



CHESTER Water Commission CHESTER TOWN HALL Meeting Minutes

02 September 2022

Members Present: Lyle Snide (Chair)
Bob Daley
Tom Bean

Members absent: none

Others present: none

Meeting called to order at 3:06 pm.

Item 1: The minutes from the 13 July meeting were unanimously approved.

Item 2: The Sanitary Survey results were reviewed. Many of the action items listed were repeated from the Consent Order. New action items included were: developing an Emergency Response Plan, adding a high turbidity alarm to SCADA, providing remote alerts to other responsible personnel besides the primary operator, more accurate water use numbers in the CCR, and conducting a cross connection survey.

Item 3: Water operator succession planning was discussed. Three parallel efforts are in progress:

- a. Working with the Gateway Regional School Superintendent to develop a course for students to introduce them to public water operations as a career choice. A visit to the Chester water plant will be scheduled with the Superintendent as part of this effort.
- b. Chester-Blanford shared water operators initiative: continuing efforts in this area with PVPC and Blanford water commission. Next step is reviewing the revised primary water operator job description at the next meeting.
- c. Short term water operator planning: It was determined that the water operator positions need to be restructured to include additional requirements to the current minimum DEP requirements for treatment and distribution in order to improve overall water operations. These requirements are:
 - (1) More primary water operator availability. The current operator is also the primary water operator for two other water plants. During a recent major water break, the operator was not available to assist with water leak location due to responsibilities at another water plant. We need an operator with fewer responsibilities to other water plants to be available when there is a need.
 - (2) The primary operator must be willing to train a potential water operator or a 1T operator to become a 2T operator.
 - (3) The primary operator must be willing to attend occasional meetings, when required, and available to correspond via email or phone as needed.
 - (4) The secondary operator (a 1T license) must be willing to train and advance to a 2T license.

Potential replacements to the current operators that meet these additional requirements will be discussed at a future meeting.

Item 4: Watershed management: Baystate Forestry will develop the RFP and select the forester to harvest stand 1 of our watershed management plan; the harvesting will occur in 2023. Payment will come from the proceeds from selling the timber.

Item 5: Horn Pond status: the loose 4 inch PVC pipe found floating when cleaning the screens was old, discarded piping- not part of the current structure. However, hiring a diver to survey the current status of the piping will be considered.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Submitted,



Lyle Snide, Chair, Water Commission