would serve. Members expressed support if it was a loan request rather than a grant request. With a grant, the Trust Fund absorbs all the risk while the town stands to benefit financially from the

increased property tax base. Subcommittee gave the project a ranking of “maybe”, but below Eidelweiss.

Lower Bartlett- Some contamination, but it is from a transient water system, so the standards do not apply to them. Not USDA eligible and the town uses CDBG for other projects. No commitments from developers were mentioned in the project, with 100% of the cost of the project coming from the Trust Fund. Potential for a great project, but more work needs to be done to get it to that point. Comparisons were made to the Southern New Hampshire project, which has taken nearly 3 years working with the towns on the legalities and details. DES expressed concerns with Lower Bartlett due to a past project where waterlines were put in to connect a community water system, but there was no agreement on water rates beforehand. The small water system ended up not agreeing with the rate, so the pipe has gone unused. Local buy in is critical to getting a project like this completed. Subcommittee voted to recommend the project be referred to a special committee.

Newmarket: Large project to interconnect a community water system with the larger Newmarket system and treat a well to bring it back online. Project had been funded by the Trust Fund last year, but construction costs have increased and the MCL for arsenic has dropped. More information was needed from DES and potentially special project status.

North Country: Not a lot of thought given to the application. They have not applied to CDBG, but could get the funding from them to finish the project. Subcommittee voted to not recommend the project for funding.

Portsmouth/Dover Interconnection: Missing data relative to the rates, no outside funding, concerns over the project not being fully developed. Subcommittee voted to not recommend the project for funding.

Sanbornville: Very high water rates, under a boil order in the past and had received emergency funding from the Trust Fund earlier this year. Will likely be back to the Trust Fund in the future. Subcommittee voted to recommend the project for funding.

The meeting adjourned at 2:46 pm

JWE