

ORLEANS, BREWSTER, EASTHAM GROUNDWATER PROTECTION DISTRICT

BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING

SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

Board of Managers Present: Charles Sumner, Brewster; Martin McDonald, Eastham.

Others Present: Jay Burgess, Chief Operator; Cyndi Bachman, District Secretary; Beverly Carney, Orleans resident.

1. Meeting called to order at 9:01 a.m..
2. **A motion was made by Martin McDonald to approve the Board of Managers Minutes dated August 8, 2012. This motion was seconded by Charles Sumner and unanimously approved and passed.**
3. **Citizen's Forum:**
 - Beverly Carney, Orleans resident, asked the Board if she could make photocopies of the District's Warrants and financial statements.
 - Charles Sumner stated the documents are public information and she is welcome to have copies.
4. **Chief Operator Updates – Jay Burgess:**
 - **Process** – We had the lowest nitrate number which was 170 mgs. of nitrate and discharged 19 mgs. of nitrogen. When you put one mg. in you have to put one mg. out if you don't treat it. This an indication that we do have some denitrification going on somewhere and hopefully it is in the system. All other DEP required testing is well within permit.
 - **Budget** – We based the FY12 budget on 9.5 million gallons and received 9.7 million gallons, which came in at the average rate of 9.8 cents a gallon. This equates to \$952, 972. It costs \$924,000 to run the plant, which equals 9.5 cents a gallon, so we made 3/10 of a cent per gallon on the discharge. This brought us \$28,560.00 in the black for the year. We budgeted \$979,000 and we actually only spent \$924,000, so we came in \$55,000 under our cost estimates for the year.
 - John Kelly asked me to put together for the Board's review, a list of pressing projects that need to be completed. I based this list on my assumption that the plant has roughly a two year life expectancy, and on what John Kelly has said that in May 2013 the Orleans Board of Selectmen will make a decision to renew the IMA or it will terminate in May of 2015. A copy of that list is attached as part of today's Board of

the next few months and years. Wright-Pierce Engineers did an evaluation of this plant in 2005 which identifies more items if this plant is to continue to run long term.

- Jay stated if the Intermunicipal Agreement is extended another ten years, we would need some serious financial assistance. Assuming the plant has two years and nine months left, that is what I based the capital on as well as looking for another job. It also affects purchasing, i.e., do we really need this piece of equipment, etc..
- Charles Sumner stated Paul Lothrop, Eastham hauler, talked to him and was concerned on not having an accurate scale. I explained the realities of making a major investment due to the uncertainty of the plant. There is no way the District could fund it, which means the local communities would have to fund it and I just don't see that happening. He was fine after I explained it to him.
- Jay stated he did some investigating on portable scales. I don't see it as a reality for this plant. One of the reasons is they weigh between 60-70 pounds a piece. If you have ten trucks coming in an hour, and every truck is a different size, we would have to adjust the scales every time a truck came in and it is just not feasible. They cost about \$10,000 per axle so we would end up spending about \$30,000. All the companies I saw did not warrant the scales once they left the factory. We would also have to get them calibrated, so I don't see it as a viable option right now. Both Barnstable and Chatham plants do not have scales and use the estimate process. I know there is a lot of talk about the new Chatham plant, but if you talk to any of the haulers to see what they think about discharging at the Chatham plant, they prefer to come here. At the Chatham plant there is only one discharge point which is outside. The haulers have to drag a hose to their truck and it is not convenient for them. Chatham's rate is not any better than ours. A lot of the haulers think the Tri-Town Plant is on the town's tax base and ask why aren't we spending money to upgrade our equipment. I tried explaining to them we have no infusion of funds other than operating revenues from the haulers.
- Charles Sumner stated after this winter, Brewster will have a sense of what its needs are, so that being said, is Eastham and Brewster going to be able to construct a brand new plant here.
- Martin McDonald stated looking at Jay's list, there is close to \$75,000 worth of repairs needed on equipment.
- Jay stated there is one repair that will happen right away. We are on the fifth year of our carbon and we have been doing the best we can to keep

the carbon fresh. It is already below what the specs say it should be. It is still absorbing odors and we have not received any complaints. The carbon is only suppose to last five years which will be this spring. The replacement cost five years ago was \$75,000. We also have two RBC's that have been spinning for almost twenty-five years on a twenty year life expectancy.

