

MOUNTAIN LAKES DISTRICT WATER COMMITTEE MEETING
at the District Office and via Zoom Video Conferencing
December 2, 2021
***UNAPPROVED**

Call to Order: Chair Patricia Brady called the meeting to order at 8:04 am.

Roll Call: Patricia Brady, Mark Johanson, Ed Rajsteter, Robert Roudebush, Ken King and Bob Long were present at the District Office.

Public Present In-Person: None **Via Zoom:** None

Minutes Approval:

- **Oct. 7, 2021:** Robert Roudebush moved to approve; Mark Johanson seconded and motion passed.

Water System Update: Bob Long reported average usage for November was 28,080 gallons per day and includes higher usage over the Thanksgiving holiday and water loss during the double-water break on Nov. 15. The SCADA system didn't update with the new area-code-required protocol so the alarm was not sent out when the chambers were low, but that has been remedied and tested. The Committee discussed the need to use the emergency pager number for emergencies only as responding to calls pulls contractor Chris Dellinger away from other work and agreed to work on getting the appropriate message out to the residents. Bob Long reported Harold Clough signed an agreement to become a MLD part-time employee as a Per Diem Water Operator Consultant to help with water testing, service connections, and incidents during the time MLD is without a water manager/operator.

2022 Budget: Bob Long said discrepancies between usage reported from the chambers and usage at the pump house have been noticed. He would like to ask Ron Gehl of EOS Research (SCADA system designer) and a representative from the meter manufacturer to advise on getting more accurate readings and replacing meters if needed. He estimated the cost of the project to be about \$7,500. Kristi Garofalo said proposed budget numbers are being calculated for the Dec. 15 budget meeting and it may be possible to find funding for the project. The Committee agreed accurate numbers are necessary and will discuss the project further at the January meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Search Process:** Bob Long and Kristi Garofalo reported ads have been placed in four area newspapers but no responses to those ads have been received yet. Three other applications were received previously, but a larger pool of applicants is desired. While waiting for responses to the newspaper ads, ***Kristi Garofalo will send a note to the three applicants to let them know the search is still in process.***

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Ad for New Committee Members:** The Committee reviewed a draft recruitment message from Patricia Brady. All agreed it was very good, but a shorter version might be helpful. ***Robert Roudebush will revise the draft for the Committee's review at the next meeting.***
- **Reschedule Discussion with Jim Vernon and Chris Albert:** Patricia Brady noted Jim Vernon (Nobis Engineering) and Chris Albert (small water systems consultant/designer) originally planned to be at the

meeting to report on the source search process to date and give information on the next steps, but suggested waiting until a new water manager is hired. The Committee agreed the project was on hold for now and will invite Jim Vernon and Chris Albert to attend a meeting when the position is filled.

- **Project Funding:** Patricia Beady asked whether a representative from North Country Investment Council would attend a future meeting to talk about funding opportunities. Kristi Garofalo said they would like to know what specific projects MLD plans in order to tailor the funding information to those projects. The Committee agreed to contact NCIC once possible projects are decided and MLD is ready to move forward. Kristi Garofalo noted NH DES has new funding opportunities, including asset management plan grants and water audit grants, both projects which could be educational for the Committee and the new water manager. She said Scott Clang of Granite State Rural Water offered to help with the water audit as well. The Committee agreed ***Kristi Garofalo will research the NH DES opportunities further and forward the grant information to the Committee members for review.*** The Committee also agreed discussion of the asset management plan and water audit projects will be put on the January meeting agenda.
- **Woodsville Water & Light Contract:** Ed Rajsteter said he was made aware that WW&L might be open to renegotiating MLD's contract. The Committee agreed to pursue the possibility and ***Bob Long will put together information for WW&L to consider.***
- **Causeway Slope Project:** Bob Long noted the state required project to add rip-rap to the sides of the Upper Lake Dam and causeway for erosion prevention would require about 25 loads of Grade 2 rip-rap and he estimates the overall cost for the project at around \$10,000. The current balance in the Future Dam Projects Capital Reserve Fund could cover that amount so the project could be done in 2022. After discussion, the Committee agreed to move forward on doing the project in 2022.

Adjournment: Ed Rajsteter moved to adjourn; Mark Johanson seconded, and motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 am.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, January 6 at 8:00am.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kristi Garofalo