

**MOUNTAIN LAKES DISTRICT WATER COMMITTEE MEETING at
the District Office and via Zoom Video Conferencing
September 1, 2022
*UNAPPROVED***

Call to Order: Chair Ed Rajsteter called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

Roll Call:

Committee: Ed Rajsteter, Commissioner Ex-Officio Mark Johanson, Patricia Brady, Robert Roudebush, Ken King, and Facility & Water Manager John Mitchell.

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

Minutes Approval:

- **Aug. 4, 2022:** Motion made by Patricia Brady to approve, Robert Roudebush seconded and the motion passed.

Guest: Mike Welch, Senior Project Manager, North Country Investment Council

Mike Welch introduced himself to the Committee members and shared information about how NCIC could help with grant writing, grant management, and borrowing for water projects. He explained the cost for their services was based on an hourly rate which is \$125 now, but will increase to \$135 an hour on Jan. 1, 2023. Mike Welch shared information he gathered from USDA Rural Development and Northern Border Regional Commission, both of whom he contacted on behalf of MLD. The state grant programs open in mid-September with a due date in December. He said they are very competitive and MLD should “get in the pipeline” because even if funding isn’t awarded right away, it would be awarded eventually. He said NCIC was willing to help with the process or they could do it all, whichever MLS preferred. He advised checking on the District’s SAM registration – ***Kristi Garofalo will look into the SAM registration and renew it or re-apply as needed or arrange to use Haverhill’s if possible*** – and arranging a meeting with USDA to explore their funding options. He recommended that the first project should be an asset management plan. In discussion, Mike Welch noted NCIC fees would be paid from municipal funds, not grant funds, and suggested working with engineering firms who could help with funding and their input may help grant scoring as well. The Committee thanked him for his time and agreed they would discuss their plans and options before getting back with him.

Water System Update:

John Mitchell reported they are finishing the new meter installation. One meter needs more lighting so they are getting a quote to add outlets. He said usage has ranged from 20,000s to 40,000s gallons per day which is good considering the hot weather and number of visitors. He is working on the hatch closing system for the chambers and plans to have it done next week. He will also be doing quarterly testing on the infiltration well next week. Bob Long noted the Woodsville Water & Light connection has been fully open for the last month and a half due to the drought, but so far, there has been room in the budget for the additional WW&L usage cost.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Mark Johanson said the Voluntary Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) annual testing took place on Aug. 2 and results received recently show the Lakes are in very good shape with good chlorophyll levels, good to excellent visibility, and very healthy acid and PH levels. The Committee agreed ***Kristi Garofalo will put a note in the DMAIL with the results.***

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Drought Restrictions:** Patricia Brady brought up the possibility of MLD imposing restrictions during droughts and noted the water tariff gives MLD the authority but there are questions about how to set and enforce such restrictions. The Committee agreed to research the questions over the winter and look at creating a drought response/water use restriction policy.
- **Water Tariff Education:** Kristi Garofalo said most residents are at least aware of the MLD zoning ordinance and master plan, but few know about the MLD water tariff. After discussion, the Committee agreed it would be helpful to begin efforts to raise awareness of the water tariff and its provisions in billing, payments, usage, etc. ***Kristi Garofalo will start putting water tariff info in the DMAIL.***
- **Beach E Coli Testing:** John Mitchell said he used newly-acquired self-test cards for E Coli testing at the beaches and explained the process, noting an incubator was needed and results could take up to 48 hours which would then have to be confirmed by professional testing. He said he also sent samples for professional lab testing and the results came back way under the state limit. He recommended two tests per month through the lab plus increasing goose watch and discouragement efforts for the 2023 season. The Committee agreed the Commissioners should set the procedure for beach E Coli testing and ***Kristi Garofalo will put testing on their September meeting agenda.***
- **Recap of NCIC Presentation:** The Committee briefly discussed their response to the NCIC presentation and the next steps to be taken. Bob Long noted funding possibilities required MLD investment as well, including matching funds and some programs that require paying for projects and then being reimbursed. He suggested raising the annual water fee and depositing the additional portion into capital reserve funds each year to build resources that can be used with outside funding. The Committee also discussed engineering firms and how their input could help with seeking grants. The Committee discussed the two engineering companies MLD has worked with on other projects and agreed to explore possibilities with an additional engineering firm; ***Bob Long will contact HEB Engineering to get information on their services.***
- **Home Meters:** John Mitchell said he found a list of the meters installed in MLD homes and it includes two that have question marks about whether they were actually installed. ***Robert Roudebush will check one location and John Mitchell will contact Don Drew to get an accurate list of meters installed.*** The Committee agreed to discuss at their next meeting how and when to gather starting numbers from the meters and how the meters will be monitored.

Adjournment: Robert Roudebush moved to adjourn; Mark Johanson seconded and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:16AM

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, Oct. 6 at 8:00AM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kristi Garofalo