

**NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER AND GROUNDWATER
ADVISORY COMMISSION
Infrastructure Subcommittee**

Minutes of October 23, 2020 Meeting

Note: This meeting was conducted remotely

The meeting was convened at 9:00am.

Members present included: Rodney Bartlett, Andrea Kenter; Bernard Rousseau; Former Senator Richard Russman; Jason Gagnon; Marco Philippon; Chris Way; and Clark Freise

Meeting opened with RSA 91-a compliance notice and a roll call vote. Bernie Rousseau moved Marco Philippon as chair, seconded by Rodney Bartlett. Roll call vote was taken and the vote was unanimous in approval.

The subcommittee began to review each project in turn, with background and input provided by Department of Environmental Services staff.

Abenaki: Concerns were raised over the true income of the community in question since it is largely retirees. The system is in a very poor state of repair. Interconnection with the public system in Bow is not viable currently due to the distance from the system. Questions were raised if it would just be more cost effective to drill individual wells and let the system disband rather than try to bring it up to code. The system has been struggling for some time now and regularly relies on bulk water deliveries.

Antrim: Project has made significant advances since the last application to the Trust Fund. A lot of effort was shown in trying to get outside funding for the project. The applicant justified the grant request ask. The application is through and the project ready to go.

Bartlett Village: Unimpressive application and not thorough. Very short answers and no letters of support. No effort to look for outside sources of funding and the precinct has not contributed any of its own funds to the project.

Canaan: No contamination issues but did have some skin in the game. No letters of support. Some questions about whether they did or did not exhaust all outside funding sources.

Charlestown: Arsenic contamination is an issue and application is for funding to connect two separate systems in town together. No skin in the game. Application was

confusing, but in concept liked the project. Applied for SRF and RD funding. Department states that the RD application was turned down because they did not view interconnection as the most cost-effective solution.

Claremont: Issue is lead. Lead levels have dropped off as the system is replacing system components with lead present. They have a \$20m SRF loan and the grant would be to reduce the loan taken. Very high-water rates for the community to afford even prior to the loan. Concerns that the round figure requested means they have not fully costed out the project, but not enough of a concern to vote 'no'. Concerns raised they were not going after the worst of the lead contamination with this project. Claremont has been hampered by poor record keeping in the past and have a plan to tackle the issue. The more work that is being done, the more lead is being discovered. Potential for applicant to clarify their project and come back as a special project.

Crople Crown: Multiple issues with the application: no outside funding, no skin in the game, no buy in from the town.

Emerald Lake Village: Well done application, system has a loan already and would use grant to buy down loan to lessen impact on water rates. Exhausted outside sources. No contamination issues, but the size of the system leaks are a potential source of contamination. System has a new manager and an aggressive asset management program.

Evergreen Terrace: Thorough application. Affordability index likely higher since it is a manufactured housing park. Questions about the low ledge estimate used in their cost estimates. No skin in the game, and project relies almost entirely on the Trust Fund for funding, but they have exhausted all outside sources of funding.

Farmington: Project has merit and great economic development potential, but the application needs work. No outside funding and minimal loan requested despite very affordable water rates. No evidence of trying to leverage outside funding.

Franconia: High water rates and letters of support, but no outside funding and no stakeholder participation in the project.

Hopkinton: Project already underway but needs funding to finish. Have not exhausted outside sources of funding but using their own funds for the project. Thorough application.

Northumberland: All grant request and use of round numbers raised concerns. Seems very early in the process to be making a funding request, but there is good economic development potential.

Pillsbury Lake: Loss of 40% of customers from the system due to homeowners drilling their own wells. #1 on the SRF funded list and extremely high water rates. Concerns raised about spending roughly \$10k per home may not be a sound investment. Additional system upgrades required beyond this project. Likely the remaining customers cannot afford to or are unable to drill their own wells. Grant ask justified. Potential special project to fix systemic issues with the system.

Pineland Park: Substantial system leaks. 100% Trust Fund ask and have not exhausted outside sources of funding. Project is ready.

Rock Rimmon: Contamination due to dug wells. Low income community and have exhausted all other funding sources. Grant would be used to reduce the SRF loan needed and impact on water rates.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.

JWE

DRAFT