

As voted by the Board of Trustees and in accordance with the notice of the meeting, the monthly Workshop Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Portland Water District was held remotely on Monday, April 11, 2022. In attendance from staff were Messrs. Crovo, Kane, Firmin, Rodriguez and Mses. Lewis, Katsiaficas, Demers and Walker. Vice-President Lunt convened the Workshop at 6:35 p.m.

Trustee Douglas was absent.

1. State of Casco Bay

This was item was postponed to a later date.

2. North Windham Sewer Update and Request for Design Build

Paul Rodriguez, Senior Project Engineer and Chris Crovo, Director of Asset Management and Planning provided an update on the project.

Mr. Rodriguez began the presentation giving the Board an agenda of the presentation. He described the problem that North Windham is trying to solve. North Windham is a very congested area with a lot of septic systems - it is right next to Sebago Lake. PWD has been working on this with the Town for about 24 months.

PWD has a memo of understanding with the Town of Windham that provides that we will jointly look into wastewater treatment solutions for the N. Windham area. There are signs of elevated nitrates in the groundwater in the area.

When the project is completed. Over 100 septic systems will be removed from the aquifer. Thousands of pounds of nitrogen and phosphorous will also be treated. Preliminary Engineering has been completed, and the sites for the treatment system have been identified.

The solution consists of a micro-filtration treatment facility. It is designed to fit on a small space as the technology has a small footprint. It provides excellent treatment quality.

Mr. Rodriguez then went on to describe the process that was used to select this type of system. The process included virtual site visits, site visits and technology review.

RSU 14 – the elementary school – has a ball field project it is working on with the Town of Windham. It provided an opportunity for PWD to combine with that project to disperse the effluent from the treatment plant with a drip dispersal system under the ball fields. This is common in the industry. The treatment facility is proposed for a strip of land that is currently owned by the School; the facility has a small footprint and is designed to fit into neighborhoods. Agreements for the purchase of real estate interests that will allow for the project are being negotiated. The DEP is in support of this location/design.

The drip dispersal concept was then described. Mr. Rodriguez gave a description of the estimated project costs and potential sources of funding. The estimated cost of the project is \$35-40 Million Dollars. Sources of funding range from SRF funding to ARPA funds. The congressional delegation is also being solicited for assistance.

The Town will establish its rate structure to cover the costs of operation and maintaining the system. Grants are needed to make the system affordable. A TIF District may also be created to help with financing.

On April 8, the permit application for a groundwater discharge was filed. A public meeting on the application will occur on April 27. A referendum on the matter will be held by the town in June of 2022.

In the fall of 2022, it is anticipated that a design build contract (Construction Manager at Risk) will be signed for the project. It is hoped construction will begin in summer of 2023, with completion in winter of 2025. The proposed process lets the project be broken up into smaller pieces, with costs savings if possible.

Mr. Crovo noted that Senators Collins and King and Representative Pingree have been contacted for assistance in obtaining federal funding for costs of the project. The project is essential for economic development in the Town, and it solves a huge environmental problem.

Trustee Cote asked about the funding gap. Mr. Rodriguez said it is on the order of 12 Million Dollars.

The drip disposal system will be under the sod of the ball fields. Trustee Rich asked if parents had expressed concerns as it is at the school. The Town has been working with the school on this issue and has received support from the school administration for this project. The water coming out of the filtration system will be water quality, which will replace an existing septic system over which the kids of the school play now.

All the water going into the treatment plant will be treated; biosolids will be removed, and the water will then be dispersed under the fields. The fields have more capacity than is contemplated being used by the plant.

Businesses in the zone to be served will be required to tie into the sewer. Residential do not have to tie in; they only have to connect if their sewer system fails or if they want to tie in.

3. Other Business

Ms. Lewis explained she will be signing a contract with a private security firm for regular patrols on property near the East End Treatment Plant in order to keep the beach area at the East End clear of homeless encampments. PWD experienced problems last year with the encampments and had to expend resources to clean up the area and have debris removed.

The General Manager (GM) selection committee met today. Three proposals were received. Spano Pratt Executive Search was selected to perform the search. They performed the prior search 5 years ago for the GM position. The cost will be just over \$50,000.

The Scholarship Committee met this evening. Dylan Anderson was chosen as a recipient - he will be studying plumbing/HVAC, which fits with the intent of the scholarship.

4. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7: 35 p.m.

Submitted by,

Donna M. Katsiaticas
Clerk