- Martin McDonald stated if you have \$75,000 worth of expenses and let's say there is not enough money in the bank to pay for this, you will have to go back to the towns for an infusion of funds, and the towns could refuse to fund it.
- Jay stated the towns have refused to fund the plant in the past, but we have not asked for monies since the 90's. I don't think funding the plant would be favorable from all three towns due to one side wanting to move forward and the other side not wanting to do anything and continue with more studies. Hopefully, in the meantime, we can maintain the plant. The District's bank balances are higher than they have been in ten years, reaching the \$200,000 mark.
- Jay stated there are signs in downtown Orleans with information about Orleans Water Week. One of the events listed is a tour of this plant that is scheduled for Sunday, September 23rd. We have a two hour time slot for tours. The Orleans Pond Coalition called me and asked if they could meet with me to learn more about the plant because they are active in the wastewater planning in town. I have no problem meeting with them as long as this Board doesn't mind.
- Charles Sumner stated there's no problem with the Orleans Pond Coalition meeting with Jay.

5. The Board reviewed the District's bank balances.

- Martin McDonald asked if the plant has had a free energy audit done by the Cape Light Compact?
- Jay stated we did have the audit and we do get their rate. However, the modifications that they could do to further make the plant energy efficient have a ten to fifteen year pay back. Also, when we have to replace a motor we purchase energy saver equipment.

6. A motion was made by Martin McDonald to approve Treasury Warrant No. 3 for payment. This motion was seconded by Charles Sumner and unanimously approved and passed.

7. Old Business:

- Charles Sumner asked if there is an update on the U.S.G.S. Report.
- Jay stated they said they were going to have it ready sometime in September or October. I have not talked to Peter Weiskel of U.S.G.S. since our last Board of Managers Meeting. I will give him a call after this meeting to see what their schedule is.
- Charles Sumner stated he recalls that John Kelly would set up a meeting at Orleans Town Hall when the report was ready. He stated back in the late 1980's, the Brewster Conservation Commission tried to extend their jurisdiction into the marsh due to the flow going in the marsh that included Brewster. There is an agreement back then between the plant and the Conservation Commission not spend a lot of money on that jurisdiction issue and that the District would provide testing data. My Conservation Commission has asked me recently to have town counsel look at that issue again to see if they have legal jurisdiction over outflow from the plant. They would like to know the answer to that question in light of a new plant which will produce more groundwater flow.
- Martin McDonald stated if something comes up regarding U.S.G.S. before our next Board meeting to inform the Board members.

8. A motion was made by Martin McDonald to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 a.m.. This motion was seconded by Charles Sumner and unanimously approved and passed.

Respectfully submitted,



Cyndi Bachman
District Secretary

TRITOWN FALL WINTER PROJECTS 2012

Projects that must be completed for the continued operation at Tri-town. This is a list of projects that need to be completed in order to continue to run over the very short term. They are in the order of; must be done to avoid shut down, to must be done to avoid problem operations, i.e. odor problems, permit issues, to last but not least make it bearable to work here. This is a partial list of the needs of the facility over the short term. For a complete list of the long term needs of Tri-Town see the Wright-Pierce "Tri-Town Septage Treatment Facility Evaluation" August 2005.

Septage Tank Cleaning. Over time the Septage receiving tanks become heavy with solids that are not able to be removed during the course of normal day to day operations. These solids if not removed periodically, about every 2 years, can build up to the point that they cover the discharge piping effectively shutting us down. Cleaning the tanks of these solids is no easy task. We have to hire specialized vacuor trucks, and personal that are able to work in hazardous confined space. Estimated cost is 7-15,000 dollars

Odor Control Fume Exusters. These units draw the fumes and gases from the process tanks and process areas keeping them out of the office area, and sensitive electrical equipment, computers, and circuit boards, so they may pass through a wet scrubber or mist of hypochlorite (industrial strength bleach) and then pass through a carbon absorption vessel which removes hydrogen sulfides (rotten egg smell) before being released in the atmosphere. Cost 15,000 dollars for 2 units.

The carbon in the odor control units should be changed out next spring it is on the fifth year of a five year life expectancy. I don't have up to date prices on this task at this time.

Septage Pump Replacement. These are the pumps that move the Septage from where the trucks drop it to processing. These pumps have been working for 24 years and have been maintained and rebuilt but they are tired and need to be

replaced. Cost 13,000 each we can probably get by with one, if the plant is to close in the next couple years.

Receiving Scale, the receiving scales at the facility have corroded beyond repair and need replacement. As there is no interest by the District to purchase new scales as a capital improvement , but a desire to continue operations we have no choice but to remove the scales and fill with concrete. Estimated cost is 7000 dollars to fill with concrete. Replacement is over 100k for both scales.

Air Conditioning Unit. The air condensing unit that runs the air conditioning unit at the plant has failed and needs to be refurbished or replaced. This unit not only cools the office space making it comfortable to work but also the PLC's (programmable logic controllers) and the SCADA (System Control and Data Acquisition) computers that control the equipment. Replacement is about 25,000 rebuilding the unit is about 14,000.

We have put in place window units to cool the office space and receiving area. The computer and PLC control room are not able to be cooled by these units. We will have to take a wait and see approach as the hottest days of the year have gone by.