

MOUNTAIN LAKES DISTRICT WATER COMMITTEE MEETING
at the District Office and via Zoom Video Conferencing
October 6, 2022
UNAPPROVED

Call to Order: Chair Ed Rajsteter called the meeting to order at 8:01 am.

Roll Call:

Committee: Ed Rajsteter, Commissioner Ex-Officio Mark Johanson, Robert Roudebush, Tom Eighmy, and Facility & Water Manager John Mitchell. Patricia Brady was present via Zoom.

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

Minutes Approval:

- **Aug. 4, 2022:** Robert Roudebush moved to approve; Mark Johanson seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ed Rajsteter-Aye; Mark Johanson-Aye; Robert Roudebush-Aye; Tom Eighmy-Aye; Patricia Brady-Aye; John Mitchell-Aye. Motion passed.

Water System Update:

John Mitchell reported usage hit a high of 37,000 gallons per day and a low of 18,905 gpd in the last month. Meters are doing well. There was a recent blip in service with SCADA; a new surge protector was installed and the system is working well now. Bob Long noted the average daily usage was 21,000 gpd for September. John Mitchell said he will be working on the required lead/copper testing that needs to be done by December. This testing is done every three years; 10 out of 28 DES-approved locations will be tested and John Mitchell is making arrangements with the homeowners for the testing. Bob Long said he is working with Spectrum on running new service to the pump house instead of using Consolidated. Spectrum offered a three-year contract at \$305 per month for the new service. John Mitchell said he is working with Profile Technologies to explore line-of-sight options to reduce costs and is waiting to hear back from them.

DISCUSSION: Presentation by Mike Welch, Senior Project Manager, North Country Investment Council

The Committee discussed the NCIC presentation at the September meeting. Kristi Garofalo said she is working on getting the Sam registration number. Bob Long said HEB Engineering is not returning his calls. The Committee discussed finding an engineering firm with staff to help with grant funding. Kristi Garofalo suggested the NHMA annual conference might be a good place to get information as they have a trade show with several engineering exhibitors. The Committee agreed ***Kristi Garofalo will send information on the NHMA conference to Committee members*** and she and John Mitchell will register for the conference. ***Kristi Garofalo will also send information about the NHDES grant with a Dec. 9 deadline to Bob Long and information about the Asset Management Workshop on Nov. 3 to John Mitchell and Bob Long.***

OLD BUSINESS:

- **WOODSVILLE WATER & LIGHT RATES:** Bob Long shared a letter received from Woodsville Water & Light stating their commissioners reviewed the MLD request to reduce the monthly base charge of

\$1,950 so that it is more in line with other 2" commercial connections, but decided to keep it at \$1,950 and reduce the usage fees from \$7.96 per 1,000 gallons to \$7.83 per 1,000. Bob Long shared his response letter with the Committee and ***Kristi Garofalo will mail the signed original letter to Woodsville Water & Light.***

NEW BUSINESS:

- **SETTING WATER RATES WORKSHOP RECAP:** Kristi Garofalo shared highlights from her recent class "Setting the Right Rates for Your Water Utility". The class also covered formulas for financial benchmarking of water systems and Kristi Garofalo shared the results of those formulas using MLD's audit information over the recommended span of the last five years. The Committee reviewed the results and agreed water rates will need to increase to update the system physically and strengthen it financially.
- **BEDROCK WELL FRACKING POSSIBILITY:** Bob Long said Jim Vernon of Nobis Engineering contacted him about looking into "fracking" around the existing bedrock well. It produced about 3.5 to 4 gallons per minute and fracking could possibly double that volume. Ed Rajsteter said he thought there was a second well in that area about 50 feet apart; ***John Mitchell will try to find the second well*** and the Committee agreed ***Bob Long will give the go-ahead to Jim Vernon to explore the fracking possibility.***
- **NH LAKE ASSOCIATION INFORMATION:** Tom Eighmy shared information from the NH Lake Association urging homeowners to leave vegetation on the shorelines. They also recommended homeowners not throw leaves into the lake because of pollution concerns, but instead to "leave leaves" where they fall to allow the nutrients to feed the soil.
- **OTHER:** Bob Long reported a septic system failure at a home off of French Pond Road, noting the Town of Haverhill and the state are involved. He said the MLD zoning ordinance allows MLD to require proof of septic cleaning every four years in Section 505.

Next Meeting Date: The Committee's normal meeting date would be Thursday, Nov. 3 and John Mitchell and Kristi Garofalo will be at the Asset Management Workshop that day. After discussion, the Committee agreed to set their next meeting date as FRIDAY, Nov. 4 at 8:00AM.

Adjournment: Ed Rajsteter moved to adjourn; Mark Johanson seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ed Rajsteter-Aye; Mark Johanson-Aye; Robert Roudebush-Aye; Tom Eighmy-Aye; Patricia Brady-Aye; John Mitchell-Aye. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:22AM

Respectfully submitted by,
Kristi Garofalo