

Wantastiquet Subcommittee
of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions
Wednesday, September 18, 2019
Maplewood Nursing Home, Westmoreland, NH
Minutes

Attendees

Walpole	Samantha Loch	X	Westminster	Paul Harlow	
Walpole			Westminster	Jim Calchera	
Westmoreland	Perry Sawyer	X	Putney	Joe Grutta	X
Westmoreland			Putney		
Chesterfield	Roland Volbehrr		Dummerston	Daniel Marx	
Chesterfield			Dummerston	Jack Lilly	X
Hinsdale	Joe Conroy		Brattleboro	Kathy Urffer	X
Hinsdale			Brattleboro	Michael Fairchild	X
Vernon	Andy White		Brattleboro (alt)	Michael Donovan	X
Vernon					

Olivia Uyizeye (Staff)

Jason O'Brien (Vernon)

Rob Riendeau (Chief Water/Wastewater Operator, Cheshire County Complex)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Uyizeye opens the meeting at 5:40pm and introductions are made.

2. Cheshire County Complex Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour
Rob Riendeau, Chief Operator

Uyizeye introduces Riendeau. Urffer provides an overview of who the Wantastiquet LRS is.

Riendeau gives a brief overview and answers a few questions. Riendeau explains that the Connecticut River is the primary source of water for the plant. In addition there is a well in the woods that acts as backup. In general, there are more regulations on what leaves the treatment plant than what goes in. Water is drawn from a pipe that extends out into the middle of the river, typically 10-15 feet below the surface. Riendeau notes that these were not exposed during the recent repair work on the Vernon Dam, however, the effluent pipe was. The plant is presently used by the nursing home, a few farmers and one home.

Riendeau explains that the waste water treatment lagoons have insulated covers that help with odors. It also keeps animals from falling in and microbial activity higher during cold weather.

Riendeau gives quarterly and yearly reports to NHDES on volume used and water quality testing results, including pH, temperature, total organics, turbidity and bacteria. Starting October 2019, Perfluoroalkoxy alkanes or PFAs will need to be tested. As it stands they will be tested from the water directly taken by the Connecticut River, however, there are discussions about it being tested after treatment. Riendeau says he is happy to share this data.

At this time the group drives to the treatment site for a tour. Riendeau hands out a two page description of the facilities (see attached).

Riendeau starts the tour at the water treatment building. He describes that turbidity are their biggest issue. The water goes through a multi phase treatment process – first through a large sand, then small sand filter, followed by a carbon filter. The facility recently switched over to coconut shells instead of carbon. This has been effective, long lasting and more cost effective. The water then has chlorine injected for a three hour contact time, after which the water can go into distribution – a storage tank on top of the hill with a pressure reduction system when the water comes back down the hill. The biggest challenge is removing the tannic acids during the Fall. At time water is used from the will to avoid the work and cost of treatment.

Riendeau leads the group to the wastewater treatment lagoons. He explains that the plants in the lagoon have to be removed by state regulation. These are more plentiful in the second lagoon where all the nutrients dissipate. There is a membrane on the bottom of the lagoons that has been there since 1995. This area is very close to the Connecticut River and was built up to be protected from flooding using clay that was removed during the building of the nursing home. Riendeau explains that anaerobic bacteria can be very effective and he is always working to expand this zone, but it's a challenge!

The disinfectant chamber used to use Chlorine but has recently been installed with UV, which has worked well. He has explored the use of renewables to power the facility, but the large capacity needed makes it cost prohibitive.

Riendeau explains how there have been issues with erosion of the streambanks nearby. The Army Corps of Engineers had to put in articulated concrete deep posts to create a protective barrier for the plan. Urffer asks if the records of this damage and work are available to share. Riendeau says he will look into it and share what he can find.

3. Approve of Meeting Minutes

The May and July meeting minutes are reviewed. No comments are made.

Urffer makes a motion to approve the May and July minutes as written. Sawyer seconds the motion. The vote passes unanimous.

4. Permit Review

a. West Chesterfield Shell Gas Station

Urffer and Fairchild visited the site. They discussed stormwater drains that run directly to the Connecticut River. It was agreed that something would be installed at the drain to catch oil and trash. It was also agreed that the stormwater system will go under a more thorough review when the tanks are replaced in 5-10 years.

Grutta makes a motion for Urffer to draft a comment letter that will be sent around for edits. Fairchild seconds the motion. The motion is unanimous.

b. North Walpole Village Water District, DWSRF and DWGTF

There are no comments on this project by representatives. There is general consensus that all seems to be in order.

c. Wetlands Permit, Hinsdale, NH

The project is being done on farm land to protect the property. The work is being performed by CRC and NRCS and will use root wads for bank stabilization along the Ashuelot River, not far from

the Connecticut River. The slides from a previous presentation on this topic are attached. Fairchild explains how there is a point on the Ashuelot where there is some backwater from the Connecticut River. This is impacting the banks along this section. Also there is concern that fixing one section could cause an issue in another location.

Grutta says the method appears to be a fair way to try. Donovan says it is a great idea to mitigate the challenges and wonders if there are any potential negative impacts. Sawyer expresses that this could positively improve the water quality. Urffer shares that these types of projects often go along with an expansion of the riparian buffer along with the ecological benefits. Fairchild notes that abutters are notified and may give comment on any concerns over adverse impacts. Lilly asks if the Army Corps of Engineers is involved. Urffer responds that they may review the materials, but not highly involved.

Uyizeye will look into the status of this permit.

5. Adjourn

The remainder of the agenda is postponed to the next meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm by motion to adjourn from Urffer. Donovan seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimous.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Olivia C. Uyizeye