

Mountain Lakes District Water Committee Report for March 2013

This report covers the meetings of 3/7/13 and 3/27/13

Mountain Lakes District Water Committee Meeting of 3/7/13

Status: Draft as of 3/26/13 – Reviewed as of 3/27/13 – Approved as of 3/27/13

This was the March 2013 Water Committee Meeting. It was held from 7:30 to 8:45 on 3/7/13.

Attendees: Ed Rajsteter – Chair, Don Drew – Water Department, Bob Long – Commissioner, Peter Olander, Robert Roudebush, Ken King, Tony Salvucci – on phone.

Joe Mcqueeney stopped by at the start of the meeting to inform us that due to several other commitments, he was not able to continue as a member of the Water Committee. He will still help us out in interfacing to area Fire Departments for the dry hydrant projects.

Don reported that the water system is running normally with a daily volume of about 25,000 gallons per day. He said that he would submit the permit for the lower dam dry hydrant and obtain the materials for both new dry hydrants following the approval of the Article to fund them at the Annual Meeting.

We discussed the recent letter from Woodsville Water & Light (WWL). They will be increasing their current water rate to \$5.05/1000 gallons. Our new WWL rate is \$5.51 plus the monthly standby fee. We discussed different ways of dealing with WWL including mediation, use of the state and EFC to help us, or simply not paying our increased bills. We decided to pay the bills and use the state and EFC resources for any help they can provide. Ed will call Adam Torey (state DES) and Shadi Eskaf (North Carolina EFC) and update them.

The next topic was the revised quotation from Dubois&King (D&K) of \$13,000 to develop the proposals to pursue two other sources of water – a refurbished infiltration well or a surface water system. These proposals will give us estimates of the cost for both alternatives and allow us to compare that against the expected higher higher cost of staying with WWL. Ed said that the \$13,000 would be approved at the March 11th Commissioner's Meeting.

Ed called Adam Torey who called back a few minutes later. Adam agreed that it did not look like mediation would work. He will talk directly to WWL. Ed sent Shadi an email to update him.

Mountain Lakes District Water Committee Meeting of 3/27/13

Status: Draft as of 4/1/13 – Reviewed as of 4/4/13 – Approved as of 4/4/13

This was a special Water Committee Meeting. It was held from 7:30 to 8:15 on 3/27/13.

Attendees: Ed Rajsteter – Chair, Don Drew – Water Department, Bob Long – Commissioner, Peter Olander, Robert Roudebush, Ken King, Tony Salvucci – on phone.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the March 12, 2013 letter from Dubois&King on Lower Mountain Lake Dam Repair Concepts. This report presented three options for the repair of the outlet system for the lower dam. In the May 2011 Letter of Deficiency, the New Hampshire Department Of Environmental Safety (NH DES) noted that the outlet riser and discharge pipe have deteriorated significantly. The dam was constructed in the late 1960's and the materials used (metal pipes) have exceeded their design life. The lower dam is considered a High Hazard dam as catastrophic failure would produce high water levels on the outlet rivers and possible loss of life. So it is important that the district address this issue.

The letter from D&K included three options:

- Option A installed a new trash rack, replaced only the corroded part of the riser, and slip-lined a 48" plastic outlet pipe into the existing 60" metal pipe. The cost was \$40,000 to \$50,000.
- Option B was the same as A but it replaced the entire riser with a new precast concrete unit at a cost of \$55,000 to \$70,000.
- Option C would excavate the dam and replace the entire outlet system along with the new concrete riser. The cost would be \$100,000 to \$120,000. This option will have a much longer design life than the original system because of the use of concrete versus metal.

Much of our discussion centered on the information that we did not have. We need to understand the estimated lifetimes of the three options and also an estimate of the engineering design costs of the three options which was not included in the cost figures provided.

For Option C we need to understand how that would impact the hydraulics of the dam, what happens to the weep holes and the level of the water in the lagoon all of which could have an impact on our plan to restore the infiltration well.

We also need to be sure that the state DES agrees with all of these options.

The consensus seemed to be that Option C was probably best if it really solves the problem for an extended period of time but we need more details.

We need to again lower the level of the lower lake in order to do any of the options. We had planned to examine the causeway riser system and discharge pipe at that time. That is also a metal pipe system and will need to be replaced at some time. There was a discussion of having both lakes be the same level and just use a concrete flow through. This could have an impact on the lower lake system so this seemed to be a good time to consider this.

The conclusion was to have a conference call with Shawn Patenaude of D&K in order to get more information on all three options. Don will send Shawn a list of all of our questions so he will be ready for the conference call. This will be done for the April 4th meeting.