

## Mountain Lakes District Special Water Committee Meeting of 11/16/12

Status: Draft as of 11/16/12 - Reviewed as of 11/20/12 - Approved as of 12/6/12

Purpose of Meeting: This was a special Water Committee Meeting. The meeting was held at the District Office from 7:30 AM to 8:45 AM on November 16, 2012.

Attendees: Ed Rajsteter – Chair, Don Drew-Water Department, Bob Long – Commissioner, Peter Olander, Joe McQueeney, Robert Roudebush, Ken King

Guest via phone: Shadi Eskaf from the Environmental Finance Center at UNC Chapel Hill.

### Background:

At a meeting with Adam Torrey and Cynthia Klevens from the NH DES on November 6<sup>th</sup>, they had told us about a new program funded by the EPA to enable the Environmental Finance Center Network to work with water utilities in the areas of fiscal planning and rate setting. The program is described on the EFCN web site (EFCNetwork.org). Adam had talked to the EFCN operation at UNC Chapel Hill and wanted us to follow up with them. Ed had talked to Shadi Eskaf and Bob had sent him the spreadsheet describing the current proposal by Woodsville Water & Light (WWL) and a copy of our current Bulk Water Agreement. The purpose of the meeting today was to continue the interaction with Shadi.

### Environmental Finance Center Network:

Ed started by reviewing the interaction between us and WWL and the current status including our work with NH DES as well as our use of Dubois & King (D&K) as our engineering consultant.

Shadi then led the discussion of the areas they could work with us in. They could help us look at alternative water sources and assist with the cost analysis of such sources. We talked about our work with D&K and concluded that we should use both D&K and the Environmental Finance Center Network (EFCN). Shadi said they can help us mediate and redraft our bulk water agreement. He directed us to some information on the EFCN website on issues in drafting Bulk Water Agreements. They can also help us in determining the actual water costs. They can also help us understand options for long term financing. Shadi cautioned that they can probably not work with us in all areas so we needed to set some priorities.

It will take some time to develop the estimated costs for other water supply options. We agreed that a good issue to start with is to draft a revised Bulk Water Agreement and present that to WWL. EFCN will help us do that. The actual cost of the water will vary over the years but we need a Bulk Water Agreement that we know we can live with for

the next 20 years or so. We will notify WWL and NH DES that we will be working with EFCN on this issue.

We will also send an email to Shadi that we are requesting the help of EFCN in this area. This email will also be copied to NH DES, WWL, and D&K. Ed will draft this email.

To tackle the longer term areas, we will set up a meeting with us, D&K, and EFCN via phone to discuss the costing of alternative water sources. Shadi and Bob will have a phone call to discuss the actual water costs part of the agreement.

Shadi hung up and we continued .

#### Long Range Water Plan:

We need to develop a long range plan for both drinking water as well as the maintenance of the lakes. For drinking water, we need to develop cost estimates for the different sources so we can compare those to the WWL alternative. For the lakes, we know that the lower lake outlet must be repaired/replaced within the next five years. Doing that will involve lowering the lake again and at that time we will schedule an inspection of the upper lake outlet. However, we expect that the upper lake outlet will need to be repaired/replaced within the next ten years. Once we have all of the cost information, we have to develop a funding plan. These are major expenses and will require funding over a 20 year period. We want to be able to present such a plan to the residents by the early spring.

#### Assignments:

1. Meeting minutes (this document) – Ken
2. Review draft meeting minutes – Don, Ed, Bob, Peter, Joe, Robert
3. Draft the email to Shadi to request the help of the EFCN – Ed
4. Talk to Shadi about our cost analysis of the WWL proposal – Bob
5. Circulate the EFCN slide show on Water Agreements – Ken
6. Plan the next meeting with us, EFCN, and D&K – Don
7. Prepare an outline of the Long Range Water Plan – Ken