

UPDATE TO BoS 17 OCT 2022

Austin Brook Treatment Plant

Rescue to Renewal

Summary OCT 2021 – OCT 2022

“This is not the beginning of the end,  
but it is the end of the beginning”.

PHASE ONE; challenges & solutions

Responding to ACO's /Admin Consent Orders for unaddressed DEP mandates from 2014 thru 2023.

Began ACO mandated bi-weekly testing DEC 2021.

October 24<sup>th</sup> will conclude 11 months of testing.

Water loss of unknown origin, caused waste of precious resource & increased operational costs & elevated usage of 35,000 GPD to 100,000 GPD...  
35,000 GPD optimal target range.

Instrument calibration to assure data accuracy.

Equipment replacement of potable water system, Hi-Lo Flow meter. SCADA/Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition upgrade, including integration to

Comcast VPN remote capability/increased Security.  
Engineering Study for Solar array design, to mitigate projected Electricity costs of operating lift pumps.

Locate & repair 7 leaks, reducing usage from 100,000GPD to 32,000GPD. Water loss locations..

Emery St Middlefield Rd RR Station Highway  
Riverfront St. 2 on Route 20

Cut/clear overgrown brush & trees, encroaching on Plant, Finished water building, generator, propane tank & Austin Reservoir

Rate Study & establishment of Water Enterprise Account with rate increase to offset anticipated expenses.

Tom Bean removed/cleaned Horn Pond filter screens in the wet well & assessed need for diver Repairs.

Applied and received EPA GAC Filter Grant of \$50K subsequently increased to \$100K. Will seek RFP as soon as new contract is provided. Catastrophic loss 8 July added \$20K expense & delay to operator

succession. In September we hired Primary operator Jim Gobeille & Secondary operator Pete Consolini. Their initiative & performance has been transformative, as they work through extensive clean up, ongoing re-organization/inventory assessment, valve exercising & preparation for water source change. Their cooperation to has been outstanding and their willingness to create an Operator Training component, partnering w/GRSD's emerging School to Career Intern Program & joining w/Bland, Hunt & Russ BoS/Water Commissioners & STCC, will help create a pathway to long term operator sustainability.

Ongoing PVPC facilitated collaboration w/Blandford for potential shared Operator succession plan & economy of scale purchasing. As well as study of integration of commonality of asset needs, to apply jointly, for E & R/Efficiency & Regionalization Grant.

We signed Agreement w/Baystate Forestry to

re-activate Watershed Stewardship Plan. Tree marking to begin abt 1 NOV, to include moderate expansion of thinning of Stands 1 & 2

Shut off Elementary School, Historical Society, Cemetery (4) in preparation for cold weather.

PHASE TWO; next steps

3 peristaltic pumps, ordered in March, arriving soon. We will request these costs be paid from ARPA as discussed in our initial request.

Complete testing of SCADA upgrade & Comcast VPN. Drain & inspect Austin Reservoir; apply for dredging permits w/required sedimentation sample (6-12 month process), refill Reservoir in anticipation of reactivation, Re-test vacuum suction, lift pumps & exercise valves.

Seek authorization from DEP to switch source water..THE key next step, to reducing DBP/Disinfection By Products AND improving water quality. Hydrant Flushing/tagging & hardware inventory. Drought restrictions discontinued in Berkshire County & we now have sufficient water

quantity in clear-wells to begin flushing. We have created a database to comply with the ACO mandate. The AMP Grant, will provide an interactive database of the distribution system. That GIS database is where all Water hardware data (valve exercising, inspections, repairs) will eventually reside.

Diver Dave Neal, to assess infrastructure/make necessary repairs & map pipe array. We will present a Solar proposal & request ARPA funding. We continue to seek other funding sources... ie AMP/Asset Management Grant/Tighe & Bond...joint E & R Grant application w/Blandford for shared resource funding as we continue work on shared operator agreement. We will issue RFP for GAC filter Grant, once the revised Grant contract is provided. Hire DEP approved engineering firm to conduct analysis of our chemical feed protocols & make recommendations on changes to reduce DBP's to below DEP non-compliance thresholds. This is a major mandate of the ACO with an assigned due date of March 2023. We expect to hire

& start the analysis by JAN 2023. This required process will be costly & we will seek ARPA funding.

Conduct review of Water By-Laws, fees & Billing Best Practices.

The Water Commissioners wish to extend a

THANK YOU to Board of Selectmen, Andy Myers, Duckie, Supt Kristen , MA Rural Water Circuit Riders Jon Tibbetts & Jay Matuszewski, for 4 months of boots on the ground, Mark Boomsma, Moe Boisseau, CMELD & Chester Highway Staffs AND residents, for their continued patience, support, adhering to water conservation/drought restrictions & continuing to “ see something..say something”

Together, we have a long road ahead to create the water future Chester must have. But, this 12 month progress is a reminder, of what can be accomplished when a Community, leans Forward.

Respectfully submitted

Lyle Snide Tom Bean

Bob Daley

